



ANGUILLA ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday, March 31st, 2021

Roy's Bayside Grill, Sandy Ground

Present: AARF Members - Denise Graves, Suzie Donahue, Jackie Pascher, Adrienne Guide, Estelle Slade, Johanna Pasila, Brigid Arcand, Mark Baumwell (remote), Josefin Maestriperi

Non-members - Rebecca Taillon, Karina Alba, Liam Patterson, Connor Spencer, Rachel Brennan

1. Welcome: Denise Graves

The President of AARF and Chair of the Annual General Meeting opened the meeting at 4.10 pm and welcomed the AARF members and participants to the meeting.

The Chair recorded that the notice of the AGM had been sent out on March 9th, 2021, i.e., at least 21 days in advance as per the bylaws, and that the meeting constituted a quorum.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting was accepted. The motion to accept was made by Suzie Donahue and seconded by Jackie Pascher.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 2020 AGM

The minutes of the March 2020 AGM were approved by the meeting, with no changes. The motion to approve was made by Brigid Arcand and seconded by Estelle Slade.

4. Treasurer’s Report: Estelle Slade

AARF

**Treasurer’s Report – Key Indicators
Year Ending 31st December 2020**

○ General		
Donations	1 st January to 31 st December 2020	\$ 3,794.05
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2019</i>	<i>\$10,964.05</i>
○ Fund Raising	1 st January to 31 st December 2020	\$19,254.14
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2019</i>	<i>\$30,777.81</i>
○ Total Income	1 st January to 31 st December 2020	\$29,440.89
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2019</i>	<i>\$49,553.93</i>
○ Net Income	1 st January to 31 st December 2020	\$(13,691.30)
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2019</i>	<i>\$ 4,974.45</i>
○ Expenses	Average Monthly Expenses 2020	\$ 3,524.35
○ Added to		
Designated Funds	1 st January to 31 st December 2020	\$42,508.35
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2019</i>	<i>\$58,888.13</i>
○ Spent from		
Designated Funds	1 st January to 31 st December 2020	\$44,292.34
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2019</i>	<i>\$49,232.90</i>

- Total funds held by AARF are made up of what we call, “The General Fund” and “Designated Funds”. Essentially, designated funds have been created by donors for a specific project or need, and they are maintained or topped up with ongoing donations from new and regular AARF supporters. Where our supporters do not express a preference for the use of their donations, the money will be placed in the general fund, which is used almost entirely for the day-to-day running of the shelter, including veterinary fees, shelter maintenance and shelter management. Also put into the general fund are the proceeds of the Second Chances Thrift Store, and money raised from one-off events and campaigns.
- The amount of non-specified donations added in 2020 fell in comparison with the previous year, but this was partially due to more private contributors preferring that the money they remit be used for one of the designated funds only, and not used for general shelter maintenance and management. In 2019, more donors were happy for the funds

to be used for general shelter costs, rather than nominating one of the specific funds, and of course, we act solely upon the donors' instructions. In fact, towards the end of 2019, we recognized the need to raise money for shelter expenses and launched successful GoFundMe campaign, and we will consider launching a similar initiative in 2021.

- Fundraising efforts in 2020 included the thrift store, now fully operational despite the pandemic, the 20th Anniversary Fun Day, and the raffles held during Roy's Happy Hour in January and February, and these efforts between them generated more than \$19,200. A further \$10,200 was raised through merchandise sales, membership dues, adoptions of pets, and private donations. All these collections were used for the general running of the shelter.
- It is becoming increasingly clear that although we have some funds available to spend on important specific projects, a further fundraising drive is needed not only to generate funds needed to run the shelter, but also to raise the profile of AARF, and to spread the word about the valuable work carried out by our volunteers. The relative success of the fundraising events held in 2019 and 2020, despite the island's challenges has encouraged us to run several more fundraisers in 2021.
- With effect from 2013, a monthly shelter management fee has been paid to Morlens Veterinary Services. This annualised expenditure, plus some additional shelter maintenance costs represented 46% of AARF's total annual expenses for 2020, with veterinary fees for the treatment of AARF animals accounting for another 47%. Thus, only around 7% of the total operating expenses of AARF in 2020 was for non-veterinary related items, and was principally spent on education, advertising and marketing, website maintenance and business licenses. 2020 returned an operating deficit of just under \$13,700, with some \$39,300 of the general fund being spent on vet fees, shelter maintenance and shelter management. In common with many operations around the world, 2020 has taken a toll on our cash reserves, and the average cost of running the shelter remains at some \$3,500 per month, not including the expenditure on the special funds.
- The cost of providing care for Anguilla's animals is, of course, much greater than that the \$39,300 spent from the general fund, and it continues to be offset largely by disbursements from the spay and neuter programme, and other designated funds.
- Thus, in addition to the income of \$29,400 highlighted above as operating income, used towards the general running costs of the shelter, the cost of merchandise for resale, business expenses, etc., a further \$42,500 was donated by supporters of specific projects, such as the spay and neuter programme, the West End feeding station, the shelter improvement programme and the education programme. Overall, a total of \$44,300 was disbursed in 2020 from the various programmes, the details of which will be given in separate reports. It can therefore be summarised that a total of \$86,600 was spent in the calendar year 2020 directly on the treatment and care of Anguilla's rescue animals, all thanks to the generous support of Anguilla's friends and supporters.

US Directors' Report

Without a US Corporation, and an associated bank account, many of the donations and much of the funding highlighted above would not be possible.

The US directors handle our bank account transactions, deal with compliance issues associated with the US Corporation, namely the Anguilla Animal Rescue Corporation (AARC), and they also interact with those organisations and individuals who donate to us via AARC.

Amongst the organisations they deal with are our US bank, PayPal, through which most of our donations are channeled, US Federal and State governments, and also corporations who have matching donation programs, and all other entities that have registered AARC as a certified non-profit entity, since up-to-date certification is needed to allow donations to be sent to AARF via AARC. These include Amazon Smile, America's Charities, Benevity, Bonfire, Guidestar, Network for Good, and YourCause.

This vital US Director function is being carried out by Mark Baumwell and Suzie Donahue.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Adoptions: *Vanessa Croft, presented by Suzie Donahue*

Adoptions

I was very excited to accept the position of Adoptions Chairperson in March 2020 following Samantha's relocation to the USA. Initially, coming on to the AARF team as the PR/Marketing person, I felt it was only natural that I work closely with the Adoptions Chairperson as the AARF "product" so to speak is its puppies and kittens. Taking on the role itself has streamlined my ability to showcase what we offer and make on-the-spot updates to both our website and social media.

However, it goes without saying that coming into this position during the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge. With the previous dependency on international adoption opportunities nullified by the closed borders and the crashing economy in Anguilla, it began to seem like it would be difficult to place animals in forever homes. It was, nonetheless, a fantastic, opportunity to rebrand and refocus energies and resources on local adoptions.

For the period January – December 2020, we were able to successfully place 144 dogs and 68 cats. Of these, 31% of the dogs were placed internationally and 69% were placed locally. There were 35 male cats adopted and 38 female cats adopted during this period. This compares to 64 male dogs and 80 female dogs adopted. April and September were the months with the highest number of cat adoptions, both boasting 13 felines placed. October had the least number of cat adoptions with 0 being placed, followed by July where only 2 cats were adopted. March saw the most dog adoptions with 22 canines placed. The least dog adoptions occurred in August with only 2 dogs going home.

While the pandemic may have attempted to thwart efforts to find homes for the shelter animals, we were able to successfully pull off a Puppy and Kitten Meet-and-Greet during our AARF Family Funday which resulted in several adoptions. I also put focus on social media promotions which proved to be successful in finding homes for several animals throughout

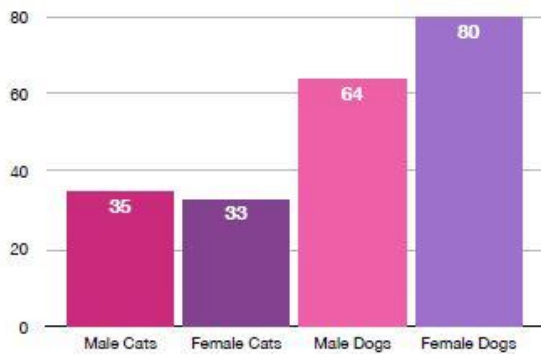
2020. The staff at Morlens has been wonderfully open and accepting to my frequent visits and requests. I would particularly like to highlight Aarmani's commitment to the cause and her overall helpfulness. All in all, since this is my first year with the organization and I have nothing to which to compare it to, I think it has gone really well and I'm happy to be a part of the AARF team.

In 2020, AARF was able to place a total of 68 cats and 144 dogs in adoptive homes. Of these totals, 45 dogs were placed internationally with 1 going to St. Maarten and 44 going to North America, and 4 cats were adopted in North America.

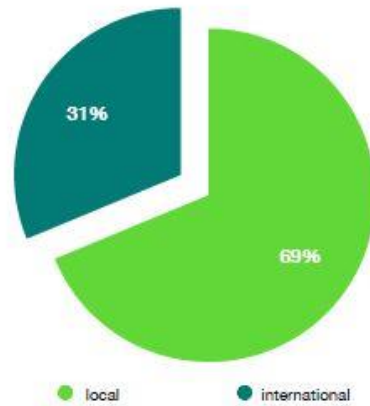
Breakdown of Animals Adopted in 2020

Animal	Number Adopted
Male Cats	35
Female Cats	33
Male Dogs	64
Female Dogs	80

Gender Comparison of Animals Adopted in 2020

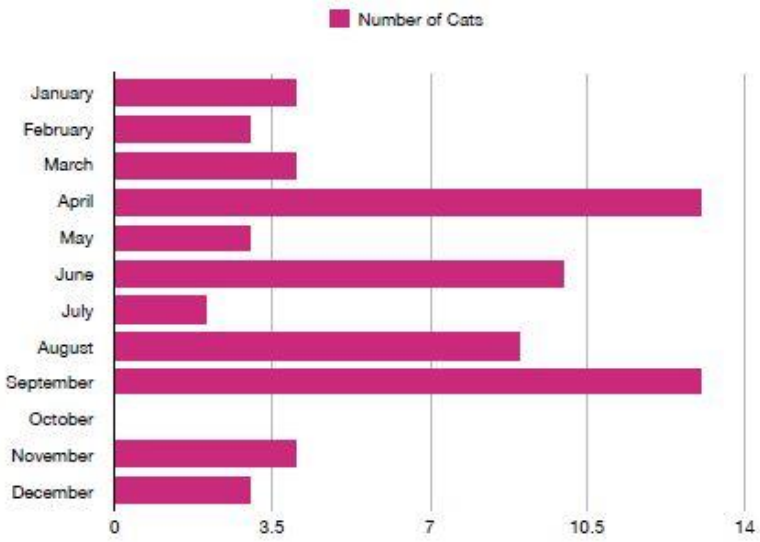


Comparison of International Dog Adoptions and Local Dog Adoptions



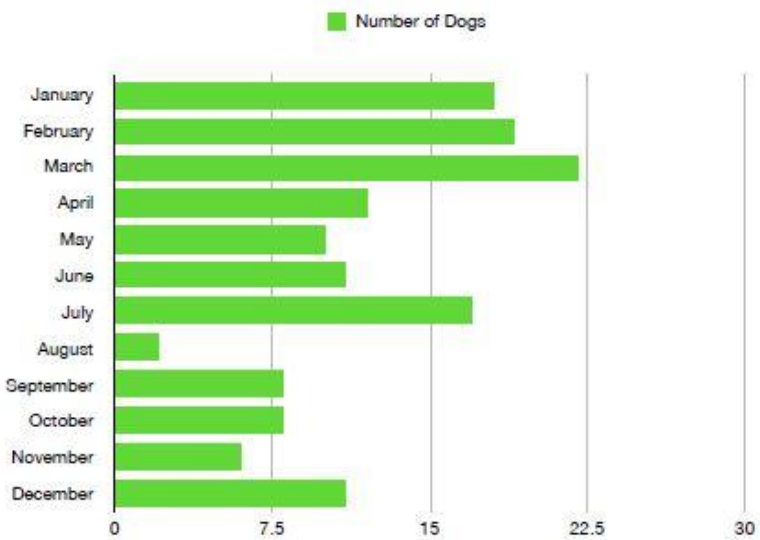
2020 Monthly Breakdown of Cats

Month	Number of Cats
January	4
February	3
March	4
April	13
May	3
June	10
July	2
August	9
September	13
October	0
November	4
December	3



2020 Monthly Breakdown of Dogs

Month	Number of Dogs
January	18
February	19
March	22
April	12
May	10
June	11
July	17
August	2
September	8
October	8
November	6
December	11



5.2 Communications: *Mark Baumwell, presented by Adrienne Guide*

The Communications Chair oversees AARF's public face to the world as we communicate on social media, our web site, emails and printed materials.

In March 2020 the Anguillian consulting agency Vibe Media House was retained to handle AARF's digital marketing, content creation, and to finalize the updated website. Dedicated and talented AARF members handle the bulk of the postings on social media. Huge "Thank You" to Vanessa and Vibe for revamping the web site, creating new content and for managing the content and metrics of our various social media sites. Contact her for more information.

Social Media Sites:

Our Facebook page, AARF Anguilla, is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/aarf.anguilla>

Want to find out who we have available for adoption? See our Instagram adoptions page:

<https://www.instagram.com/aarfadoptions/>

Our main Instagram page has all sorts of AARF news and it is at:

<https://www.instagram.com/aarfanguilla/>

Anguillian Pet Owners is an AARF-friendly group that our Anguillian pet owners use to post photos and stories of their pets. It's not by AARF, but by a separate group of dedicated Anguillian pet owners, and is a heartwarming group to check out. it is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388264357974236/>

AARF Web site:

The web site at www.aarf.ai has news, stories, links and other great information.

Email list:

The AARFUpdate email list has been supplanted by a new system and has already resulted in postings. Users can unsubscribe or change options by following links in the footers of the emails. Contact us at aarinfo@aarf.ai if you are interested in subscribing!

5.3 Fundraising & Second Chances: *Brigid Arcand*

Second Chances Thrift Shop changed management hands in September of last year, and has since garnered enough fantastic volunteers to staff opening for three mornings each week. As a result, donations and sales have increased, as has awareness of our mission to raise funds for AARF.

New shop protocols have been created and are posted to provide direction and answer questions for new volunteers, as well as helping to keep the shop running smoothly. The scheduling task has been simplified by creating "teams" of dedicated volunteers which has eliminated the time-consuming chore of creating a monthly schedule. We've implemented an ongoing poster campaign advertising our expanded shopping hours, our location and our need for donations. A coupon campaign in December was fairly unsuccessful but may be revisited in the future.

As to the future, we are hoping for a larger on-line presence via social media to bring in more donations and eager shoppers. Due to recent online posts, we are seeing more donations coming in from the local islanders, which is very heartening in this economic climate. A generous donation from a relative of one of our volunteers has provided a sound system to the shop, so you can now find both shoppers and staff dancing and singing in the aisles. It has really changed the atmosphere of the shop for the better.

I'd like to throw a big happy shout out to all of our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to making the shop an ongoing success. Their creativity, generous enthusiasm and positive attitudes make the shop fun and innovative, despite our limitations.

Six fundraising events were held last year by Sarah Hicks, our former Fundraising Chair. We had two raffles at Roy's in January and February. A Super Bowl event was held in February at Elvis' Beach Bar. A different type of event was hosted by Anguilla Retreat named "Barks and Barre" netted us \$737 in proceeds that were allocated to the Pet Food Fund. The Family Fun Day in October and the Christmas Craft Fair here at Roy's in December. A big thank you is due to Sarah for her hard work and dedication.

The Thrift Shop raised \$14,523 in 2020, fundraising events tallied \$4,731 for a total of \$19,254 for the year 2020.

5.4 Education: *Johanna Pasila*

At the last AGM I was talking about the education committee being a small one-person committee. In 2020, to my delight, we doubled the number of committee members when Josefin Maestriperi came on board.

Many of the big plans we had for the year we had to revise, as for example educational school visits became impossible due to teaching going online and the schools losing so much valuable time that there was not much room for extracurricular activities. But we finalized our program for where we yearly will talk to at least (!) all the 4th grade students in all the 6 public and 1 private primary school in Anguilla. Johanna was in contact with the Department of Education and Josefin tirelessly called through the schools. So, we were ready for when the schools could welcome us again in 2021 and – although it is not part of the 2020 report, I am happy to tell you that we have already visited all the 4th graders in five of the schools this year – and some bonus kindergarten and 1st grade students as well.

Since our members and supporters rarely get an insight in our everyday work, I thought this could be a good opportunity to shortly summarize what we do in the schools. Our main goal is to make sure that every Anguillian child – and their family – knows that there is such a place as the AARF Shelter that at no cost takes in any homeless cat or dog or a pet that the owners can no longer care for, and that they know that this is a great place to get your next pet, because they will be well cared for and healthy, and the modest adoption fee includes the medical examinations and age appropriate vaccinations that a responsible pet owner would otherwise pay a veterinarian for. We also talk about how we work with Morlens and what the vet does and encourage taking pets to the vet for check-ups and at least for an initial examination and vaccination when the cat or dog joins the family – regardless of age. Then we go through the basic needs for a happy and healthy cat and dog and – in an age-appropriate way – introduce the students to the benefits of spay and neuter.

After having talked to hundreds of students in the last two months I am happy to conclude that the general knowledge of these future pet owners and the stories we hear about their pets are more encouraging than they were when I last did these visits two years ago.

During this past year we have also had field trips to the shelter; we have continued to submit articles and informative material to the newspaper the Anguillian (thank you Suzie for this); we have provided Morlens with brochures on animal care that can be distributed to their clients and those that adopt from the shelter; and we tried something that we named The Junior Volunteer Program, where we allow children that are too young to volunteer at the shelter on their own to come in and do a Sunday shift of cleaning, walking and socializing the shelter guests together with a supervising AARF volunteer. We did four Junior Volunteer Shifts in the fall of 2020 and are planning to, starting in April, have one shift every month. The number of volunteers that can participate per shift depends on the number of supervising adults (AARF volunteers and parents).

Last year the Board also approved two larger projects that are still on the drawing table, one being an educational billboard campaign and the other an educational children's book.

Although it is more part of the shelter program than education, I would lastly like to report on the Med Student Sunday Shift program that has now been successfully running for almost two years. Karina Alba was the first shift leader and remains active and now that new students are coming into the island again, we have some very active Med Student Sunday Shifters – led by Rachel Brennan and Liam Patterson – that come in every Sunday morning (except for exam weeks) and spend time with the shelter animals. On Sundays the vet clinic and shelter are closed to customers, so it is nice and quiet, but that also means that in addition to walking, cleaning and feeding, the animals don't get much attention. These awesome volunteers take the bigger dogs out for walks or down to the beach and play with the puppies in the yard, and hang out with the cats. I am very grateful for all you do while you are here on island – and many also continuing when back in the US and Canada – and for this program that we can now see that works just the way we had hope, seamlessly continuing also from semester to semester when students come and go.

5.5 Policies & Procedure: *Denise Graves*

The following modifications to the bylaws have been made by the Executive Committee for 2021 and now must be approved at the General Meeting in order to take effect:

Section 4.9 The Treasurer shall:

Submit all books of account for annual review. Produce financial statements after the end of each Financial Year. Aforesaid Financial Statements must also be provided to the US Directors and also filed with the Company's registrar, again on a timely basis.

Account to Executive Committee on Demand.

The above have been approved by Counsel Limited, Anguilla, in accordance with the bylaws. These changes are in line with the requirements under the Company Act of Anguilla.

For our ease of doing business and reporting, the following changes have been made by the Executive Committee for 2021 and now must be approved at the General Meeting in order to become effective:

The number of Standing Committees have been increased from Seven (7) to Nine (9), having split out Shelter and Spay/Neuter and Fundraising into Fundraising Events and AARF Thrift Shop, Second Chances

The changes to the bylaws were unanimously approved by the meeting and the 2021 AARF bylaws may be found [here on our website](#).

5.6 Membership/Pet Food Voucher Program: *Jackie Pascher*

Membership

Our membership for 2020 was 45 members. It was discussed and agreed at our December 2020 meeting that membership prices would be revised to \$10 for a single person and \$25.00 for a family. We sent our renewal notices for 2021 and are still getting payments through PayPal and from people on island.

Pet Food Voucher

During the summer with so many hospitality industry employees not working due to Covid we realized people were having trouble being able to provide food for their dogs and cats. We started soliciting donations and reaching out to the grocery stores. As a result, the Pet Food Voucher program was launched in October 2020.

We received approx. \$4000 USD in donations. We have agreements with Best Buy stores and J. W. Proctors to accept the vouchers. Vouchers for Best Buy are in denominations of 40EC and for J. W. Proctors they are \$20 US.

Vouchers are distributed by Board members, at our Second Chances Thrift store, the Shelter at Morlens. Vouchers were also given to Cardigan Connor to distribute in his constituency.

At the end of 2020 we had distributed 67 Best Buy vouchers and 40 Proctors vouchers. Distribution is still going on and will continue until we have used up our donated amount.

5.7 Shelter/Spay-Neuter: *Suzie Donahue*

Shelter

First, I would like to recognize the wonderful staff at Morlens and the positive working relationship that we have. As you may know, AARF has very few volunteers and especially at the shelter, mainly I feel because it is not always a fun place to be. We are all animal lovers or else we wouldn't be here, but often the day-to-day sadness of a veterinary clinic and shelter are too much heartache.

For that reason, AARF has been for the past several years depended on Morlens and the staff there to manage the shelter. This responsibility is not taken lightly and there is a lot of open communication that goes on between Morlens and AARF Shelter Committee that include me as the shelter liaison for AARF, Vanessa as the adoptions chair and Johanna, who spearheads our education program, which includes interacting with the staff and veterinarians too.

Currently we have two veterinarians, Dr Garry Swanston and his daughter Dr Sade Swanston who rotate between the two practices here and in St Martin. Both are a joy to work with and we are grateful for all the care they give to the AARF guests. Still with us this year are Aarmani who assists with a lot of the veterinary assistant care and also is managing the training of the new staff, and Andrew who directly cares for our guests. If there is any doubt about the care he provides, just watch the happy puppies when they see him in the play yard!! All are part of a great team along with others newly hired enthusiastic part timers. Thank you to each of you.

The physical shelter runs are in need of painting and minor cosmetic repairs but the shelter itself is in good shape as is the puppy play yard – we are waiting for a new sitting area that is currently under construction.

I'd also like to thank Shelli Albert who established The Mango Fund in honor of her beloved AARF dog Mango who passed away. This fund is used to provide care for dogs and cats whose owners are unable to do so and come to AARF requesting help in paying a portion of their veterinary costs. Shelli has been very generous in providing funds in memory of Mango.

I'd like to thank The Anguillian for their continued support with our education articles. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank Reg Lake who continues to pick up and deliver newspapers (that we use for the puppy crates) from The Herald in SXM. And George who religiously delivers the papers to our drop box at Wallblake.

Spay/Neuter

AARF's spay neuter campaign continued in 2020 despite the island lockdown in March/April. We still managed to provide two 6 week long free spay/neuter "months" for a total of 3 months of the year in which people were able to bring in their cats and dogs for free surgeries. The campaigns are staggered so that all owners that are willing can prevent their pets from having unwanted litters. Sadly, we continue to deal with owners who are opposed to the surgeries and others who incorrectly think that a female dog or cat must have a litter before being spayed. And stray dogs and cats that have litters in the bush.

We also continued to sponsor surgeries on request even when it was not during the 3 months of the free surgery promotion as well as provide surgeries for our adoptees at 6 months.

This year we did more advertising and along with our education program were able to see an increased interest in this program. I'd like to thank the local radio stations who post our Free spay/neuter clinics and Ron's sign shop for his continual support over the years creating and hanging our banners and to those that allow us to hang our banners on their property.

In 2020 with the hard work and dedication of Morlens and veterinarians and staff AARF was able to sponsor a total of 445 free surgeries which was an increase of almost 80 surgeries over last year. These included increases in all but especially noted the number of dog and cat neuters that increased.

2020 vs 2019

158/ 149 Female dogs

102 /92 Female cats

88 / 65 Male dogs

97 / 62 Male cats

The costs of the 2020 spay/neuter program totaled over \$31, 00.00 us dollars. The funds to provide for these surgeries were made possible via grants from The Besson-Cooper Fund, and generous individuals including Jean and Bill long time visitors to Anguilla from AZ and CO, as well as Pam in Chicago and many others who help us with smaller, but certainly much appreciated donations. Obviously without these donations we could not accomplish what we have since our first spay/neuter campaign back in 2003.

I am pleased to announce that in those 18 years AARF has sponsored 4450 free surgeries at a cost of almost \$252,000.00 for the surgeries only. A huge thank you to all who have donated and participated in this campaign. We realize there is much more to be done but as our numbers improve, we know we are making a difference. I look forward to another successful year.

Thank you!

6. Election of the Officers and members of the Executive Committee

The following nominations for Officers and the Executive Committee had been received:

President – Johanna Pasila

Vice President – Suzie Donahue

Secretary – Adrienne Guide

Treasurer – Estelle Slade

At-Large (2) – Brigid Arcand and Glenna Steele

US Directors – Mark Baumwell & Suzie Donahue (Permanent Position)

Directors – Suzie Donahue & Denise Graves (Permanent Position)

The Officers and the Executive Committee were unanimously elected by the meeting.

The new President Johanna Pasila thanked past president Denise Graves and the Board.

7. Discussion / Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Question / Answer Session

There were no new questions

9. New Business

Medical Student Karina Alba announced that past and present students of St James Medical School have started a Facebook group named *Island Hop to the Rescue* for purposes of creating a network between medical students on various Caribbean islands to coordinate and facilitate international adoption efforts from said islands to the US and Canada. Karina invited all members of AARF to join the Facebook group.

10. Adjournment

The chair adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm