

President's Speech
Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation 2004 AGM

This meeting marks the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation. Although it was a short year due to a late 2003 AGM, it has been a very busy and productive time for The Executive Committee and AARF's many dedicated volunteers.

We left our 2003 AGM with a goal of increasing our membership. Each member was asked to encourage 5 more members to join our foundation. Although that goal was not fully attained, we have seen a significant increase in memberships in certain categories. The current membership distribution is as follows:

Corporate Memberships	8
Lifetime Memberships	21
Regular Memberships	14
Family Memberships	15
Senior Memberships	10
Student Memberships	7
Total	75

These numbers reflect increases in Lifetime memberships from 9 to 21 and student memberships from 2 to 7. Decreases in regular and family memberships are accounted for in a shift to lifetime memberships while others still have not renewed for 2004. The youth of our Island Nation will provide the foundation for AARF in the years to come. We look to our student membership to continue to increase their numbers and maintain the positive role model in the community they have exhibited thus far. We are encouraged that so many have made a lifetime commitment to our organization and its goals.

With our very successful 2003 spay/neuter campaign behind us AARF received additional money in 2003 from Puppy Angels and the International Veterinary Assistance Program to help cover the original balance of registered animals. In December of 2003 AARF extended its summer clinic and provided surgeries to an additional 14 animals. Vouchers were given to caretakers who had animals that were not easily caught or unable to have surgery at the time. Six caretakers have taken advantage of the program thus far with an additional 9 surgeries completed. That brings our total for last year's program to 119 surgeries.

But our program has not stopped there. This year AARF was granted US\$3000.00 by Puppy Angels and US\$2500.00 by The Pegasus Foundation to continue free spay/neuter programs in Anguilla. The program totaling US\$12,000 is expected to provide surgeries to approximately 300 animals this year.

The first of our free clinics was held this past weekend at Morlen's Veterinary Hospital. We would especially like to thank Dr. Vanterpool for the use of his hospital and Ms. Amy Williams for her assistance.

The three day clinic provided surgeries to 132 animals. The distribution of surgeries was as follows:

Dog Spays: 52
Cat Spays: 17
Dog Neuters: 44
Cat Neuters: 19

We are fortunate to have our visiting veterinarians and technicians and our sponsors Puppy Angels with us here tonight. At this time we would like to have them stand and be recognized:

Mr. & Mrs. John Morrall of Puppy Angels
Dr. Dean Wallace
Dr. Winni Krogman
Ms. Linda Seavy
Ms. Kim Lynch
Ms. Emily Hahn

On behalf of the organization I would like to thank you for the donation of your time and skills for this clinic. I would also like to thank Dr. Wallace and Ms. Seavy for their donation of all of the medical supplies for the clinic.

It is our hope that with the very successful clinic behind you, that you will enjoy the beauty and rich heritage of Anguilla.

Our friends Sherry and John Morrall and the Puppy Angels organization have continued to support AARF through their off shore adoption program. Since our last AGM, Puppy Angels has accepted and found loving homes for 29 of our adoptable animals.

From November 2003 to date AARF notes the following adoption statistics:

Animals Admitted:	111
Animals Adopted:	89
Animals Euthanized:	20
Animals Died:	1 (parvovirus)
Currently Waiting:	2

AARF has cared for 497 of Anguilla's homeless animals since December of 2000.

The Kathy Melby Memorial Education Program took place this year at Road Primary School. 23 students from kindergarten and Class 1 participated in the program that included an original art poster with a slogan or saying on animal care. The 5 winners received gifts of AARF t-shirts and the overall winner also received a copy of Paddy the Goat that Saved Rainbow Island by Jo Anne Mason.

The AARF fund raising committee has been especially busy this year. Projects included mailings, merchandise sales, attendance at a number of fairs around the island, a bingo night, a 7 day southern Caribbean cruise raffle drawing, and a flea market. Fund raising efforts have brought the organization US\$24, 472.00 in revenue since our last meeting. We also note that Bartlett's Collection has been responsible for selling over \$3000 in AARF merchandise since December 2003. This level of fund raising will make it possible for AARF to start an endowment fund that will help to sustain the organization into the future.

AARF has received further assistance from our friends abroad through donations of equipment and items for our spay/neuter clinics. Cheryl Tiffany and Bob Ball of Rochester, NY were responsible for obtaining donations from Intervol, Butler and a local veterinary practice for our very own portable anesthesia machine as well as instruments and disposable supplies such as antibiotics, needles and suture material. Donations of other materials from Paws Unlimited in New York included flea/tick collars and suture material. Dr. Mark Finkler of Roanoke, Virginia was responsible for the donation of 6 cases of Heartguard, Frontline and other flea and tick preventative medications.

With each year the number of people who assist AARF grows. Without our hardworking volunteers the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation would not be able to achieve its goals. We have been encouraged this year by increased participation from our membership in activities across the board. I would now like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has worked so hard this year:

First our fund raising committee workers: Kathy Haskins (who single handedly sold 125 raffle tickets for the cruise!), Kim Straubing, Jill Walker, Claire Devener, Chris Carty, Suzie Donahue, Alex Ballin, Jimmy Carter, Lynn and Charles Blankenship, Althea and Bob Turner, Sally and Mark Baumwell, Jaxson Arnold, Clarissa Lloyd, Rakev Webster, Mitchellina Meade, Brittany Jeffers, Jackie Pascher, Gayle Gurvey, Lady Josephine Gumbs, Alison Carty, and James Connor. We would also like to thank the many people who donated items for the flea market.

Many thanks to Althea Lloyd for cooking the BBQ at our flea market and Millenium Sounds and DJ Ice Man for providing entertainment for the day.

In education we thank Suzie Donahue and Michelle Owen-Vasillas for facilitating the Road School program and the Melby family for providing the funding for the 5 year program.

The spay/neuter program is no small effort for this organization. People are involved at all levels before during and after the program. I would like to thank Dr. Vanterpool and Amy Williams of Morlen's Veterinary Hospital for providing surgeries in our last clinic and to the animals on our voucher program as well as allowing us to use his facility for the July 2004 clinic.

Many thanks to our Project Coordinator Suzie Donahue who keeps the team together.

Althea and Bob Turner worked very hard in the Blowing Point district to signing up and transport animals to and from the clinic. This was no easy project but they worked with the community to make it happen.

Shoal Bay Villas, Mycaribbean.com and Island Dream Properties for assisting with the donation of villas and maid service. We also thank Tree Top Villa and Yellowbird Villa.

Island Car Rental for donating a rental car for 8 days for our visiting veterinarians to use, James Flemming, Jr and his glass bottom boat for a tour of the Shoal Bay reef for our guests and their families, and Irad for donating his time for a Caribbean BBQ to entertain our guests.

Dr. The Right Honorable Kennedy Simmonds and Nurse Diana of the Princess Alexandra Hospital for putting the anesthesia machine together and Mrs. Petal Kendall and Dr. Lowell Hughes for facilitating the purchase of the anesthetic agent.

Anguilla Techni Sales for facilitating the oxygen and regulators for the anesthesia machine.

Overwhelming support was received this year from the membership to handle the more unpleasant tasks of the clinic such as animal clean up. The following individuals gave many hours of their personal time to help the clinic: Jackie Pascher, Kathy Haskins, Joan Bellin, Gordon Sillas, Rachel Haskins, Anna Rodriguez, Alex Bozoglian, Marie Therese_____, Chris Carty, Jaxson Arnold, Alexander Crabtree, Rakev Webster, Jimmy Carter, Moira Masshardt, Lynn and Charles Blankenship, Christine Cutler, Kendra Gajadhar, Barbara Owen, Jackie and Ralph Cestero, Althea and Bob Turner.

We would also like to thank our tent set up crew Steve Donahue, Lynn and Charles Blankenship, and Troy Carter.

In our continued efforts to transport puppies to the United States we thank Roy Bossons and Althea and Bob Turner for the use of their planes to get the puppies to Puerto Rico. Maria and Jim Mulligan for funding the cost of gas and landing fees for our trips. In Puerto Rico we send many thanks to the Cargo Company, Second Chance Rescue and Save a Sato who put our last group of 10 dogs on American Airlines for Free.

As always we thank the dedicated folks at Puppy Angels who drive hours in the middle of the night to pick up our adoptable pets: Sherry and John Morral, Denise Labrie and Kim Lynch.

Many thanks to Amy Williams and Dr. Vanterpool for caring for our adoptable pets, and for getting them ready for transport with health certificates.

Without foster families this program would not be possible. Our thanks to Ellen Lee, Frank Costin and David Johnson, The Haskins Family, Jackie Connor, Chris and Lennie Carty and Madeline Kelly Perez.

Many thanks to Eustis Brooks (Rushie) for running many errands for AARF this year.

Finally we would like to thank those who have provided publicity for AARF events: The Anguillian, The Herald, The Light, Heartbeat Radio, Radio Anguilla, News.ai and Anguilla Life Magazine.

As we close this year, we have much to be proud of as an organization. We have provided a new chance to many animals that otherwise would not have it and helped to reduce the animal population in a small way. We recognize the constant challenges that are ahead of us and look forward to your support in the coming year.