



**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ANGUILLA ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION**

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

5:15 p.m.

Board Members present were:

Jackie Pascher Suzie Donahue Mark Baumwell Carol Gilbert Denise Graves
Estelle Slade

AARF Members and Guests:

Kitty Buschko Lou Delagran Rhaine Gumbs Julia Hughes Judy Huzzey
Dr. Brian Murray Jean Reid Ella Trevelyan Rick Vandervoort

The meeting opened with the AARF prayer.

President's Welcome: Jackie

Jackie welcomed Executive Committee and AARF members to the Annual General Meeting for the year 2016. AARF continues to receive good support and Jackie thanked everyone for all his/her work.

The agenda was accepted by Denise, seconded by Estelle, and approved unanimously.

The minutes from the Annual General Meeting for March 2015 were accepted by Suzie, seconded by Mark, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Estelle

AARF

Treasurer's Report – Key Indicators

Year Ending 31st December 2016

○ Donations	1 st January to 31 st December 2016	\$ 7,147.79
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2015</i>	<i>\$ 5,035.64</i>
○ Fund Raising	1 st January to 31 st December 2016	\$19,472.68
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2015</i>	<i>\$22,116.23</i>
○ Total Income	1 st January to 31 st December 2016	\$41,138.03
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2015</i>	<i>\$43,558.22</i>
○ Net Income	1 st January to 31 st December 2016	\$ (806.79)
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2015</i>	<i>\$ 8,932.99</i>

- The Treasurer's report refers to "The General Fund" and "Designated Funds". Essentially, designated funds have been created by donors for a specific project or need, and are maintained or topped up through ongoing donations from AARF supporters. Where 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 and shelter maintenance. Fundraising revenue, with the exception of the Paws for a Cause event, is also put into the general fund.
- The amount of non-specified donations added in 2016 to the general operating fund, although slightly higher than in 2015, is still considerably less than in 2014 and 2013. However, overall money donated for specific projects continues to show an encouraging increase. Many donors prefer that the money they remit be used for one of the designated funds, and not used for general shelter maintenance and management.
- Fundraising efforts, including the thrift store, contributions from Elvis' Superbowl event, and the in-season raffles at Roy's Happy Hour brought in more than \$19,500. A further \$18,300 was raised through merchandise sales, membership dues and private donations and \$3,300 was collected through the adoption of pets, the proceeds of which were applied directly to the cost of vaccinations, etc. All these collections were used for the general running of the shelter.
- Income from membership dues in 2016 was significantly higher than in recent years, thanks to great efforts in communication and collections.
- Sales of AARF related merchandise generated a net profit of \$3,278 in 2016, compared to \$9,982 in the prior year. However, this figure could be higher (at the expense of thrift shop sales) in that some merchandise sales made at the store may have been recorded as thrift sale revenue. In addition, the inventory of merchandise for resale is greater than at the previous year end. Sales of Frontline etc., generated a net profit of \$387 in 2016, compared to \$1,908 in the previous year. However, this revenue stream will all but disappear in 2017 since Morlens have requested that they be the sole supplier of all medication. As such, any future AARF revenue generated will be solely the sale of existing stock.
- With effect from May 2013, a monthly shelter management fee has been paid to Morlens Veterinary Services. This annualised expenditure, plus some additional shelter maintenance costs represent 50% of AARF's total annual expenses for 2016, with veterinary fees relating to the treatment of AARF animals accounting for another 45%. Thus, only 5% of the total operating expenses of AARF in 2016 were for non-vet related items, and were principally spent on education, website maintenance, and business licences. 2016 returned a slight operating loss, with some \$34,000 being spent on veterinary fees, and shelter maintenance and management.

- The cost of providing treatment for AARF animals is, in fact, much greater than that the \$34,000 spent from the general fund, and it continues to be offset largely by disbursements from the spay/neuter, and other designated funds.
- In addition to the income of \$41,100 highlighted above, used for the general running costs of the shelter, the cost of merchandise for resale, adoption expenses, etc., a further \$43,600 (\$3,800 more than in 2015) was donated by supporters to fund specific projects, such as the spay and neuter programme, the West End feeding station, the shelter improvement programme and the animals in need programme. A total of \$45,000 was disbursed from those programmes, the details of which will be given in separate reports. Thus it can be summarised that a total of \$79,000 was spent in the calendar year 2016 for the treatment and care of Anguilla's rescue animals.

Committee Reports

Fund Raising: Rebecca

In 2016, AARF fundraising was achieved by four main sources:

1. Second Chances Thrift Store
2. AARF Merchandise
3. Roy's Friday Night Happy Hour Raffles
4. Amazon Smile

Second Chances Thrift Store

During the summer of 2016, AARF was challenged with finding a new location for the Second Chances thrift store, as the Government of Anguilla reached an agreement with the Catholic Diocese to restore the Wallblake House, ultimately operating the grounds as a museum/tourist attraction. Suzie Donahue and Jackie Pascher were able to negotiate a lease with the owners of Megasavers for one of the four street side retail spaces. Rebecca Taillon coordinated the move and the remodeling of the store with assistance from many of the store's summer volunteers. Additional assistance was provided by Julie Willsher, Julia Hughes, Dennis Connor, and Joshua Price. All of the existing clothing racks, book racks, and the store business sign were able to be modified and reused in the new locale. Additional clothing racks and book shelves were constructed by Jim Taillon. The new store held its grand opening on Tuesday, 13 September, with all current Board members in attendance. Approximately 40 members of the public heard Father Paul's blessing of the store. Refreshments were served all morning to the happy shoppers. Gross income for 2016 was \$16,220.35. The store was open at least one day per week in 49 of 52 weeks, closing only for the three weeks needed for the store's move. During high season, the store was open on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. For the remainder of the year — depending upon volunteer availability — the store was open, at a minimum, on Tuesday. We are grateful for the support of the Anguillian community in not only donating their gently used/new items for sale, but also for their continued patronization of Second Chances.

AARF Merchandise

In 2016, we had several new designs for adult and child shirts and adult hats, chosen from our 2015 Facebook contest (Loving Hands, Heart-Shaped Lifesaver, and Animal Waves). We have phased out the "Long Dog" wrap-around design, but continue to print

the LifeSaver in new colors, along with the new designs. The original raft design is also still available for purchase. Our thanks to Pam Miller at SeaSpray for her continued efforts in selling our merchandise, along with Kathie Beck, ardent AARF supporter, who sold another 150 shirts in 2016 (508 total since 2011 and another 70 on order for 2017)! Merchandise sales were \$9,634.79.

Roy's Friday Night Happy Hour Raffles

Thanks to Carol Gilbert, the Friday night raffles at Roy's continued during high season (December to March) raising \$2,108.72. Board members and friends of AARF volunteered to sell tickets at the Happy Hour, oversee the drawing, and give out the prizes. Prizes are donated by generous Anguilla businesses, Board members, and AARF friends. A huge "thank you" to everyone at Roy's for supporting AARF!

Amazon Smile

Purchases made by AARF supporters through Amazon's Smile Charity Program in 2016 raised \$250.69. Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of all sales when the buyer has chosen our US arm (AARC) as his/her charity of choice, with funds deposited quarterly in our US bank account. In 2016, AARF supporters made qualifying purchases of \$50,138!

There was no Paws for a Cause event in 2016, as we wanted to make headway with the puppy play area which was funded by proceeds from the 2015 event. Tickets are still available for the 2017 Collars for a Cause (see Suzie), with the prize drawing on 1 May.

Although 2016 fundraising was down by approximately 10%, we are always continuing our efforts to find creative ideas to stimulate interest in AARF. New fundraising ideas are always welcome!

Communications: Mark

The Communications Chair oversees AARF's visibility, tone, and messaging as AARF communicates to the world. We want our tone to reflect our values, ethics, and business model – as well as our personalities – both professionally and positively.

Among other things, we communicate via:

- Adoption-related news. We do this using our email list, social media, press, and other outlets.
- Press Releases. These go mostly to The Anguillian newspaper and local radio stations.
- Newspaper articles – mostly about animal welfare, animal care, and animal rights.
- Event summaries and news.
- Social media postings about the above and other topical matters.
- Various postings of all sorts on our web site. We publish AARF related matters of all kinds, such as: adoptable animal photos, news, shelter and vet clinic information, merchandising information, donations, how-to-help pointers, how to contact us, and how to get mailings, maps, and links and more.
- Answers to emails coming into AARF.
- Newsletters as needed.

Fortunately, those inside the AARF organization are very self-sufficient and do their own publishing. For example:

- Suzie wrote a very large number of articles in The Anguillian covering animal welfare and other AARF issues.
- Sally wrote many, many AARFUpdate email list articles highlighting adoptable dogs and cats as well as adoption issues and other matters highlighting AARF.
- Thank you notes/emails are written by the AARF persons who are best qualified to write them.
- Generally, each Executive and Chairperson answers any communications (mostly emails) that come in asking or commenting on duties or matters relevant to that position. For example, the President would respond to an email question or comment about the organization.
- AARF has one general email account (aarfinfo@aarf.ai), which is publicized as the main way to email AARF. Questions coming into the aarfinfo email account are often adoption or shelter related, and are generally answered by Suzie and Sally, with Mark as a distant third responder.

One specific example of us managing messaging occurred after a GoFundMe campaign was started by a friend of AARF. Mark gave the campaigner guidance on proper and accurate wording and messaging. We received around \$1,500 as a result!

Our main vehicles of communication are our email list, Facebook, and the web site – with a look toward other platforms where it makes sense. More about those vehicles follows.

Email List (AARFUpdate)

- This is the main way whereby AARF sends outbound communications to interested people about AARF adoptions, events, etc.
- We keep the volume low, sending once a week at most.
- It's a one-way communication scheme; only AARF can send emails to the list. This prevents spamming to list members so that replies like "What a cute puppy!" don't go back out to the members.
- Members must subscribe using the email account of choice and can opt out (unsubscribe) at any time.
- The list membership currently stands at 582 members.

Facebook

We have Facebook presence with our page and a third-party page:

AARF Facebook Page

Our Facebook page is called AARF Anguilla <<https://www.facebook.com/aarf.anguilla>>

- The page has about 2,000 "Likes" (1,961). To see our postings, simply "like" us and follow the page. To opt out, do the reverse.
- We get about 15-20 new "likes" a month.
- We can reach about 800 - 1,000 people per "interesting" post. "Reach" is number of unique people who saw our content). For example, a recent adoption of a cute puppy reached 1,500 people.

- People can post on our page and send us private messages.

Anguillian Pet Owners Facebook Group

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

- This is a Facebook Group made up of people around the world who have adopted our dogs and cats. Members post photos and updates and is a good way for two way communications.
- This group is not run by AARF, but we like it and it has our full support.
- Prospective members must ask to join and the group is moderated.

AARF Anguilla Instagram (Search for AARF Anguilla or aarfanguilla.)

- We started this about a month ago as a trial. We only have 3 followers while we are testing it out. We'll get the message out when we decide to post regularly, although anyone can follow it now. We just don't post that often!

AARF Web Site

A primary responsibility of the Communications Chair is to serve as webmaster for the <www.aarf.ai> web site. He edits and keeps the web site current by uploading and deleting content as needed. Web site duties include:

- Prompt posting of photos and descriptions of pets available for adoption.
- Keeping current contact information, veterinary clinic and shelter hours, merchandise, news, events, etc.
- Maintenance of the site as things age or need to be changed.

Adoptions: Sally

We had 182 total adoptions in 2016:

129 puppies/dogs and
53 kittens/cats.

All healthy, adoptable animals surrendered to the shelter were adopted. Adoptions are handled at the AARF Adoption Centre and Shelter within Morlens Veterinary Clinic, either by AARF volunteers or by Morlens office staff. Advertising is done via the AARF website, AARF Facebook page, periodic flyers, and weekly emails. We also keep a list of people interested in adopting and follow up with them when animals come into the shelter that fit their requests. At times The Anguillian has included articles, photos, and ads for us at no cost, which is much appreciated.

We do not have enough good homes in Anguilla for all of the puppies and kittens surrendered. Our international rescue program, which we have built up over the past few years with rescue partners in the United States, is critical to our being able to find good adoptive homes for all. We are very grateful to our rescue partners, people who offer to escort puppies and kittens to the States, and to visitors who adopt one of our shelter guests. Active sharing on various Facebook pages among people who rescue, transport, and adopt has helped spread the word about Anguillian puppies and resulted in further adoptions. Many of our transporters have done so multiple times. We have even had a few transporters who fell in love during the trip and wound up adopting the puppy they were escorting. The Anguilla Puppy Express program, which helps cover the cost of international adoptions and extra boarding time at the shelter for both local and

international adoptions, is funded by donations specifically made to that program; no other AARF funds are used. Donations come from adopters, rescue partners, and people who want to help all healthy surrenders find good homes.

In 2016, 57 of the puppies and dogs were adopted in Anguilla and 72 went to the U.S. and Canada, both as outright adoptions and to our rescue partners who in turn found them forever homes. Twelve kittens and cats were adopted internationally, and the remaining 41 were adopted in Anguilla.

It is always a challenge to find good homes for all of the animals surrendered to the shelter, and a constant worry. AARF's focus on spaying and neutering to prevent unwanted births continues to be key.

Shelter and Spay/Neuter: Suzie

Spay/Neuter

This past year we completed a total of 300 spay/neuter surgeries – the same as last year. Of that total there were:

Dogs – 61 females and 99 males

Cats – 73 females and 67 males

Total spent \$18,190

Since 2003 when Suzie started keep track of the surgeries and we sponsored our first free clinic, we have completed a total of 2,997 surgeries at a cost of \$177,889. Of that total there were:

Dogs – 1,197 females and 588 males

Cats – 699 females and 513 males

Surrenders

In 2016 the months with largest number of surrenders were March, April, and May – all with 31. The month with the fewest surrenders was September. The overall average was 22 per month. The total number of surrenders in 2016 was 264 with 154 dogs and 110 cats.

Vaccination Clinics

These were sponsored by a donation to West End Fund from Rebecca Besson and Stu Cooper who have a home at Meads Bay. Two free clinics were completed in 2016: one in the West End and one at St James School of Medicine in The Quarter. Almost 100 dogs and cats were given free vaccinations to protect them against common viruses: parvovirus and distemper for dogs, and feline aids/leukemia for cats.

Shelter Improvements

We completed the puppy play yard and the puppies really enjoy spending time outdoors as do our visitors who come to pet and play with them. In the past few years AARF has sponsored, through our Shelter Fundraising projects, many improvements that positively affect AARF including electricity in the shelter area, screens, ceiling fans, and other improvements to the clinic. This year's project will make it possible for our visitors to get to the shelter area without going into the clinic treatment rooms, past the patients and surgery area, and will eliminate the possibility of spreading germs to these clients. Suzie

asked that if people at the meeting have not purchased a ticket for the Collars for a Cause event, with the drawing to be held May 1st, that they will do so tonight.

Shelter Volunteers

Shelter volunteers are needed! In the past volunteers have had to clean up cages but no more; all we ask now is that they play with the animals. We understand that some are reluctant to come and play with puppies and kittens because they worry they may get too attached. We have two students who come once or twice a month, our wonderful intern Ella Trevelyan, and visitors to the island but no one else comes. Suzie asked people to please consider spending some time socializing our guests for the short time they are at the shelter. 30 minutes means a lot – an awful lot! Rhaine Gumbs and Sally do an amazing job of finding homes and because of this, despite what one might think, AARF has not had to euthanize a healthy, adoptable puppy, kitten, dog, or cat in three years.

Shelter Presentations

Suzie extended a special welcome to Morlens Staff including Dr. Brian Murray and Rhaine Gumbs. Rhaine was recognized for her willingness to help AARF find homes for the adoptees, her record keeping and reporting, and many other ways she provides support. Suzie presented Rhaine with a Certificate of Appreciation from AARF. Suzie also recognized Ella Trevelyan who has been doing an internship at the shelter for several months. Ella volunteers almost every single day, all day, and was commended for her dedication and assistance to AARF. Suzie presented Ella with a memento of her time in Anguilla.

Special Award

After the slate of officers for the upcoming year was announced, Suzie thanked Jackie and presented her with an award for her many years of service, not only as President for the past three years, but also for her 15 years as a member of AARF.

Volunteer of the Year Award Jackie and Rebecca

When cats in the South Hill area are in need of spay/neutering, this volunteer has brought in thirty in the last seven years.

When it was time for yard sales, this volunteer donated her time and truck for transporting the merchandise from the container to Roy's and then willingly did the dump runs post-sale.

When it was time to do the deep cleaning of the shelter? Yes, in 2016, she did that, too!

Helping out with getting tents and tables to/from the successful West End vaccination clinic? Check!

When Second Chances was located at Wallblake House, she used her love of gardening to tend to the grounds surrounding our store. When called upon to aid in the tidying up of the grounds and flower boxes of the clinic/shelter, she was happy to help.

When it was time to move the thrift store to the Megasavers building, she readily offered the use of her truck whenever we needed. In addition to transporting box after box of store contents, she jumped right in to begin sorting and displaying the contents.

Getting all the thrift store books in order? No small feat! She helped complete the job that Sally Baumwell started: alphabetizing and organizing the multitude of books.

When she found out that AARF was responsible for maintaining and upgrading the landscaping in front of Second Chances at its new location, she enthusiastically dug right in (no pun intended!). She contributed many of her own plants to brighten the entrance and lovingly cares for them to provide beauty to all who stop in the store.

This volunteer has come up with great ideas for stimulating shopping at the store: donating a CD player so shoppers can try out their CDs, playing Christmas carols during the holidays, trimming the store for the holidays with sale-able merchandise, encouraging staff to let loose (the wearing of antlers headbands and garland boas, to say the least). Volunteers and shoppers alike know that if it's Tuesday, she'll be in the back of the store, sorting away!

Second Chances' dependable "Tuesday Girl" is the recipient of AARF's 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award — Julia Hughes

Superstar Award Jackie and Sally

Our 2016 Superstar is someone you probably haven't met but you'll recognize her name if you follow AARF on Facebook. Elena Cecil first reached out to AARF in the fall of 2013. She found out about us through a friend, Jane Comerford, who visits Anguilla every year, who has two AARF dogs, and who has been a long-time supporter of ours. Elena also had seen posts from Sue at Island Puppy Rescue about fostering and finding forever homes for our puppies, and she wondered if she could help us by doing the same in southern Connecticut.

Elena is a veterinary technician who also does pet sitting, doggy daycare, and kennel-free boarding at her home. We were thrilled to hear from her and eight days after receiving her email, we had two kittens on the way to her. Less than two weeks later we sent two puppies. Elena found loving homes for them all, loved being able to help, and wanted to continue helping find homes for us. She has since built up a small group of foster homes as well.

Elena and her husband and friends have driven many hours to meet flights coming into JFK, Boston, and Hartford. She always says "yes, send them!" when we ask, even having taken four puppies at once, more than once. Blizzards may delay but never stop her; somehow she manages to make it all work.

Since that first connection, Elena has found loving forever homes for eight kittens, one cat, and 59 puppies for a total of 68 lives saved and wonderful futures given! We are hoping that one day Elena will come to Anguilla so we can all meet her and say thank you in person. With all she has done for our animals, she is definitely deserving of the AARF Superstar Award.

Vote for AARF Executive Committee

The proposed slate of officers was adopted unanimously:

President	Rebecca Taillon
Vice President	Suzie Donahue
Treasurer	Estelle Slade
Secretary	Moira Topalian
Board Member-at-Large	Mark Baumwell
Board Member-at-Large	Jean Reid

Jackie Pascher and Suzie Donahue continue to serve as AARF Trustees.

Other Business

Executive Committee members explored the possibility of building a ramp at the entrance to Second Chances, in order to assist our elderly clients.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carol and seconded by Suzie. The motion passed unanimously. Afterward, meeting members engaged in a period of socializing.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Gilbert, Outgoing Secretary