



**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE**  
**ANGUILLA ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2016**  
**5:15 p.m.**

Board Members present were:

Jackie Pascher Suzie Donahue Sally Baumwell Mark Baumwell Carol Gilbert  
Penny Hope-Ross Estelle Slade Rebecca Taillon

AARF Members and Friends present were:

Marilyn Cebe Chantal Cloutier Sue Dauphinee Rita Dispensa Jackie Gaudreau  
Sandy Hunt Debbie Klingler Althea Turner Carita Wallgren-Lindholm

The meeting opened with the AARF prayer.

**President's Welcome:** Jackie

Jackie welcomed Executive Committee and AARF members to the 2015 - 2016 Annual General Meeting. AARF continues to receive good support and Jackie thanked everyone for all his/her work.

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

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

Because Penny has to leave the meeting early, she requested to present, and the Board agreed, the Education and Membership Committee reports ahead of the Treasurer's Report.

**Committee Reports**

**Education:** Penny

I have to say that I have not been active in the role of Education Chair so the work has been done by others, mostly Suzie. So this report is also a recruitment request for a new Education Chair. The work I did was mainly on my own, visiting schools and talking about dogs' and cats' communication and their caring to primary school children and spread of disease and neutering to the older children. It is a wonderful way of spreading the word of caring for animals to young people and really is not a lot of work. We have canned power point presentations and brochures that you can use if you want.

The teachers are always there to help you and the children are very attentive. You get a very positive view of our Anguillian youth.

Early last year we held dog washes at the East End and Blowing Point Community centers. The medical and high school students were a great help. J.W. Proctors gave us discount coupons for pet food and Joe Vanterpool donated the water.

We are most grateful for the support of Carita's Gift, a fund established by the Wallgren – Lindholm Family to help the dogs and cats of Anguilla through education.

In addition to our AARF Community Education Days that included information on spay/neuter, heartworm prevention, necessary vaccinations and free flea/tick baths at several of the community centers, we also were visited by the Pre- K and Kindergarten classes from Omololu International School in October. The class came for a tour of the shelter and to learn about pet care! We had a wonderful time showing them the clinic and the AARF shelter and they enjoyed meeting the puppies and kittens.

Suzie has been writing education articles for the Anguillian and we thank them for all the support they have given us.

The St James medical school will be partnering with AARF for another dog wash on Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. in their car park. If you would like to pin up posters there are some available.

### **Membership: Penny**

There are 52 paid up members of AARF.

### **Treasurer's Report: Estelle**

#### **AARF**

#### **Treasurer's Report – Key Indicators**

#### **Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

○ <b>Donations</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015	\$ 5,035.64
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014</i>	<i>\$14,732.93</i>
○ <b>Fund Raising</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015	\$22,314.23
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014</i>	<i>\$14,488.20</i>
○ <b>Total Income</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015	\$43,503.00
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014</i>	<i>\$50,667.90</i>
○ <b>Net Income</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015	\$ 9,102.77
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014</i>	<i>\$ 6,720.20</i>
○ <b>Expenses</b>	Average Monthly Expenses 2015	\$ 2,660.94

- Although the level of donations in 2015 to the general operating fund showed a significant decrease from prior year levels, overall money donated for specific projects showed a marked increase. Donors in general asked that the money they remitted be used for one of the designated funds, and not be used for general shelter maintenance and management.
- Fundraising efforts, including the thrift store, a successful ladies' lunch held at Cuisinart and the in-season raffles at Roy's Happy Hour brought in more than \$22,300. A further \$17,800 was raised through merchandise sales and private donations and \$3,400 was collected through the adoption of pets, the funds for which were applied directly to the cost of vaccinations, etc. All the above collections were used applied to the general running of the shelter.
- In addition to this income of \$43,500, which is used for the general running costs of the shelter, the cost of merchandise for resale, adoption expenses, etc., a further \$34,750 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 \$30,500 was disbursed from those programmes, the details of which will be given in a separate report.
- With effect from May 2013, a monthly shelter management fee has been paid to Morlens Veterinary Services. The annualised expenditure represents 50% of AARF's total annual expenses for 2015, 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 2015 were for non-vet related items, and were principally spent on education, shelter maintenance and licences.
- A 32% reduction in the cost of providing treatment for AARF animals was reported in 2015, due largely to contributions from the spay and neuter, and other designated funds.
- Income from membership dues in 2015 dipped compared to prior years, but collections for 2016 have already reached 2015 levels, thanks to a renewed drive for existing supporters to renew their membership
- Sales of AARF related merchandise generated a net profit of \$9,982 in 2015, compared to \$11,776 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.
- Sales of Frontline etc., generated a net profit of \$1,908 in 2015, compared to \$4,788 in the previous year. However, this revenue stream will all but disappear in 2016 since Morlens 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.
- The overall operating profit generated in 2015 represents approximately 3.5 months of operating expense.

## **Committee Reports (Continued)**

### **Fund Raising: Rebecca**

In 2015, AARF fundraising was achieved by four main sources:

- 1) 2nd Chances Thrift store's net income for 2015 was almost \$18,000. As we were open 49 of the 52 weeks, that's an average of \$365 US per week. We have a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, including several snowbirds. I am thankful that these ladies are willing to give their time on such a regular basis. We are still in need of off-season volunteers to ensure that the store can continue to be open three days per week.
- 2) AARF Merchandise sales were just over \$10,000. Given that our popular LifeSaver design was created almost 5 years ago, we held a new design contest via FaceBook. We received over 10 submissions. We ultimately chose three winning designs - one produced on hat only ("Wave") and two on shirt only ("Silhouette" and "Loving Arms"). The latter will also be distributed as coloring pages during the 2016 school education sessions. (New designs shown to attendees.)
- 3) The 2015 Paws for a Cause event raised almost \$5,500 for shelter improvements. Suzie will provide more detail of the improvements in her shelter report.
- 4) The Friday night Happy Hour raffles at Roy's continue each Friday from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. during high season (December to March); this weekly event raised over \$2,000. Board members and friends of AARF volunteer to find prizes, sell tickets at the Happy Hour, oversee the drawing, and give out the prizes. Prizes are donated by generous Board members, AARF friends, and Anguilla businesses. We are very grateful to our volunteers, prize donors, supporters, and Roy's — without all of whom this program would not be possible.

Honorable mention goes to Amazon, for their contribution to AARF via [smile.Amazon.Com](http://smile.Amazon.Com), whereby 5% of all sales where the buyer has chosen our US arm (AARC) as their charity of choice gets deposited in our US bank account each quarter. We get at least \$40 a quarter, meaning AARF supporters are spending at least \$8,000 every 3 months with Amazon!

In summary, 2015 was the best fundraising year since we've been using Quickbooks (2010). The Paws for a Cause is the only fundraising event that goes towards a need other than general operating fund costs. Each year we get closer to our goal of raising enough funds to cover the operating costs of the shelter. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Communications: Mark**

The AARF Facebook page is doing well. We can reach 5,500 people now. There are several postings each week.

The AARFUpdate email list membership stands at 609. These list members get AARF announcement emails in their inboxes. (And this is reliable delivery so we are not dependent on them checking Facebook, or Facebook's changing the way it populates users' timelines, or the web site). They can be considered core supporters.

AARF also gains visibility as part of its affiliation with the Anguillan [sic.] Pet Owners Facebook group, which is made up of people who've adopted Anguillian dogs or cats. Articles on AARF's work have been published in The Anguillian and Anguilla Life.

From a communications standpoint, Facebook and the AARFUpdate list seem to be what people like.

The AARF website ([www.aarf.ai](http://www.aarf.ai)) is updated regularly with adoption photos, news, contacts, and more. It's current with the latest adoption candidates, and also is the permanent repository regarding travel processes, contacts, stories, links, and other information such as the new T-shirt designs.

### **Adoptions: Sally**

We had 183 total adoptions in 2015: 120 puppies/dogs and 63 kittens/cats. All healthy, adoptable animals surrendered to the shelter were adopted. We had fewer adoptions than in the prior year, and I credit AARF's focus on spay and neuter surgeries with keeping down the number of healthy surrenders.

Adoptions are handled at the AARF Adoption Centre & 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.

Our international rescue program, which we have built up over the past few years with rescue partners in the United States and Canada, had been on hold due to changes in import regulations. We do not have enough good homes in Anguilla for all of the puppies surrendered, and our puppy express program is critical to being able to find good adoptive homes for all. Thankfully in March 2015 the Centers for Disease Control, which governs U.S. pet importation, added Anguilla to their official list of rabies-free countries. This allowed us to start sending younger puppies to the States again. We are very grateful to our rescue partners, people who offer to escort puppies and kittens to the States, and to visitors who adopt in Anguilla and then take their puppy or kitten home with them to other countries. 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. We have even had a few transporters who fell in love during the trip and wound up adopting the puppy they were escorting.

In 2015, 69 of the puppies and dogs were adopted in Anguilla and 51 went to the U.S. and Canada, both as outright adoptions and to our rescue partners who in turn found them forever homes. Nine kittens and cats were adopted internationally, and the remaining 54 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 & Spay/Neuter: Suzie Shelter Surrenders**

In 2015 the AARF Shelter accepted at no charge and found homes (as Sally reported) for 183 dogs, puppies, cats and kittens that were homeless and /or unwanted out of a total of 235 surrenders. Sadly the others were not adoptable as they were either feral, meaning they were brought in trapped, or sick – testing positive for heartworm, tick fever, or skin fungus, or severely injured - all which would result in expensive medical treatment and/or long term care before they were ready for adoption. These were humanely euthanized to end their suffering.

### **Shelter Improvements**

For the past few years we have sold raffle tickets for an array of prizes to benefit the physical building and the vet clinic where we are lucky enough to have our shelter and the benefit of a full time veterinarian. So many shelters in other countries or islands do not have this luxury. We do not pay rent and our space is donated to us by Dr. Patrick Vanterpool who we are most grateful to for his continued support. We have a specific space for our felines and another for our canines which, for those of us who have been around for many years know, hasn't always been the case. The funds from the events go to make improvements at our shelter. In 2015, our fundraiser, "Paws for a Cause," focused on creating a puppy play yard at the shelter. We raised approximately \$ 5500 on this event that included dinners or lunches provided by: Straw Hat, Mangos, Cap Juluca, Picante, and Barrel Stay, as well as massages from Uni at Anacaona, a wifi radio, a sunset ride for two from Seaside Stables and a round of golf for 4 from Cuisinart.

At this time we are finally nearing the finish line for this project – the area has been cleaned, the gravel has been spread, the benches and roofs are in the process of being finished and the only other task is painting. We hope to be finished by the end of next month if not before so our puppies and older dogs can enjoy some fresh air and sunshine.

In 2016 we will be doing another shelter improvement fundraiser but have postponed until later in the year. In the past we have sold many tickets at our "Sweet on Geraud's" week but with their delay in opening we won't be having this event this year.

Other improvements needed at the shelter include repainting the shelter areas, the ongoing repair of screens and we have recently ordered 10 cat traps as refundable

rentals to people who wish to humanely trap feral cats. We have also offered financial assistance to the Department of Agriculture and Dr. Vanterpool for the purchase of a tranquilizer gun which will help with the many feral dogs that people feed but otherwise can't get near – and will give us a chance to do free spay/neuter surgeries thusly preventing the births of unwanted puppies in the bush.

## **Spay/Neuter**

With the help and expertise of the vets at Morlens Veterinary Hospital, 300 Free Spay and Neuter surgeries were completed in 2015 at a cost of almost us \$19,000! Of that total we had 111 dog spays, 81 cat spays, 54 dog neuters, and 54 cat neuters.

Our free spay month resulted in a total of 114 included in the above figure of which we completed 28 cat spays, 26 cat neuters, 46 dog spays, 14 dog neuters.

This successful event was made possible by donations from our many generous supporters in the US including the Benson - Cooper Foundation, Kathie and Bud Beck from Pennsylvania and many others who gave individually.

Since our first spay/neuter clinic in 2003 AARF has sponsored a total of 2697 free surgeries at a cost of almost \$160,000 US dollars. None of this would have been possible without the support of so many, including those I mentioned above, as well as the Jiggs Richardson Fund and Carita's Gift which sponsored our free clinic in 2014. I would also like to recognize and thank the responsible pet owners who participated in this project to help stop the births of unwanted puppies and kittens.

Plans for 2016 include the continuation of our program to offer free spay/neuter surgery to anyone who requests financial help, to the mothers of puppies and kittens surrendered at the shelter plus possibly two free spay/neuter months – one planned for mid-March and another in the Fall.

## **Volunteer of the Year Award Rebecca**

The 2015 Volunteer of the Year has been involved with AARF for almost ten years.

Some people need to be in charge and get the recognition for a job well done. Others prefer to roll up their sleeves and give it their all without wanting any part of the limelight. This year's volunteer is in the latter category.

Although her fear of seeing animals in pain or need kept her far, far away from the shelter, she readily stepped up to the plate to do her part with tending to the dogs of

7

Sandy Ground. Suzie, Bijou, Dow Jones, Star, Rita, Ziggy, Bleu, Bailey, and more came to know this person as the "Treat Lady." When any needed medical care, this volunteer was there to do what she could...as long as it didn't involve the sight of blood.

However, she still wanted to give of her time to AARF, so her name became synonymous with any aspect of the yard sales and thrift store. If there was one volunteer whose name was always associated with any aspect of grunt work - sorting,

cleaning, prepping, staffing, making dump runs, and re-organizing, her name comes to mind. As long as she had her bottle of water, her cell phone, and her cigarettes, she was ready for action.

Other honorable mentions for this person -

- She joined the ranks of “Foster Failures” with her one and only foster.
- She’s been a hero of the Sandy Ground beach dog community with her assistance in getting them spayed, neutered, and needed medical care.
- She gets ALL the credit for introducing me to AARF (as a side note - Jim has yet to forgive you!)

I will miss her as my go-to in my times of need. Thank you for all the sweat-filled times you gave to our cause. We are grateful for your countless hours of service.

The AARF 2015 Volunteer of the Year is Debbie Klingler.

### **Shelter Super Star Award Jackie**

This year’s Super Star award is presented to Karen Greenaway and Paul Corfield.

### **Vote for AARF Executive Committee**

The proposed slate of officers was adopted unanimously:

President	Jackie Pascher
Vice President	Rebecca Taillon
Treasurer	Estelle Slade
Secretary	Carol Gilbert
Board Member-at-Large	Sally Baumwell
Board Member-at-Large	Mark Baumwell

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

### **Other Business** None

### **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Gilbert