



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

**Wednesday, April 11th, 2018
Roy's Bayside Grill, 4 p.m.**

Members present were:

Jackie Pascher	Suzie Donahue	Mark Baumwell	Rebecca Taillon
Jean Reid	Estelle Slade	Denise Graves	Sarah Trevelyan
Judy Huzzey	Maryann Jarvis	Mike Jarvis	Julia Hughes
Johanna Pasila	Marie Wentling		

Committee Reports

President's Report – Rebecca Taillon

Welcome

I welcome each and every one of you to our annual general meeting. I'd like to begin with a Moment of Silence for the three outstanding volunteers who went to the Rainbow Bridge since our last AGM: Penny Hope-Ross (Education Chair, Membership Chair, and Shelter Volunteer), Charlotte Berglund (Thrift Store Volunteer and donor of handmade cotton rag rugs sold at the store), Joan Hill (Secretary, Shelter Volunteer Extraordinaire and the recipient of the first AARF Superstar Award).

Once again, we are grateful to so many members and supporters for their continued donation of time, money and effort so that we may continue to care for the unwanted dogs and cats of Anguilla by supporting our adoptions, spay/neuter campaigns, Anguilla Puppy Express, fundraising events at Roy's and Second Chances, change donation boxes throughout the island, and contributions to our general fund which offset the daily shelter expenses. Hurricane Irma brought out the best in many AARF members, including but not limited to: manpower to clean up the shelter; providing water for the shelter until Anglec could be restored; financial donations to purchase and install a propane generator for the shelter; and manpower to clean up our destroyed thrift store, 2nd Chances.

Treasurer's Report – Estelle Slade

Key Indicators

Year Ending 31st December 2017

• Donations	1 st January to 31 st December 2017	\$ 5,041.13
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2016</i>	<i>\$ 6,304.04</i>
• Fund Raising	1 st January to 31 st December 2017	\$20,291.10
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2016</i>	<i>\$19,472.68</i>
• Total Income	1 st January to 31 st December 2017	\$36,565.44
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2016</i>	<i>\$40,369.28</i>
• Net Income	1 st January to 31 st December 2017	\$(4,623.79)
	<i>1st January to 31st December 2016</i>	<i>\$ 1,575.54</i>
• Expenses	Average Monthly Expenses 2017	\$3,307.35

- Total funds held by AARF are made up of “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 with 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/Shelter Improvement raffle, is also put into the general fund.
- The amount of non-specified donations added in 2017 to the general operating fund, although on a par with 2016 and 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 in 2017 were limited to the revenue from, at least until September, the thrift store, and the in-season raffles at Roy's Happy Hour. Together, they brought in more than \$20,200. In fact, despite the thrift store being operational only until September, those 9 months generated more than the whole of 2016. A further \$13,200 was raised through merchandise sales, membership dues and private donations and \$3,100 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 2017 was less than in 2016, but on a par with other years.

- Sales of AARF related merchandise generated a net profit of \$5,144 in 2017, compared to \$3,278 in the prior year. However, it is possible that 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. However, the inventory of merchandise for resale is considerably less than at the previous year end.
- 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 2017, with veterinary fees relating to the treatment of AARF animals accounting for another 47%. Thus, only 3% of the total operating expenses of AARF in 2017 were for non-vet related items, and were principally spent on education, website maintenance and business licences. 2017 returned an operating loss of just over \$4,600, with some \$35,500 being spent on vet fees, and shelter maintenance and management.
- The cost of providing shelter and treatment for AARF animals is, in fact, much greater than that the \$35,500 spent from the general fund, and it continues to be offset largely by disbursements from the spay and neuter, and other designated funds.
- In addition to the income of \$36,600 highlighted above, used for the general running costs of the shelter, the cost of merchandise for resale, adoption expenses, etc., a further \$67,463 (\$22,900 more than in 2016) 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. In the immediate aftermath of hurricane Irma, a total of \$31,600 was donated, and is being or has been used for the purchase of a generator at the shelter, shelter repairs, the re-building of the thrift store, and to purchase pet food for owners in need. Overall, a total of \$51,391 was disbursed from the various programmes, the details of which will be given in separate reports. Thus it can be summarised that a total of \$91,000 was spent in the calendar year 2017 for the treatment and care of Anguilla's rescue animals.

Fundraising

Merchandise – Rebecca Taillon

We appreciate Estelle's quick thinking of donating all AARF shirts that were stored at Second Chances to the Red Cross in the days after Irma.

Roy's Raffles - Carol Gilbert

Here is a summary of the results for Roy's Raffles for the "year" 2017-2018. (Also see attachment.) As you know, Hurricane Irma messed up a lot of things on Anguilla, including the AARF raffle schedule. The season was truncated from 4 months to 3: January - March 2018. Despite that, our supporters at Roy's Happy Hours donated about \$2,587 US to AARF (\$2,557 US + 42.70 EC + £10 Sterling).

Astonishingly, at least to me, this is actually more than the raffles have made in the past seven years:

2011-12	\$2,067
2012-13	\$2,225
2013-14	\$1,936
2014-15	\$2,254
2015-16	\$2,171
2016-17	\$2,306
2017-18	\$2,587

All thanks go to our volunteers: Mary Ann and Mike Jarvis, Lisa Thomson and her sister Kim Scott, Margaret Spark (Sparkie), Jill Walker, Evelyn Carleton, Bernadette Bird, and Board members Suzie Donahue, Mark Baumwell, Sally Baumwell, and Denise Graves.

Thanks also to prize donors Pit Stop Bar and Restaurant, Nancy Dickens, Corner Bar Pizza, Lisa Thomson and Kim Scott, Mary Ann and Mike Jarvis, Jill Walker, Janet Verdi (two art prints), Elvis' Beach Bar, and Board members Suzie Donahue, Rebecca Taillon, Denise Graves, and Sally and Mark Baumwell.

And thank you Suzie for being my primary supporter and "go-to person" for the raffles.

Adoptions Report – Sally Baumwell

2017 started out as a normal year. Adoptions were handled as usual, both locally through the shelter and Morlens, and internationally. Through the month of August we had 140 adoptions: 105 puppies and dogs and 35 cats and kittens. Then Hurricane Irma hit and September was literally and figuratively dark at the shelter. No one was adopting in Anguilla and there were no flights out other than emergency flights, so no help internationally for the animals that were at the shelter. In October we were very fortunate to be part of a huge rescue operation spearheaded by SXM Paws and Animal Rescue League of Tennessee, and we cleared the shelter. 18 dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens went on the transports to new forever homes. In November and December we were able to find adoptive homes for many of our animals.

For the year as a whole, we did not have to euthanize any healthy animals because of lack of adoptive homes. We have been very fortunate to have donations to the puppy express program which allows us to keep animals at the shelter for longer periods while waiting for adoption, and in 2017 this was key to our animals being adopted. Total adoptions for 2017 were 195: 136 dogs and puppies, 59 cats and kittens. Of these, 57 dogs and puppies and 24 cats and kittens were through our international Anguilla Puppy Express program. The remaining 114 were adopted locally.

In December and into 2018 we were faced with post hurricane reality of the number of dogs who were surrendered to AARF, abandoned, or lost. Dogs wandered into people's yards looking for help, they were found on beaches near restaurants and bars hoping to be fed, some were dumped to fend for themselves. With American Airlines using smaller aircraft after the hurricane, there were no commercial flights taking dogs in cargo from St. Maarten or Anguilla, resulting in more people trying to find homes for their dogs in Anguilla when the people left the island, unsuccessfully in many cases. Getting larger dogs off island required expensive charter flights. In January we started researching and working hard to find ways to help the homeless adult dogs. Some of our rescue partners in the States offered to help find homes but getting them there was a huge challenge. We reached out to a Virginia rescue group, Island Dog Rescue, who

offered to help. Once we knew we had a way to help our homeless dogs into forever homes, several of us did outreach throughout Anguilla to find as many dogs as we could who needed our help. It took a lot of time and effort but last week our Freedom Flight brought 20 dogs and 3 cats to San Juan and on to the US where most have already gone to their forever homes, and most of those due to the wonderful work of Pet Alliance of Orlando. A huge thank you to all the AARF volunteers and friends involved, and to the donors to this rescue program; it was a real team effort.

I'm retiring from the Adoptions Chair position. In the seven years I've been chair, we have had 1468 adoptions, 575 of which were international adoptions.

Thrift Store – Jean Reid

We started off the year with good takings, January was US \$1,426.00, but the big money was in February when we held the dollar sale and took US \$1,013 on that day alone, the overall total for Feb was US \$3,222.00. Everyone was very pleased with that.

Had some problems with certain customers who persistently go into the sort room and want to buy straight from there before donations have been checked, so put up signs indicating only volunteers in the store room, and some adhered to that and others not so much, we just have to keep an eye on that. We closed for our annual "holiday" the first 2 weeks in August, which coincides with Carnival time.

The store maintained a 3 day week up until Hurricane Irma paid us a visit on Sept 6th. The building was badly damaged and the merchandise almost all ruined. Mold had set in and so after we had cleaned as best possible we hired professionals to do a more thorough job. A new roof has since been put on the MegaSaver building, which includes our premises. The store has been closed since Sept 6th 2017 and therefore no revenue coming in.

Volunteers have been helping by storing stock saved from the store and new donations at their homes, and more recently we have been painting and assembling new hanging rails and shelving and new wall slats. Things are looking so much better and we hope to be back in business by June 2018. I know our customers will be pleased as we are always being asked "when are you opening"?

Just to add the 2017 takings up to Hurricane Irma: US \$19,733.00 and EC \$6,109.00.

Communications Report – Mark Baumwell

On April 3rd 2018, Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation volunteers assembled at the AARF Shelter and Morlens Veterinary Clinic to gather, prepare and load 17 dogs and 3 cats to travel to the USA to be adopted. All were driven to Blowing Point to take the Calypso ferry to St. Maarten. This was a crucial step and Calypso delivered again. Five AARF volunteers (Sally, Renee, Mike, Suzie and Mark) accompanied the animals.

Special thanks to the patient and accommodating Anguilla Customs and Security at Blowing Point, the Calypso ferry with their outstanding and helpful crew, Pilot Gear, people who found, helped, and fostered dogs in need, and to all of you who have donated to AARF making this journey possible. The care and concern for all the animals at our shelter is generously and professionally given by all of our amazing vets and support staff Rhaine and Ranou whose love shines through daily.

Enormous organization and planning were required so thanks to all the volunteers but a huge gold star to Sally Baumwell without whom this would not have happened.

The full story and hundreds of photographs are posted on the AARF website.

Education Report – Suzie Donahue

- AARF does not have a designated Education Chairman but we do try our best to educate when we can.
- We have brochures on the importance of spay/neuter, vaccinations, parasites, taking care of your new puppy or kitten and heartworm prevention that are available at the AARF shelter and we also distribute at our community outreach events.
- Additionally I submit weekly informational articles to The Anguillian about dog and cat care.
- And also write articles about AARF for Anguilla Life – with one to be published shortly about AARF’s accomplishments in the past 15 years.
- Last Spring and again hopefully this year we have a teacher from ALHCS Mary Smith, who will go into the 6 grammar schools and the high school and do a basic presentation about AARF.
- Working with Omololu International School, I was able with the help of a shelter in St Louis, whose director I met at the AARF shelter, introduce a program called Reading Buddies which brought in students from first grade who practiced their reading skills on the puppies. The class visited several times and the students, many who had never touched a puppy, and the shelter puppies enjoyed every minute. Unfortunately that teacher has moved on and the program did not start again this year.
- There is so much more that could be done if we had someone willing to help. We have prepared power point programs for presentations in the schools as well as other supportive materials if anyone might want to take this project – the youth of Anguilla are where we need to start to make a change. I had two young adults in West End that approached me a few months ago, on separate occasions, about getting their female dogs spayed. *Education really is the key to making things better!*

Community Outreach

Spay /Neuter – 2017

In 2003 when Mr. Payne called and asked me to organize the first free spay/neuter clinic AARF has completed a total of 3250 surgeries at a cost of \$194,550.60

Of those surgeries there were:

751 cats spays

1300 dog spays

565 cat neuters

634 dog neuters

Included in those numbers are the 253 free spays/neuter surgeries completed in 2017 – about 50 less than last year, keeping in mind we had no surgeries in Sept and October. Of that number:

52 cats spays

103 dog spays

52 cat neuters

46 dog neuters

Total spent \$16,661.60

And how is AARF able to support this project? Donations from many sources that include: the Friday night Roy's Raffles organized by Carol Gilbert that collected approx. \$2600 this year - thank you Carol! Also from the donation boxes and individual donations from people who support this project, including the Besson/Cooper Fund which I will tell you about shortly.

Vaccination Clinic – 2017

- In October of 2016 AARF had our first free vaccination clinic at Best Buy West and were thrilled to have 30 free vax completed!
- This program is sponsored by a donation to West End Fund – from Rebecca Besson & Stu Cooper frequent visitors who have a home at Meads Bay. Becky and Stu are wonderful supporters of AARF and their donations make our community outreach programs possible.
- In 2017 two free clinics were completed - one in Blowing Point and one at St James School of Medicine with 104 dogs and cats being given free vaccinations to protect them against common virus' – parvo and distemper for dogs and feline aids/leukemia for cats.
- AARF just sponsored another clinic in March of 2018 in which 88 were given free vaccinations and have plans for at least one more in the coming months.

Food Bank

After Irma AARF received a shipment of dog and cat food from Polka Dog in Boston. Rhaine who is the office manager at Morlens delivered some to people in need in the Northside area, Monica Reid who lives in Island Harbour also delivered and I delivered to West End and Long Bay. Additionally on several occasions since then, using donations from Lucky Penny (a gentleman who has two cats Lucky and Penny) and Friends of the West End designated funds, I have supported requests from West End and Long Bay for food for dogs, cats and puppies.

In addition to food I also supply 10 dogs in West End/Long Bay with heartworm medication monthly also supported by donations to Friends of West End.

Shelter

Surrenders:

- The total surrenders in 2017 were 280 - 193 dogs and 87 cats.
- Months with largest number of surrenders were Mar, Apr and August all with over 30 & lowest month was Sept (Irma).
- Of that total 76 were humanely euthanized because they were either injured, feral or heartworm/ tick fever positive & 195 were adopted with 9 others becoming sick/unadoptable while at the shelter for adoption.
- For comparison in 2016 we had 264 and in 2011 - 488 surrenders so the numbers of surrenders has slowly decreased over the past few years.

Shelter Improvement:

- A few weeks ago, we finally completed the shelter improvement project which makes 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 makes it easier for us to protect the possibility of spreading germs to these clients.
- Now there is a lovely outside walkway that leads directly to the puppy play yard where the puppies really enjoy spending time outdoors as do our visitors who come to pet and play with them.
- In addition a new and permanent roof was constructed in the play yard as Irma had destroyed the previous one and seating area was improved.
- Additional seating is still to be completed as well as a bench in honor of Joan Hill our very dedicated shelter volunteer who we miss very much.
- Speaking of Shelter Volunteers: Please consider stopping by the shelter to not only visit the puppies and kittens but also enjoy the new play yard and entrance. Spend some time socializing our guests 15 -30 mins means a lot – an awful lot!

Denise Graves highlighted the shortage of newspapers and suggested that posters be displayed at supermarkets reminding the public to recycle them at the shelter.

Membership – Jackie Pascher

Membership is up from 38 in 2016 to 44 in 2017.

Policies & Procedures

Suzie and Rebecca completed the paperwork to register AARF as an Anguillan business, the Anguilla Animal Rescue Foundation Corporation. This was done to limit the liability to the individual officers, as according to British law, in the event an individual sues a friendly society, the officers are personally liable. By forming and registering as a corporation, liability is limited to the assets of the organization.

2017 Outstanding Volunteer Award – Rebecca Taillon

“Always willing to lend a hand and share a smile” is probably the best way to summarize why this individual is receiving this year’s outstanding volunteer award. Bernard, you aren’t technically even an AARF volunteer, but like my husband, you’ve been forced into helping out by your wife’s participation in our organization. Even “forced”, you seem to enjoy yourself (or pretend like you are) any time we interact with you. You’ve done so much this past year, particularly in the clean up and recovery of 2nd Chances due to Hurricane Irma’s destruction. We’re all grateful that you stepped up to help whenever you were needed. For that, we all say a big “Thank You”!

2017 Superstar Award – Suzie Donahue

This year our Superstar award goes to a couple that some of you may not know, but have probably heard of! Since they are unable to be with us tonight, I would like to introduce them to you. The winners of the award this year are Renee Rempert and Mike Greenfield who live near Chicago and also have a home in West End that they visit frequently.

I met Renee and Mike many years ago when I was volunteering at Morlens Clinic – before we even had an actual shelter and they have continued to support AARF and adopt puppies and adult dogs many, many times. In fact about 30 times!! They have a large property in the states as well as a caretaker specifically for their dogs and give them lots of love and the best of care.

Mike and Renee were also instrumental in making the very successful freedom flight that Mark mentioned in Sally’s report a success. Renee was the US contact with the rescue group and then while here accompanied the dogs and cats with us to St Martin and helped get them on the flight to San Juan.

Renee and Mike never arrive empty handed always donating carriers, collars, leashes and lots of other things for the shelter. Additionally they have both transported many puppies back to our partner R & R Rescue, that was started in the Chicago area by two former medical students Rosie and Renee, here in Anguilla, when they returned to finish their studies. Renee also has additional contacts with other rescue groups as well.

We honor this couple tonight because they are passionate about saving those that we can’t find homes for – the not so cute, the older ones, the black ones, the shy and frightened one and the not so loveable ones.

And, in addition to the generous and frequent donations, and the adoptions of many of our “unadoptables”, and transporting of others to the states, Renee and Mike also support our fundraising programs by donating to our thrift store, Second Chances & purchasing raffle tickets and attending our bingo nights at Roy’s when they are here. They also foster when they are here if we have someone that needs a break from the shelter or extra care.

I could add more – but I think you get the idea – AARF’s Superstars for 2017 are incredibly supportive and are a shining example of what can be accomplished with a lot of caring and generosity. It is with much pleasure that we recognize and we thank – Renee Rempert and Mike Greenfield – AARF Superstars 2017!!

Introduction of 2018 Board – Rebecca

Before I introduce the slate for 2018, I want to say thank you to Sally Baumwell for her outstanding work as Adoption Chair and APE founder/administrator. Sally has resigned from her position, hoping to enjoy her retirement more. We are so grateful for her dedication and determination in saving the lives of dogs and cats here in Anguilla. Now I'm happy to present the 2018 slate:

President: Rebecca Taillon

Vice-President: Suzie Donahue

Secretary: Sarah Trevelyan

Treasurer: Estelle Slade

Two at large members: Jean Reid, Denise Graves

I would also like to introduce Johanna Pasila, who we hope will be a permanent resident of Anguilla and one day, a member of the AARF Board. Johanna is a full-time practicing attorney, wife and new mom. If/when you see her around the island, please say hello and keep encouraging her to participate in AARF activities, as her time allows.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 April at 4 pm at Roy's.