



**Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation
Annual General Meeting Agenda Minutes
Wednesday March 26th, 2025
5:00 PM Roy's Bayside Grill
Sandy Ground, Anguilla**

AARF Member Attendees: Her Excellency Governor Julia Crouch, Brigid Arcand, Estelle Slade, Johanna Pasila, Denise Graves, Aveline Wilson, Josefin Maestriperi, Veronica Gagliardi, Carol Gilbert, Mary Ann Jarvis, Mike Jarvis, Rebecca Taillon, Fittin Greggio, Graham Crabtree, Mark Hale, Michael Slade

Non-Member Attendees: Dehka Swanton, Dr. Orissa Singh, Aarmani Connor, Carlos Richardson

1. Welcome – President: *Brigid Arcand*

Good afternoon. My name is Brigid Arcand, President of AARF and I will be chairing this meeting. I welcome all AARF Members and supporters. I hereby open the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation Annual General Meeting 2025 at 5:02 pm.

The Annual General Meeting Notice was sent by email on 9 February 2025, which is in accordance with our bylaws. A reminder with the meeting material was subsequently sent by email on 19 March 2025. The meeting can hereby proceed. Before we get started, I'd like to ask all in attendance to mute your cell phones, if possible. Thank you.

I would like to begin by recognizing and thanking Her Excellency, our Patron, Governor Julia Crouch, for attending tonight. Your presence is most appreciated.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda (amended)

The agenda was circulated to the membership on 19 March 2025 and has since been amended slightly. Hard copies are available here at the meeting.

The motion to accept the amended agenda was made by Denise Graves and seconded by Carol Gilbert.

3. Approval of the March 2024 AGM Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 2024 AGM were circulated to the membership by email last spring and are publicly available on our website. We also have a hard copy present at the meeting. We did receive a request from a member to amend the minutes where it refers to Fly to Freedom Dog Rescue as simply Fly to Freedom. To avoid any confusion, are all in favor of amending the minutes to replace Fly to Freedom with Fly to Freedom Dog Rescue?

Approval of the 2024 AGM Meeting Minutes as amended: Yes votes – 3. No votes – 0. The motion to approve was made by Denise Graves and seconded by Brigid Arcand.

4. A few words by the President: *Brigid Arcand*

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation this past year. The outpouring of support for this position has been heartwarming and generous, and makes a somewhat arduous job so much more tolerable. This is the day of the year when we look at everything we have achieved in the past year and find inspiration to do even more in the year to come.

As you all know, AARF is the only animal rescue organization in this country. The unrelenting work done by the fabulous volunteers here is rewarding, exciting, hopeful, yet also frustrating, difficult and sometimes truly sad.

As the only shelter, with the only adoption program and the only spay & neuter program on island we can very clearly see the immediate effect of the work we do. The success of AARF continues to be that we have a positive impact on the pet culture in Anguilla and work increasingly close with the local community and the relevant authorities – although, needless to say, there is always room for improvement.

We are one-hundred percent volunteers since AARF was established more than 20 years ago here. Our success continues due to the retention of people from our inception to the evolving mix of new people and ideas that help us reach our ultimate goal of finding forever loving homes for the dogs and cats in Anguilla.

So, in order to keep this brief yet informative, I will first introduce our Executive Committee. Josifin Maestriperi is our Vice President, Estelle Slade is our Treasurer, Veronica Gagliardi is our Secretary. Spay & Neuter Chair is Suzie Donahue, Shelter Chair is shared by Johanna Pasila and Suzie Donahue, Policies and Procedures Chair is Denise Graves, Membership and Merchandise Chair is Aveline Wilson, Fundraising and Education Chair is Josefin Maestriperi, Communications Chair is Mark Baumwell. I am the Chair for Fundraising at Second Chances Thrift Shop. Our US Directors are Mark Baumwell and Suzie Donahue.

As you may know, we work closely with the wonderful people and professionals at Morlens Veterinary Clinic and I want to take this opportunity to thank Morlens Veterinary Clinic and its staff.

We have many people to thank tonight, including the Department of Natural Resources and the Royal Anguilla Police Force. These are the authorities with the responsibility for animal welfare in Anguilla. (From the POV of significance for AARF, the DNR is the one that deals with stray animals and the police the ones that deal with any criminal issues relating to animals, such as animal cruelty. Also, Fly to Freedom Dog Rescue that takes dogs we cannot find homes for off island for adoption in the USA.

And part of the team is also our members, volunteers and supporters both on and off island. If I've been remiss and left anyone out, please forgive me and thank you!

Moving forward, I would like to let my team members speak for themselves, to better help you understand the work we have been doing for the better treatment and care of animals here on island.

5. Treasurer's Report: *Estelle Slade*

AARF Treasurer's Report – Key Indicators Year Ending 31st December 2024

General	1 st January to 31 st December 2024	\$24,195.73
Donations	1 st January to 31 st December 2023	\$26,524.54
Fund Raising	1 st January to 31 st December 2024	\$41,742.78
	1 st January to 31 st December 2023	\$42,210.34
Total Income	1 st January to 31 st December 2024	\$70,710.15
	1 st January to 31 st December 2023	\$72,349.62

Net Surplus	1 st January to 31 st December 2024	\$7,783.35
	1 st January to 31 st December 2023	\$11,488.15
Expenses	Average Monthly Expenses 2024	\$5,243.90
Added to Designated Funds	1 st January to 31 st December 2024	\$105,197.89
	1 st January to 31 st December 2023	\$96,092.92
Spent from Designated Funds	1 st January to 31 st December 2024	\$85,521.71
	1 st January to 31 st December 2023	\$61,746.85

AARF simply could not operate without its supporters and friends, donations, contributions and fundraising efforts, week-in, week-out.

All funds that AARF raises, holds and disburses are divided into what are referred to as "The General Fund" and "The Designated Funds". The designated funds, so called because each individual fund created was initially funded by supporters for a specific project or need, and these funds are topped up with ongoing donations from new and regular AARF donors, either through PayPal, through our US bank account, or locally. When we receive a donation from a supporter who does not express a preference as to how they would like the money to be spent, or who has asked for it to be used for day-to-day expenses, it is placed in the general fund, which is used almost entirely on the year-round running of the AARF shelter, including veterinary fees, boarding 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 local fundraising events and campaigns. There have, and will continue to be times, however, when we see that one of our specific funds is running low, or we consider a need to raise more funds for a project, in which case, we may hold a campaign to raise its profile, and to add to its balance. In 2023 and 2025 we did exactly that with the Paws for a Cause raffle for the Shelter Improvement fund, which, as you will hear in another report this afternoon, has in place a comprehensive plan for the use of those funds. I cannot give Suzie Donahue enough praise for her work on this campaign.

Looking now at the General Fund, the amount of non-specified donations received in 2024 remained at a similar, but nevertheless very generous 2023 level, thanks largely to three long-supporting individual donors and many other individuals who preferred that their gift be used for general shelter expenses. In previous years, more private contributors asked that the money they remit be added to one of the designated funds, and of course, we act solely upon the donors' instructions.

In another successful fundraising year, both in terms of money and profile-raising, 2023's sources of revenue and events, included the island's favorite thrift store, a Bingo night hosted by Roy's, Pup Quizzes hosted by Topsy Turtle, a Wine and Whiskers event held at the Governor's office gardens, with catering gifted by local restaurants, and our annual Superbowl event hosted by Elvis's, together with several other smaller efforts. We thank all our hosts for their continued support and acknowledge the work of their staff in hosting these great events. The thrift store, and these other events, generated in excess of \$41,700. A further \$29,000 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. Our fundraising total for 2024 was virtually on a par with the amount raised in 2023, and fundraising revenue this last year was almost entirely the result of efforts locally. It is heart-warming to see regular contributors and supporters digging ever deeper to support this special organization, and equally heart-warming were the many small contributions from people who were moved in some way to respond to our appeals and efforts. Anguilla animal lovers, we thank and appreciate you all.

It is clear to all of us that although we now have some funds available to spend on important specific projects, regular fundraising drives are needed not only to generate funds 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 success of the fundraising events held in 2024 and 2023, despite the island's challenges has encouraged us to run several more fundraisers in 2025, including so far this year, our collaboration with Elvis' Bar and Restaurant for the Superbowl Event, and another fun Pup Quiz hosted by Topsy Turtle and sponsored by Tito's. The lynchpin of our fundraising efforts, the year-round, newly relocated Second Chances Thrift Store continues to provide us with much of the day-to-day funding needed for the shelter, whilst at the same time

providing a genuine service of the supply of new and gently used donated items to the wider community.

Since 2013, we have paid, and continue to pay, a monthly shelter management fee to Morlens Veterinary Services, and until 2025, the rate remained unchanged. This annualized expenditure, plus some additional shelter maintenance costs represents 32% of AARF's total annual expense for 2024, with veterinary fees for the treatment of AARF animals accounting for another 63%. Thus, only around 5% of the total operating expenses of AARF in 2024 was for non-veterinary related items, and it was principally spent on education, advertising and marketing, website maintenance and business licenses, including the vital annual fees of maintaining our US-registered company and bank accounts and the filing of all statutory returns both in Anguilla and the US. All our volunteers and board members give their time and expertise for no remuneration. 2024 returned an operating surplus of around \$7,800, with some \$59,600 of the general fund being spent on vet fees, shelter maintenance and shelter management. It is worth noting that the average cost of our operations runs at around \$5,250 per month, and that does not include the disbursements made from the special funds.

The cost of providing care for Anguilla's animals is, of course, much greater than the \$59,600 outlined above as being spent from the general fund, and it continues to be supplemented by disbursements from the spay and neuter program, and other designated funds.

Moving on to the designated funds – those funds set up for a specific purpose, and not part of the general running costs - in addition to the income of \$70,700 highlighted above as operating income, all of which is used towards the general running of the shelter, the cost of merchandise for resale, business expenses, etc., a further \$105,200 was donated by supporters of specific projects, such as the spay and neuter program, the West End feeding station, the shelter improvement program and the education program. From those combined funds, a total of \$85,500 was disbursed in 2024, the details of which will be given in separate reports. It should also be pointed out that money put into the numerous coin boxes on show in stores and key points throughout the island, and emptied frequently, are put directly into the spay and neuter program.

It can therefore be summarized that a total of \$145,100 was spent in the calendar year 2024 directly on the treatment and care of Anguilla's rescue animals, all thanks to, and on behalf of, the generous support of Anguilla's friends and supporters, and of course, my tireless colleagues on this board. My report demonstrates how much money we need; their reports will demonstrate how much we care.

6. 2024 Year in Review

- Shelter & Adoptions: *Johanna Pasila & Suzie Donahue*

Johanna Pasila

The Shelter Committee manages the AARF shelter on Long Path road in Sandy Hill. Since a few years back this committee has been co-Chaired by Suzie Donahue and myself. The day-to-day operations of the shelter and the care for the animals continues to be done by Morlens Veterinary Clinic, with whom we work closely in all work AARF does for the welfare of the cats and dogs in Anguilla. We are very grateful for all the hard work of Morlens Staff. In particular I want to mention Aarmani Connor who for a year now has been AARF's Shelter Representative. Since we have not had an Adoption Committee last year the Shelter Committee together with the Shelter Representative has handled also all adoption related matters.

I also in this context want to thank my co-Chair Suzie – she takes care of all the monetary transactions, keeps all the records on shelter animals, visitors and donations and makes sure all the donors know how meaningful their support is. She has also done an amazing job once again raising money towards improvements of the shelter facilities. I handle more of the practical side of dealing with the shelter animals, the volunteers, foster arrangements and relationship to adopters, other organizations and persons we work closely with.

We are grateful for all the wonderful volunteers we have had at the shelter again this year. Everyone from visitors and drop-in volunteers dedicating a moment of their day to spend time socializing and playing with our cats and dogs; to our "holiday volunteers" spending their free time at the shelter; to the more established programs such as the Alben Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School Special Education Needs Unit visiting regularly, the Omololu International School Animal Advocates Program and the Medical Student Sunday Shift program that was led by Destiny Harris from Saint James School of Medicine in the beginning of the year and at the end of the year was taken over by Morgan Alloway from the American University of Anguilla.

It has been another good year for the AARF Shelter and as the adoption numbers will show we have managed quite well also despite the challenges that followed from the Center of Disease Control in the USA changing their policies on transport and import of dogs to the USA in August 2024, which made it more difficult for AARF shelter dogs to get adopted to the US.

Our adoption numbers from 2024.

- 152 Local Adoptions
- 66 Dogs
- 86 Cats
- 94 International Adoptions (includes *Fly to Freedom Dog Rescue*)

We had fewer surrenders this year. Hopefully due to the success of our Spay & Neuter program, and the increase of our social media presence.

Suzie Donahue (unable to attend) – presented by *Johanna Pasila*

This year has been a positive and well-organized one for our team, thanks to the incredible efforts of our veterinarians—Drs. Sade & Gary Swanston, and Dr. Orissa Singh, as well as the dedicated staff at Morlens Veterinary Clinic: Aarmani, Andrew, Carlos, Dawn, Emil, and Dekha, who keeps everything running smoothly. Our heartfelt thanks go out to each of these individuals for their unwavering care and compassion toward our shelter guests.

We couldn't be more thrilled to announce the incredible success of our "Paws for a Cause" raffles! Last January, your generous support helped us raise over \$6,000, which we used to transform the puppy play yard into a little slice of doggy paradise! From a fresh coat of paint and new turf to comfy benches and essential repairs, the space became a happier, tail-wagging haven for our furry friends and visitors!

And this January, thanks to our amazing community of animal lovers, who willingly donated great raffle prizes, we smashed expectations once again, raising over \$8,000! These funds will go directly toward essential projects, including much-needed repairs to our shelter runs, vibrant painting updates, and overall maintenance to ensure every AARF Adoptee is safe and comfortable.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who eagerly participates in this annual fundraiser and makes it such a resounding success.

We are also thankful for those who support Shelli's Mango Fund and the West End Fund. Both funds play a vital role in helping us care for dogs and cats in need, and those contributions are invaluable to our mission.

▪ **Spay – Neuter:** *Suzie Donahue* (unable to attend) – presented by *Johanna Pasila*

As numbers often tell the story of success, we are thrilled to share that in 2024, the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation (AARF) sponsored 560 spay/neuter surgeries, including:

- 155 dog spays
- 85 dog neuters
- 198 cat spays
- 122 cat neuters

Entering our 22nd year of offering free spay/neuter surgeries, we remain optimistic that community interest in controlling unwanted litters of puppies and kittens will grow. Together, we can make this campaign successful!

Over the past two decades, AARF's efforts—through education programs and social media outreach—have steadily increased the number of surgeries performed annually. Yet, the challenge persists. In 2024, we introduced a "Carnival Special" that ran from August through October, offering participants a \$100 Best Buy gift certificate for each pet brought in for free surgery. This initiative resulted in 63 dog and cat surgeries during that time.

Building on last year's success, AARF is excited to continue hosting three free spay/neuter events in 2025, spanning 4.5 months, alongside our ongoing low-cost program.

Our work wouldn't be possible without the unwavering dedication of retired veterinarian and AARF's first president, Dr. Patrick Vanterpool. His efforts included educating many of the local community of the importance of spay/neuter, picking up unwanted strays / pets and most importantly providing transportation for 25% of the surgeries in 2024. We are deeply grateful for his contributions.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to our donors, whose generosity fuels our spay/neuter mission. Special recognition goes to:

- Pam & Tom
- Becky and Stuart
- Sara and the Tofu Fund
- Our Monthly PayPal supporters
- Everyone who drops their spare change in our donation boxes
- Frank, Jim, and Friends, who play at local restaurants to raise spay/neuter funds
- Rick, for collecting donations and maintaining the boxes
- Local radio stations, which amplify our message
- And our Businesses that generously offer space for our banners

As Mother Teresa wisely said, *"There is a tremendous strength through sharing and working together."*

With the help of Morlens Veterinary Clinic and staff, Dr. Vanterpool, our loyal donors, and dedicated program participants, we are creating lasting change. Together, we will continue shaping a brighter future for Anguilla's animals.

Thank you for your enduring support—let's keep making a difference, one surgery at a time!

- **Policies & Procedures: *Denise Graves***

The Policies and Procedures Committee develops policies and procedures to assist our organization in executing its duties in an ethical and legal manner. We ensure everyone is following the same rules and procedures and that these rules are updated as needed.

Last year we formed the Policies and Procedures subcommittee consisting of Brigid Arcand, Suzie Donahue and myself to review the by-laws in depth. The now streamlined by-laws were reviewed by the subcommittee in 2024, and no changes were required. The procedural documents created by committee chairpersons and stand-alone board member positions such as treasurer were reviewed and updated as necessary. All these documents were submitted and approved by the P&P subcommittee. These procedures serve as "How to Perform" the position for new members or existing board members who change roles.

Additionally, the same subcommittee reviews all documents requested by Counsel Limited and keeps our company registrar current as required by law.

Plans for 2025 are to continue to review all documents as needed and to continue following rulings of the government bodies. Our goal is simplification, while adequately preparing for succession.

- **Membership: *Aveline Wilson***

Despite the new membership format the membership numbers have remained about the same, we see a far greater number of people following Facebook and Instagram. However, it remains an important part of the structure, especially for those standing for board election and those wishing to vote on said positions.

We have not been able to find anyone willing to take on the Aarfsome Club for children so that has been shelved for the time being and some of the activities are being run through school volunteer programs.

- **Merchandise: *Aveline Wilson***

Early last year Merchandise was added to the portfolio. Since then, we have increased the quantity and variety of AARF branded items sold. We were already selling T-Shirts and have since expanded the clothing range to include tank tops for adults and rash guards for both children and adults. These are proving popular items.

Other merchandise available now includes:

- Water bottles in both blue and white
- Cotton tote bags
- Pens
- Magnetic bamboo bottle openers
- Pet bandanas
- *Squishmallow* toy pets with the AARF pet bandana
- Misty books

Further merchandise in the process of being ordered includes T-shirts with the Long Dog logo and thermal wine cups with a new Anguilla/AARF logo.

Due to limited time and personnel, we have reduced our selling outlets to the Shelter at Morlan's Vet clinic and our Second Chances Thrift store.

- **Education: *Josefin Maestriperi***

Our education program hit a snag with a volunteer who did not have the time to fulfill her duties before this meeting, however, one of the first things planned for education in 2025 is to visit all the schools on the island, as we do each year. We take the time to talk to the fourth-grade classes about the importance of spay and neuter and proper animal and pet care. This has shown in previous years to be very successful and raises the awareness of AARF greatly. Another development happening in education is the AARF some kids club that will soon be in full swing. Keep your eyes open for our little supporters that will do big things! We can use volunteers for the kid's club, so if anyone is interested, please get in touch.

- **Fundraising Events: *Josefin Maestriperi***

In 2024 the AARF Fundraising Events Committee hosted a total of six events. We held two fun trivia nights at the Topsy Turtle, a Bow-Wow Bingo evening, the Super Bowl at Elvis, Yoga with Sammi and we finished the year off with a wonderful wine tasting at the Governors Gardens which was an amazing first for AARF. We have been very lucky with extremely generous donations in event locations, prize donations and attendance from our supporters this year and we are very excited to see this grow with more events in 2025. Our sincere thanks go out to the vendors: Roy's Bayside Grill, Topsy Turtle, Elvis Beach Bar, and the Governor's Office. Also, to Sammi, Veya, Sandbar, Good Korma, Tasty's, Roy's, Grand Vins de France and numerous others who donated food, drinks, prizes, time and effort to help us raise money for our cause.

- **Fundraising / Second Chances Thrift Shop: *Brigid Arcand***

As many of you may know, we lost our lease in the Farrington in 2023 and were forced to relocate Second Chances Thrift Shop. We did so in late January of 2024, losing the robust sales month to a previous renter who was reluctant to move his belongings. We now have a much larger, airier, and brighter location in the Valley, up the street from Republic Bank. We have purchased signage and a few new rails and hangers to better utilize the extra space we now have.

With the help of our many selfless volunteers, our new home is cheerful and successful, now being open six mornings a week, and two afternoons each week. We also host a community wide Yard Sale on the first Saturday of each month that is available to anyone that wants to come and sell at our location. Our client base has grown thanks to social media and word of mouth, as has our donation base.

Our shop provides a threefold benefit to Anguilla; one being that the proceeds go directly to AARF, the second being that we can provide low-cost items to the general public, and third that we keep a good deal of "good stuff" from the landfill.

This enterprise is kept rolling with a great team of volunteers, both young and old, with whom our success relies. I want to personally thank all of you present that help. We couldn't do this without you! Also, if you are interested in donating your time to a two- or three-hour shift, please let me know.

- U.S. Director: *Mark Baumwell* (unable to attend) – *presented by Denise Graves*

AARF has a non-profit US Corporation (the Anguilla Animal Rescue Corporation or AARC) and an associated bank account, which allows for donations which can be tax-deductible if the donor chooses. This U.S. presence allows for many donations, which Estelle highlights in her report.

Some of the organization AARC deals with are our U.S. bank, PayPal (for donations and reports), U.S. Federal and State governments, corporations with matching donation programs, and all other entities. All have recognized AARC as a certified 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

This vital U.S. Director function is carried out by Mark Baumwell and Suzie Donahue. The two AARC U.S. directors handle the bank account transactions, compliance reports and interact with donors.

AARC has an office and mailing address in Walnut Creek, California.

- Communications/Webmaster: *Mark Baumwell* (unable to attend) – *presented by Denise Graves*

Mark is also the AARF website webmaster, making changes to the site as needed. He is part of the Communications efforts of AARF, though nearly all communications are handled by our excellent communicators on the team.

7. Election of Officers & Members of the Executive Committee

The AARF bylaws provide that the membership shall at each AGM elect the members of the Executive Committee (i.e. the AARF Board), which shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of AARF until the next AGM.

Members in good standing can submit their nominations before the AGM. The deadline set for nominations for the 2025 Executive Committee was 1 March 2025, and the nominations received were the following:

- President: Brigid Arcand
- Vice President: Josefin Maestriperi
- Secretary: Veronica Gagliardi
- Treasurer: Estelle Slade
- At-Large (2): Aveline Wilson & Fiftin Greggio
- Directors: Suzie Donahue & Denise Graves (permanent position)
- US Directors: Suzie Donahue & Mark Baumwell (permanent position)

All nominees have accepted their nominations and to our knowledge meet the required qualifications in the bylaws.

Since all candidates are running unopposed the AGM can elect them by show of hands unless there are any objections to their election. We've recorded that there are no objections to the election of the candidates as nominated.

May I ask all AARF members in favor of electing the candidates as presented to raise their hands – 7 yes.

May I ask any AARF members opposing the election of the candidates as presented to raise their hands – 0 no.

We record that the Officers and the Executive Committee were unanimously elected by the meeting.

8. Other Business: Appointment of the Chairs of the Standing Committees

The AGM having now elected the Executive Committee for 2025 the new President can appoint the Chairs of the nine Standing Committees, to be approved by the newly elected Executive Committee. As the bylaws allow for it, we usually do this during the AGM.

- Policy and Procedures: Denise Graves
- Membership: Aveline Wilson
- Education: Josefin Maestriperi
- Communications: Mark Baumwell
- [Adoption: NO CANDIDATE]

- Fundraising Events: Fiftin Greggio
- Shelter: Suzie Donahue and Johanna Pasila
- Spay and Neuter: Suzie Donahue
- AARF Thrift Shop, Second Chances: Brigid Arcand

The Executive Committee approved the President's appointment of the Chairs for the Standing Committees. We record the appointment of the Standing Committee Chairs, leaving the Adoption Chair open – with the agreement that the dedicated staff at Morlens Veterinary Clinic will continue to assist.

9. Question & Answer Session

Now the floor is open for any questions that the members or any other participants of the meeting may have. The following questions were recorded.

- Rick Vandervoort (via email) would like to know who can make new donation boxes for us, as the current artist is too busy. Veronica Gagliardi will forward a local carpenters name to Rick pending quality approval of an existing order.
- Mary Ann Jarvis noticed that the AARF billboards were moved around the island. Johanna Pasila communicated that they are negotiating the best locations with the *Minister of Tourism*, as there have been several concerns from tourists regarding the safety and care of animals in Anguilla.
- Dekha Swanston asked when AARF was planning to meet with the new *Chief Veterinary Officer* and recommended 2-weeks' time to give them time to become acclimated. Johanna Pasila agreed.
- Rebecca Taillon referenced that due to space at AARF's shelter there is a time limit for holding dogs, plus *Fly to Freedom Dog Rescue* must pay boarding fees. Rebecca made a plea to all, to volunteer to foster dogs – it will reduce boarding fees, and the dogs will be more socialized to humans, increasing their adoptability. Noted by all.
- Carol Gilbert asked what happens to puppies that aren't 6-months old. Rebecca Taillon responded that if they are selected for the *Fly to Freedom Dog Rescue* program. *Fly to Freedom Dog Rescue*, and Morlens Veterinary Clinic try to find a foster until they age into the program. It was already noted that at 6-months, dogs are larger and cannot fly in cabin, that they must fly as cargo – Rebecca Taillon explained that the cost of cargo is much more expensive costing roughly \$1,100 per dog. Fortunately, Canada accepts dogs at 3 months.
- Carol Gilbert asked if the Bylaws and reports will be accessible to all. Denise Graves stated that the Bylaws are available on our website, and that Brigid Arcand will print her a copy.

10. A word from Her Excellency, our Patron – Governor Julia Crouch

Her Excellency Governor Julia Crouch wanted to thank everyone for our volunteer efforts, and being asked to serve as our Patron. Governor Crouch was very impressed with our accomplishments, not just for what we do for the animals of Anguilla, but also for the community as well. Noting that Second Chances Thrift Store not only gives back to the community in affordable wear but also reduces waste in our landfill.

11. Adjournment

As we have exhausted the Agenda, I want to thank you all for attending this evening. Your continued support makes our organization strong and more resilient. I am ready to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

President Brigid Arcand invited all to join us at the bar for further conversations and a beverage.