

The Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation
Annual General Meeting
Dated Jan. 21, 2010 held at Roy's Bayside Grill at 5:30pm

The eighth annual general meeting of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation was held at Roy's Bayside Restaurant on Wednesday 24th September, 2008 at 5:30pm.

President Suzie Donahue welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the attendees in the AARF official prayer.

There were 16 members in attendance.

Lisa Thomson
Maggie Mitchell
Penny Hope-Ross
Suzie Donahue
Rebecca Taillon
Sally Baumwell
Mark Baumwell
Jackie Pascher
Debbie Klingler
Joan Hill
Judy Huzzey
Leslie Crabtree
Alex Ballin
Carol Gilbert

The Minutes of the AGM for 2008, having previously been circulated were presented and there being no amendments were accepted by Joan Hill and seconded by Debbie Klinger.

There were no matters arising from the 2008 minutes

President Suzie Donahue then introduced Maggie Mitchell who presented bylaw changes which were accepted by the group. Jackie Pascher was nominated and approved as the new trustee of the organization and she will serve with Mr Norris Payne as the two AARF trustees.

Jackie Pascher, AARF's Treasurer presented the following report:

Good evening fellow AARF members,
As treasurer for AARF one of the accomplishments this past year was a recently complete audit by Hope-Ross and Co. for the year 2008.

To summarize their findings:

Income for 2008 was 26,294 versus 33,825 for 2007 with the difference being a reduced amount from fundraising. Donations increased in 2008 with 9,073 reported compared to 66,642 for 2007. On the Expense side, as expected, Veterinary services was our major expense which includes the boarding and feeding of rescue animals and spay and neuter of adopted animals. Our net income in 2008 was 2,146 compared to 2007 which had a net income of 9,971.

The coins collected at the various outlets around the island continue to generate a significant income for AARF with 2,026.14 collected in 2008.

The funds on account as reported at our last Board meeting on Jan.6, 2010 are:

US checking account: \$933.54

EC checking account: \$2,453.48

US savings account \$18,950.00

Total: \$22,337.95

Thank you for your continued support.

Suzie then thanked Jackie for her many years of as our treasurer and for doing such a wonderful job and followed with the following remarks:

This has been a very busy and exciting year for AARF with many changes including the addition of two new veterinarians Dr Rommel Umali and his wife Dr Abi Umali who were able to add longer and more convenient hours at Morlens which include 8 -1 M – F, afternoon hours M & W fm 4 -6 and Saturday's from 8 -12.

I have truly been blessed to work with an amazing group of volunteers and committee chairs this year. Each of our committees has accomplished so much and instead of my standing here and going on about their successes, I thought you would probably like to hear it from them instead.

➤ **Committee Reports**

Education: Penny Hope – Ross

I was invited to be the chair of the Education Committee in June. The present members of the committee apart from me are Sylvia Thompson and Carol Gilbert but we welcome new members if anyone is interested in serving on this committee.

Work to date has been concentrated on the primary schools. However the committee would like to work with the High School and adult population through service organizations and other groups. If you feel you can help us to make a connection for a speakers lunch or dinner please let us know.

The first visit to the schools was during the last week of the summer term in June/July. Visits were made to every government primary school and to Teacher Gloria Omololu. At the smaller schools we spoke to the whole school and at the larger schools we concentrated on the Kindergarten classes. The messages we tried to get across were that dogs are just like children, they need love, water, food and shelter. We also helped them to recognize body language of dogs and we of course spoke about the AARF

programmes. Maggie my dog came with me and the children got to practice what they learned by watching Maggie to see if she could be patted or not and then patting her. The children loved this.

The second visit I made was with the help of Carol and Sylvia. They occurred during the last week of the Fall term in December. This time we visited Campus C, Valley. Stoney Ground and Road schools, where we spoke with the Grade 1 classes. Basically the same messages were delivered but we had had materials created to help us with the presentations. The materials were posters and brochures which we had had printed with the assistance of a grant from the Anguilla Community Foundation. Sylvia's dog, Bailey came with us to Campus C and Stoney Ground. The school children really do enjoy a visiting dog.

In addition to these efforts a presentation was made by Suzie and Carol to a summer camp program for children held at Campus B. And AARF also participated in the fair that Disaster Management held in July of 09. Brochures and a presentation were given by Suzie assisted by Barb Owen and Kathy Starr, two other AARF members on hurricane preparedness for pets.

Membership & Volunteers: Sally Baumwell

AARF generally has around 90 active memberships, many of which are families. Many of our members are also volunteers. Some volunteer on a regular basis, some for special events such as Bingo night and the yard sale. Some who live off island and are just here for short periods volunteer their time when they are here. We value and appreciate all of our members and volunteers.

When I look back at 2009, I see you. Members and volunteers are what make AARF strong. It is you who get in there and raise money, you who donate and keep your membership dues active, you who keep the shelter going, you who help people and their animals who need transport or medical care, you who promote spay and neuter, you who go into the schools and community to spread the word, you who care so much to find wonderful forever homes for the Anguilla animals in need.

Everything you do for the puppies, dogs, cats, and kittens of Anguilla directly helps them and the community. You, the members and volunteers of AARF, I thank and applaud. You are the lifeblood of AARF.

Fund Raising: Gayle Enzel

(Suzie gave the following report) Gayle couldn't be with us tonight but I think most of you are familiar with her successes in 2009 – Fall Bingo & the Spring Yard Sale & other projects including sales of t-shirts, environmentally friendly bottle bags and dog and cat crates and carriers which have brought in over \$10,000USD. The bags and tees are available at various businesses around the island including the shelter in Sandy Hill where we also sell the crates.

We are gearing up for our yard sale for this year, and appreciate any offerings you have

slightly used clothing, household goods, electronics and books. Gayle has some new and exciting ideas for 2010 so stay tuned.

Communications: Mark Baumwell

Mark Baumwell (email: groundlizard-aarfcommunications@yahoo.com)

As Communications Chair, the past year, I have spent communications efforts on the following:

- AARF list postings and management (including local media and Facebook)
- Thank you letters and emails
- Newsletters
- Re-design of AARF website
- Posters and flyers
- Newspaper articles
- Facebook

A little detail on each:

AARF email list postings (aarfupdate@aarf.ai) and management (including local media and Facebook)

Because postings to the list are the most time-critical, I have always made this the highest priority, dropping all other tasks to get postings out. Suzie has the ability to manage this, and has done about 50% of the postings. Postings are not automatic; there is a process. The short description of the process is: someone tries to post to the list, but it goes to a holding place. An administrator (right now, Suzie and I) get notified. One of us has to log onto the web site, read the email and then allow it to get posted, or dump it. This has to be done for each message and takes a bit of time. Of course, if Suzie or I write the email, we know we want it go to out, so we log on and approve it.

But often times, people reply to a posting and we need to act quickly. It could be someone saying "I'll adopt that puppy!", but it could be a reply of "oh, how cute that kitten is", or a joke, or a call to join a cause, and we need to keep the list volume down to the lean basics. So besides writing the postings. Suzie and I have to manage the replies appropriately.

I have an email list for local radio stations and the Anguillian/Herald/Light). Many times, if it's urgent, I will send the posting to the DJs and ask them to read the announcements for free. Ads and notices for the papers are possible, but we won't do that if there is a financial hit.

There is admin overhead too: if someone joins AARF and wants to be put on the AARF email list, an administrator has to log onto the site and add the person.

Finally, I created a Facebook account (AARF Anguilla is its name), mainly as an experiment to see if AARFers would want to share stories and photos, and to provide that outlet for jokes and causes that is not allowed on the email list. I also wanted to use it as another way to echo the AARF email list postings and to learn what other animal rescue sites know and communicate. I monitor it, but don't participate a lot, except to post photos and important Shelter notices

Thank you letters and emails

I try to write personal letters of thanks for donations. I think it is needed to give the donor a personal connection to the organization. I try to personalize the letters, especially if the donation is for a particular fund or of a "in memory of" nature. If a physical address isn't available, I will use email, but again try to personalize the message.

Newsletters

Newsletters are published on a quarterly basis. For the last year Q1, Q2, Q3 have been published. Q4 is 50% done and I expect it to be out in a week or so. I have used the newsletters as a learning experiment in HTML and CSS style sheet programming. Each new version gets tweaked and tested a lot, and serves as a test bed for the re-design of the AARF web site. The goal is to make maintenance easier, bring the web site up to new web coding standards, load on smaller devices such as iPhones and to print nicely (so you can print on a color printer without using a lot of colored ink).

Re-design of AARF website

That brings me to the AARF website at aarf.ai. It has a lot of content, photos, and loads of great newsletters written over the years. All that content needs to stay, but the website has to be updated because it has lots of code (Java and HTML) that is years and years old. The main problem is that it was built with an application called Frontpage, which has been obsolete for years. Meanwhile the coding standards have changed. The present web site causes problems for some users; mostly due to Java code that makes the blue buttons work.

The web site re-design is in progress and some of it is even up on aarf.ai for testing. I have some examples, but much of the text and photos are generic placeholders for now. This will likely be an interim layout, but the beauty of the re-design is that I can change the layout over time, and the content won't be affected.

The biggest task for me will be to bring the old newsletters (they started in 2001 and there are 44 of them) forward and to re-organize the files that are up on the server. I have fixed about 10 of them and can manage the rest of them.

I can use help with updating some of the text of the other sections. Sally has fixed the Shelter section for example. If anyone wants to help, all I need is the text. The layout and look and feel will be automatically synced up with the master layout.

This effort is actually pretty close to being able to be published; the hardest part was setting up the layout. I can add more content later. I would want the web site to be 90% done before having it go live. As I see it, the release date depends on how long it takes to get the newsletters working.

I'd like add a gallery of photos of some of our animals. I am also researching a possible – but I am not sure *how* possible – way to have people such as Shelter managers upload photos to the web site. I would try and use a database package that would cost on the order of \$100. The theory would be to have the ability to snap a picture of a animal in the shelter, crop and fix it, write a description and then upload it to the web site. Obviously when the animal got adopted, the picture would have to be deleted.

That effort is months away. For now, getting the web site redesigned and published is the priority. I would love to have the site go live in a month. I need a reliable, working internet and time!

Posters and flyers

This last year, I have put together many posters and flyers that have been pasted up at local markets and other businesses. Each poster has been done on a priority basis, like the email postings, so I again drop all other tasks to work on posters.

Each poster takes time to edit the photos and craft the wording. Debbie is going to take over this task (thanks!)

Newspaper articles

Not much to say here. When needed articles for the Anguillan are used to spread the good word about large events and activities, such as the Yard Sale, Bingo, school visits and more. Many articles this year were written by other contributors and they were excellent.

Facebook

If anyone is not familiar with Facebook, it is a social site where one makes “friends” by invitation and creates a circle of friends. One can then post short messages and photos for all the friends to see. There are games and causes and attempts by Marketing and political bodies and more, all of which create lots of Facebook traffic. As explained above, AARF has a “face” called AARF Anguilla (there are other AARFs out there). I monitor the entity and post on rare occasions.

You can request to join AARF Anguilla, especially if you already have a Facebook account. If it gets to be too much, you can “un-friend AARF Angulla and no offense will be taken! Ask me if you have questions about this.

If you have to make a choice between the AARF meal list and Facebook, it's no contest. Join the email list. Join the Facebook crowd too, if you like Facebook.

Adoptions: Karen Pearson

(Presented by Suzie) Our 2008 -09 Adoption chairperson couldn't be with us tonight. Karen has just had the first baby born in 2010 in the state of NJ! Karen and Molly are doing well, but obviously next year Karen will be busy and unable to serve as chair of this very important committee. We are fortunate to have Debbie Klingler who has volunteered (with a bit of arm twisting) to be our new Adoption Chair – thank you Debbie for taking on this very important job. Debbie has for the past several months been doing a wonderful job of making call out to our adoptees – she has three different types of calls she makes – one to make sure the new adoptee is adjusting and just making g the new owner know we are available if he has any concerns, the second set of calls are to remind owners that their new pets second or third vaccinations are due. This year AARF has tried to encourage those adopting to come back for the additional vacs needed to protect their new pet by paying \$10 of the \$25 vaccination fee. And the final call she would make is after surgery just too again let the owner know we are there and to thank them for participating in AARF's adoption and spay/neuter program. In addition Debbie also leads us in our sorting of goods for the yard sales. Thank you Debbie!

Shelter: Suzie Donahue

As chairperson of the Shelter Management Committee along with Sally and Lisa and a wonderful dedicated group of shelter volunteers - we have had a very successful year. We have at times struggled with guidelines and personalities to do what we felt was the best for the animals in our care. We feel extremely lucky to have the AARF shelter on the premises of Morlens Veterinary Clinic – it isn't very often that a rescue shelter has the services of not one but two veterinarians and we are grateful to both Dr Umali's for the care they give to our rescues and also to Dr Vanterpool who allows us to use a lot of space in his clinic for our shelter. This year we were able to acquire additional space so that now our dogs and cats are separated instead of all being in the same room.

I would like to recognize our faithful & dedicated volunteers who show overwhelming compassion when faced with puppies that have tick encrusted ears and paws, who give much love and wonderful care to these beautiful unwanted animals and who often cry when we have to put down a deserving animal that we can't find a home for. It is very difficult and I appreciate everyone's dedication. I would also like to recognize island visitors that came for a tour and jumped right in to bathe and walk pups & clean crates. And also a special volunteer - Jacquie Connor who fosters, facilitates adoptions and also jumps right in to help if she happens to be at the shelter when we are in need! Thank you all!

In these difficult times with fewer donations AARF continues our programs of accepting unwanted puppies/kittens/and adult cats or dogs at no charge to the owner. We also offer low or no cost trap/neuter/release assistance, no cost to

humanely euthanize feral or injured animals surrendered to AARF & we will continue to do what we can to make Anguilla a better place for the animals.

Numbers sometimes can be boring and they don't show our feelings but they do measure our successes and forecast our future needs.

2009 was the most successful year for adoptions that we have ever had with a total of 240.

AARF surgeries totaled 194 again more than last year - bringing our grand total since 2003 to almost 1250 animals.

Because we experienced such an increase in surrenders our boarding expenses were almost 1/3 more than last year and The Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation spent a total of \$30,929.40 on animal care alone in 2009. This does not include expenditures for other expenses such as fund raising and education.

Still there is much appreciation for what we do in the Community. This afternoon I received a check for \$500 from Barnes Bay Development because of AARF's assistance with a feral cat problem that they inherited when the Indians who as you may have seen from my recent email fed and cared for several cats while they were here working on the Viceroy project.

There are so many businesses & individuals that help us with our fundraising efforts thru bingo prizes, donations to our yard sales and also donations to the Lehigh and Rubin Rainbow funds – and Roy's for allowing us to meet here and support our work - we are truly lucky to have the assistance of so many – and I thank each of you for helping AARF to make Anguilla a better place for the dogs and cats that live here.

Now I would like to turn the meeting over to Sally, who as volunteer chairperson will make the presentation of the volunteer of the year award.
Sally

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD – SALLY

AARF Volunteer of the Year 2009

As I said in my committee report, we are blessed to have many wonderful volunteers. Our Volunteer of the Year stands out for all she does. She is always willing to help. She doesn't stop. She sees what needs to be done and does it in a very organized and efficient manner.

She sorts and prices for the yard sale. She works at the sale itself, our Bingo nights, and any other AARF event where help is needed.

She's been a special friend of Anguilla's beach dogs and cats, getting them spayed and neutered and helping with other medical needs. She helps find homes for animals who need them and transports animals for people who need help.

AARF has truly benefited from her shelter volunteering. She is there every week she's on island and in the months we're short handed, she is often there twice a week. She is wonderful with the shelter animals and digs right into dirty tasks as well as enjoying the fun work with the puppies and kittens.

She is friendly and helpful to AARF clients and visitors. She takes photos of our shelter animals for use in adoption flyers. She has excellent organizational skills. She even brings along her tools and fixes things.

She always goes above and beyond, and always does it with a smile. She is a volunteer organization's dream.

I am very pleased to present the Volunteer of the Year award to Rebecca Taillon.

SUPERSTAR AWARD – SUZIE

SUPERSTAR AWARD

Our volunteer of the year award has historically been someone that has recently arrived on the AARF scene and jumped right in to help any wonderful ways – which is what Rebecca has done. I like to think of her as a shooting star - blazing across the AARF sky and leaving lots of stardust in her wake! Congratulations & thank you Rebecca! This year the board also felt there was another special person that needed to be recognized – this person is more like that star that you see every night in the evening sky – always shining brightly in that same spot, dependable and beautiful! We decided to call this recognition the Superstar Award.

The person we voted on to receive this award has been a part of the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation for many years. Never wishing to be a decision maker or board member she has worked behind the scenes to make things happen – rather it be gathering and delivering newspaper for the shelter, working at our adoption days, providing transportation for adoptees or surgery patients, feeding and taking care of her own trap/neuter/release project, fostering or assisting in our fund raising projects like bingo and the yard sale & also AARF membership drives – hailing her friends (and she has a lot of them) and convincing them to join us! She is an amazing shelter volunteer, towel washer, flier poster & forms printer - she has done it all and continues to support AARF in any way possible. Our awardee is a very special person who continues to adopt when she already has a houseful, who cries with the rest of us when we can't find homes, who volunteers at the shelter with such zeal that rarely does her shift go by without an adoption – I could go on, but think you get the picture – it gives me an enormous amount of pleasure to recognize the recipient of our first Superstar award Joan Hill!

President Donahue then introduced the AARF Executive Board for 2010 as follows:

**President: Suzie Donahue
Vice President: Gayle Enzel
Secretary: Lisa Thomson
Treasurer: Rebecca Taillon
Two at Large Members – Sally Baumwell & Penny Hope- Ross
Committee Chairs:
Fundraising – Gayle Enzel
Education – Penny Hope - Ross
Communications – Mark Baumwell
Adoptions – Debbie Klingler
Volunteers/Membership – Sally Baumwell
Shelter – Suzie w/ Sally, Lisa & Rebecca
Policies & Procedures – Open**

After the introduction of the new board the meeting was opened to discussion for other business. There being no further business a motion to adjourn the meeting was by Joan Hill and seconded by Debbie Klinger.

Suzie then invited everyone to stay for a drink and socialization and thanked everyone for coming.