



ARC Barks & Meows
 P.O. Box 62605
 Fort Myers, FL 33906

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VOL VI 2020

A Very Happy Ending for One-Hundred Lives in Peril

The rescue world is always engaged in a never-ending flurry of activity. Someone always needs help, medical attention or a fresh start. However, this time, this phone call, this need seemed at first to be over-whelming. ARC has been through large scale rescues before due to hoarding, neglect or natural disasters. This time, with one hundred cats, Trust Again Pet Shelter (TAPS) in Wauchula, FL found itself with no funds, no resources and only one staff person.

We had three months to save one hundred cats. We were also the last hope because TAPS was being turned down by every shelter due to COVID financial struggles.

The first cats to arrive at ARC were the dozens that needed intensive care and would require recovery time. Then we placed calls to Gulf Coast Humane Society, Cape Coral Animal Shelter and Puffy Paws to see if they would be willing to take some of the healthy and "ready to adopt" kitties. Thanks to them, over fifty-five cats were safe. The other forty-five came to ARC with three final ones bringing up the rear in time for Christmas! TAPS Board member, Danielle White, dedicated herself to coordinating intake dates with ARC and personally providing transportation. Rest easy Danielle because your fur-babies are safe.

ARC would like to especially thank the two "Anonymous Foundations" that provided funding so this rescue could move forward. They put ARC in a position to be able to help and we are deeply grateful. Please consider adopting a "Wauchula Kitty". Every one of those still waiting at ARC have amazing personalities and are ready to love you forever!

Animal Refuge Center, Inc.
 P.O. Box 62605
 Fort Myers, FL 33906

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____

- \$25 Friend
- \$50 Supporter
- \$150 Patron
- \$ 500 Sustaining
- \$1,000 Krieger Leadership Society
- \$5,000 Guardian
- Other _____

Cats Wish List
 Canned Food
 Dry Food
 Temptation Treats

Dogs Wish List
 Biscuits & Treats
 Nulo Canned & Diamond Dry
 6' standard leashes

Shelter Wish List

Disposables: Paper towels, tall trash bags, dish soap, laundry detergent, bleach, Clorox Bleach Wipes, and linens.

Equipment: Industrial washable mop heads, brooms, buckets, and dust pans. We can also always use new or nearly new washers, dryers, and pressure washers. We can also always use NEW air conditioners/heaters for our residents' housing. Please contact us for model # details!



You shop. Amazon gives.
 Your purchases, made through Amazon Smile, can help support ARC. Simply shop on Amazon Smile (instead of Amazon) and select the Animal Refuge Center as your charity to support. A percentage of your purchase will be sent to ARC through the Amazon Smile Foundation!



Cats adopted: Prince Charming, Clyde, Popeye, Felicity, Monique, Paisley, Ashe, and Barry



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 Lisa Viola, Secretary
 Peggy Gore, Exec Dir., Trustee
 Christina Hollis, Trustee
 Laura Leinen, Trustee
 Casey Chenoweth, Trustee

Editor - Betty Hughes
 bettyhughes@comcast.net

A special thank you to our friends at:

ALL AMERICAN PRINTING
 4621 Bayshore Rd.
 North Fort Myers, FL 33917
 (239) 225-2198



For donating the printing costs of ARC's newsletter.

Thank you to Kathie Lynch,
 Publisher of **The Pet Gazette**
 for donating desktop publishing services for ARC's newsletter.

Animal Refuge Center, Inc.
 18011 Old Bayshore Road
 North Fort Myers, FL 33917
 (239) 731-3535

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 62605
 Fort Myers, FL 33906

Adoptions 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
 Weds-Sun (except major holidays)
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

E-mail us at:
 bettyhughes@comcast.net
 or visit us at:
 www.AnimalRefugeCenter.com

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 Animal Refuge Center
 Lily and ARC

ARC is a non-profit, no-kill animal welfare organization and sanctuary operated by tax deductible donations and volunteers. ARC also promotes animal welfare advocacy and employs education to teach responsible pet guardianship as well as kindness to all creatures. ARC is a tax deductible, 501(c)3 status organization, funded by individual and corporate donations and memberships, and operated by volunteers.

ARC's General Membership Meetings are held annually on the 3rd Tuesday of both June and December at 6:30pm. Meetings are held at: Home-Tech, 6400 Techster Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966

Have Patience With All Things!

Well in this case, this was much easier said than done! When it came to breaking ground for our new 4,000 sq. foot cat building it seemed delay after delay was the new reality. First, we are stalled by permits, then COVID-19 and then another truss permit "wrinkle." Topping it all off was a new requirement for installing a fire truck access road complete with water tanks!

However, patience persevered and all things came together resulting in forward progress! The building was underwritten by estate bequests from Eileen Handran and Richard D. Stanfield. Special thanks also go to the Leslie Alexander Foundation and Melissa Gribble for getting us over the 20,000-gallon water tank and fire access road hurdle!

Soon ninety cats will be sheltered in comfort while awaiting adoption! We can't wait to save more lives!



BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY
 And make a difference in the life of a
SHELTER PET!
 Details available at www.AnimalRefugeCenter.com/become-a-volunteer/



Gifts of Love



All gifts to ARC "In Honor" or "In Memory" of a person or an animal are gratefully accepted. Send contributions to ARC, PO Box 62605, Fort Myers, FL 33906. Your listing will be featured in our next issue. Please accept our apologies & notify us immediately if your gift has been overlooked.

Always alive in the minds of their owners, the following pets have been memorialized through donations:

Referred for their kind hearts and the joy they bring, the following people have been honored through donations:

Contributions have been received in memory of the following persons for their compassion and concern for animals:

Memorials for Pets:

Alice
 Bonnie
 Daisy
 Doogie
 Flash
 Gus
 Ola
 Pumpkin
 Simon

From:

Martha Hammond's Pet Care
 Elizabeth Brasfield
 Julie & Clark Hill
 Connie & Thomas Walters
 Judy Lee Alcorn
 Jeanne Dufresne
 Martha Hammond's Pet Care
 Rose Marie Caskey
 Harriette O'Brien

From:

Mary Lee Goodwin
 Daisy (Koenig) Hill
 James Junker
 James Junker
 James Junker
 Ted Kiely
 Bob & Farrell Lotts
 Diane Shaw
 Carl R. Swonk
 Edith Yelland
 Edith Yelland
 Edith Yelland
 Edith Yelland
 Edith Yelland

From:

Elaine Jett
 Julie & Clark Hill
 Mary Ellen Hankey
 Denise & Tony Scalise
 Orlando Sodini
 Michael Walton
 John Shaw
 Libby Brasfield
 Sandra Bousman
 Cape Coral Social Club
 Daniel & Kathleen Dame
 Phyllis Kuback
 Ann Marie & Arthur Parsons
 Cheryl & Sam Samuels
 Nancy Verity

Memorials for People:

Georgina Adams
 Lee Allor
 Craig Chevala
 Janice Driefer and Charlie

From:

Todd Adams
 Laurel Loden
 John Stitzer
 Debra LaPointe

Thank You to Our New and Renewing Members

FRIEND:

Arlene Bancroft
 Marilyn Bean
 Patricia Comerford
 Helen Crumbie
 Renate Daughtry
 Sharon Daumer
 Carla Durand
 Shirlet Felkner
 Nancy Fox
 Donna Hanson
 Ruth Howland
 Diane Pulliam
 Geraldine Kerwin
 Sotheaath Lim
 Julia Lombardi
 Mary Jo Marchionni
 Jennifer Martin
 Catherine Mulla
 Elizabeth McCaffrey
 Estell Mezynski

Marie -Louise Miesel
 Marie Radcliffe
 Sandra Rutledge
 Diane Salko
 Jeanette Schneider
 Teresa Schulz
 Martha Walker

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 Annette Brockett
 Jody Bollinger
 Yolanda Cannon
 Susan Christensen
 Nancy Cook
 Nancy Cooke
 Cynthia Cooper
 Cathy Cuzzi
 Colleen Deane
 Elizabeth Duff

Marita Garza
 Jeffrey Gaylord
 Charles Griffin
 Marilyn Graham
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 Alan Kirk
 Heidi Kunstman
 Susan Leverone
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 Norma Remson
 Delores Rich
 Barbara Rivera
 Dr. Mary Santini
 Martha Shackleton
 Frances Simon

W. Halsey Spruance
 Betsy Vandercar
 Patricia Waters
 Paulette Weathers
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 Carol Elbe
 Matthew Fifer
 Michael Frushon
 Patti Hardin
 Bette Harig MD
 Edward Ionni
 David Irwin
 Thomas Mayo
 Shirley Powless
 Wanda Shipp

SUSTAINING:

Nancy Arnold
 Janet Buck

Edward & Suzanne Christenbury
 Jeffrey Reed
 Ken and Pam Relyea
 KRIEGER LEADERSHIP SOCIETY:
 Christopher & Susan Riley
 Dr. Steven Scholle
 GUARDIAN
 Jonathan & Evelyn Silverman

PET SPONSORS

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 Michele DiRocco
 Mary Evanoff

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 Ingvor Franklin
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 Deborah Hart
 Ronald Horne
 Irma Hudik
 Geraldine Kerwin
 Stephanie Lacer
 Jennifer Martin
 Alfred McGlynn
 Angela Miller
 Carol Oxnam
 Anamarie Tirador
 Kathy Totterdale
 Dorothy Woodward
 Prestige Motosports
 Charmed Karma



ARC's Cat Whisperer

It is with heavy heart that we say good-bye to one of our devoted volunteers, Edie Yelland. After a brief but valiant medical battle, Edie left this world. We know there are many cats at the Rainbow Bridge that greeted her as she approached. We lost a dear friend but they gained a loving advocate.

With her soft voice and gentle demeanor, Edie soothed many a recent ARC arrival. Whether traumatized from abuse or just confused and scared from being abandoned, Edie soon had kitties trusting their new environment and hopeful for adoption. So many will miss Edie but we are all richer for having known her.





Year-End Letter from ARC's Board President

To say that this past year has presented significant challenges would, of course, be an understatement to almost anyone. For us, the challenges created by COVID-19 could have easily been detrimental to our mission. Notice I said, "Could have been."

Simply put, our mission is to not only provide a unique type of shelter to our 400 residents, but to also offer exceptional, compassionate care. We are renowned for going the extra mile medically, and we strive to provide daily affection and interaction with all of our animals. This level of care and compassion is administered by an extremely hardworking and dedicated team of animal care employees and administrative staff. Behind them, stands a creative and committed Board of Trustees.

We are proud to say that throughout this pandemic, our employees never had to worry that their paycheck would be short or their jobs would be in danger of disappearing. ARC achieved this, when many for-profit businesses could not, through our knack for strategic planning. We routinely prepare for disasters, such as hurricanes, and always aim to be ready for the unexpected.

We also protected our employees by altering the way we conduct tours and adoptions. A new appointment-only system was implemented to reduce traffic and maintain social distancing on property. Additionally, we temporarily restricted access to volunteers, knowing that we might have to rely on them as an adjunct to our animal care staff in the event of an outbreak among our paid employees. Thus far, our staff has remained healthy.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, we rely solely on our own abilities, dedication and creativity to fund a rather substantial annual budget. A large component of this funding comes from events. As you might imagine, crowded events were a little difficult to execute this year. We were forced to cancel our Casino Royale event, and our flagship Starlight Auction saw less than half the attendance of 2019. Despite substantially decreased attendance and significantly fewer auction items, we still reached a near record level of sponsorships, and raised \$145,000! I, along with the rest of ARC's Board, cannot thank enough, the local businesses that gave so generously as sponsors, in spite of almost certainly dealing with financial hardships of their own.

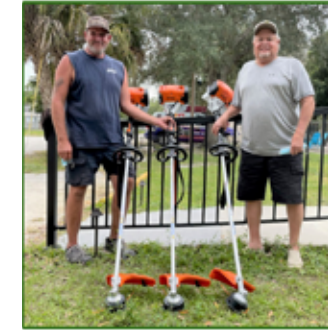
As we move forward into 2021, we will continue to protect our employees' health by utilizing the new protocols put in place in 2020. Our focus will continue to be caring for, and finding forever homes for, our wonderful residents. We will always take on the challenging medical cases that other shelters are forced to turn away. And we will focus on expansion! Thanks to the amazing generosity of a few special donors, 2021 will see the construction of another feline housing building, as well as a state-of-the-art medical clinic. We also have another project in the works with one of our most beloved, long-term donors!

With the ongoing support of our amazing community, staff, volunteers and donors, we will continue to build on our nearly 33-year history of advocating for animals that cannot do so for themselves. We look forward to all that the new year will bring to the Animal Refuge Center!

Wayne Leinen Jr.

High Grass at ARC? Not a Problem Anymore!

They say ask and ye shall receive--but wow! When we asked for some weed trimmers and a riding lawnmower, what we were gifted caused our dogs to do back-flips! High grass will never ever impede their walks again thanks to:



Store Manager, Rhonda Godwin, of Everglades Equipment Group, brought us two industrial level weed trimmers. Don Norris brought us a third one which rounded out those needs!



Then there was Steve Luke, who felt so strongly the proper way to maintain our acreage was a Zero Turn mower. Never in our wildest dreams did we think an Ariens IKON 52 would ever come our way! Thank you, Steve, for making dreams come true! Now Kurt & Quincey can't wait to mow the lawn!



We'd also like to thank all the on-line donors who raised enough funds for two self-propelled mowers for the dog aisles/yard.

Animal Refuge Center's 7th Annual

Purses for Pooches

Lunch • Silent & Live Auction • Purse Fashion Show • Giveaways

Purses for Pooches is temporarily postponed this year.

We are still collecting purses for this event. Please help the animals at ARC by cleaning out your closets and donating your previously loved designer purses & scarves.

Drop off Locations



18011 Old Bayshore Road
North Fort Myers, FL, 33917



6400 Techster Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33966

Sponsorships available

- Presenting Sponsor \$2,500
- Catwalk Sponsor \$1,500
- Puparazzi Sponsor \$750
- Canine Couture \$500
- The Cats Meow \$250
- Individual Tickets \$45

For more information contact **Betty Hughes**
239-841-0810



ARC's 26th Starlight Auction A Magical Night!



Once a year, at Sanibel Harbour Marriott, the stars align and for one glorious night animal lovers gather together and share their passion for pets. Considering how 2020 was going, we were not sure we'd have a Starlight auction this year. But, with an abundance of caution and safety protocols in place, ARC was able to offer a scaled-down version of our signature event. Stories of rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing showed guests why their support is so critical. These happy ending stories re-charge the emotional batteries of staff and volunteers and most importantly, they remind us what a difference ARC makes in the life of an abandoned pet.

Title Sponsor; Chuck Bodenhafer, Presenting Sponsors; Doc's Painting, Paul & Rosalie Walton, Gold sponsors; EG Contracting, Dr. David & Jennifer Nichols, Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa, Shamrock Irish Pub and Rob & Kathy Totterdale inspired forty other sponsors to build the foundation for 2021 achievements. We are so deeply grateful for their support.

Guests also helped set the stage to provide brighter beginnings for pets in crisis in 2021 by bidding high and often on over a hundred items! Companies & individuals who donated these items recognize the positive impact ARC has in the community. Canine guest of honor, Primrose weaved her way around the ballroom greeting all she met. Rumor has it that she won the heart of one of our sponsors!

Auctioneer and Board Vice-President, Rob Spicker encouraged guests to build a foundation for our 2021 Surgical/Medical fund and together raised \$33,000. A terrific start! Overall sponsors & guests raised just over \$145,000 which will allow ARC to chart plans for saving as many lives as possible in 2021! Happy New Year to us all!

Very Special Thanks to Our Title, Presenting and Gold Sponsors!



Presenting Sponsor
Robert "Doc" Woods



Presenting Sponsor
Paul & Rosalie Walton



Title Sponsor
Chuck Bodenhafer



Gold Sponsor
EG Contract Co.



Gold Sponsor
Kathy & Rob Totterdale



Gold Sponsor
Shamrock Irish Pub



Gold Sponsor
Dr. Dave & Jennifer Nichols

THANKS SO MUCH TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & DONORS

SPONSORS

Title Sponsor
Chuck Bodenhafer

Presenting Sponsors
Paul & Rosalie Walton
Doc's Painting - Robert "Doc" Woods

Gold Sponsors
EG Contracting Co.
Dr. Dave & Jennifer Nichols
Kathy & Rob Totterdale
Shamrock Irish Pub
Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa

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Sanibel Spirits
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Mary Vigil
What 2 Wear Consignment Boutique

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Tito's Vodka
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Trish O'Neill
Useppa Island Club
Walt Disney World
Zulu Nyala

The night sparkled while orphaned pets shined!