



ANIMAL RIGHTS AND RESCUE GROUP INC.

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**BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY
XMAS FROM ALL AT ARRG.**

The Animal Rights and Rescue Group is a local, non-profit, volunteer organisation, run without government funding. It is the only such group covering the whole of the Far North Coast. We rescue homeless and unwanted animals. We also take unclaimed dogs that would otherwise be killed from local pounds. We provide them with care and vet treatment and find them suitable homes. ARRG does not euthanase any animal unless it is too ill to respond to veterinarian treatment. There is no RSPCA shelter in this area.



Dear Members, Volunteers and Supporters,

Our Xmas newsletter will be a summary of the year at ARRG and some updates on our current situation and our work. While most people are getting prepared for the festive season and a relaxing and happy time with families all of our volunteers at ARRG would like to wish you a very Safe and Happy Xmas and a fruitful 2005.

At ARRG we are already geared up for the silly season that sadly sees so much suffering for the pets who are not truly loved and the many unwanted pregnant cats and kittens that are now being dumped and handed into to shelters and pounds (at least the councils who will accept cats) during the Summer cat breeding season and many many thousands of them around the country will not get a second chance and will die.

At ARRG we will do our utmost to rescue as many of these poor animals as our foster care system can cope with and many more we will just squeeze in as well.

This is the most demanding time for all rescue group and ARRG has survived more than ten of these Xmas seasons since we started, so at least we are very aware of the pattern of this season and try to prepare our group each year for the needs of animals at this time.

WHAT KEEPS ARRG GOING? YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR THE ANIMALS

Most importantly we would like to thank you the caring people who help us with your donations, kindness and passionate support, without you and your generosity we couldn't operate ARRG'S rescue and rehome group. While we are willing to work hard all year round its your commitment that makes ARRG happen. During the last year we have rescued and rehomed one thousand four hundred unwanted, abused and abandoned pets, all these animals were given a second chance at life and most are now loving homes. Some received extensive vet treatment for injuries or conditions of neglect and you the faithful and caring supporters made this work possible. THANK YOU FOR CARING.



ARRG GIVES THEM ALL A 2ND CHANCE

Remember 'Porky Chew' a cat found in Goonellabah with severe back injuries and open infected wounds. ARRG rescued him and due to the severity of his injuries have been providing treatment for him for over a year, he is still in care with his loving carer.

Porky Chew and many other animal victims like him who suffer severe abuse would not be alive if not for ARRG and our supporters. ARRG is very proud of its No-Kill policy and we have proven that most animal rescue cases can have a positive outcome. ARRG'S official euthanase figure due to advance illness or aggression is less than 1 % based on a ten year period and we think other groups could do the same if they worked on our philosophy, which is basically a huge amount of faith and a lot of hard work.

DISCOUNT DESEXING WORKS

2004 saw the start of our discount desexing program and our thanks go to David and Ann Shaw at Shaw's Vet Clinic Ballina who helped us make this program a huge success.

Each week we assist a large number of disadvantaged people desex their cats and dogs.

The Animal Rights and Rescue Group is a non-profit organization, run without any government funding. ARRG totally relies on donations and voluntary workers. It covers the whole Far North Coast NSW area and rescues abused, homeless or unwanted animals. ARRG provides shelter and finds suitable homes for them. ARRG is a NO-Kill organization.

A FEW ANIMAL RESCUES STORIES



Kitty a pregnant cat dumped and rescued by this caring lady, Kitty then had major complications with her pregnancy and needed an operation and would have died if ARRГ had not helped to pay the vet bill, Kitty now has the most loving home with this wonderful lady who has repaid ARRГ for the vet work, a very special lady.



These lovely kittens were dumped in Lismore and handed into ARRГ. Our foster carers took care of them, gave them heaps of love and care to get them to trust people again and they have all been rehomed with screened loving homes.



Three unwanted puppies arrive at ARRГ in September and Amber our volunteer helps them settle in to care. They were very poor and very shy. They are all now rehomed into loving homes.

SHELTER PLANS FOR 2004

Currently we are still waiting for Lismore City council to provide us with a suitable site for our shelter. Following a very positive meeting with Mr Paul O'Sullivan General Manager, Mr Lindsay Walker and Mr Bill McDonald early this year ARRГ was assured a site would be found and as our last newsletter stated ARRГ's committee, volunteers and members were so relieved and appreciative.

Recently the site recommended by council has failed to suit shelter requirements and we are waiting for further advice from Lismore council, a great disappointment.

If current negotiations with Lismore council should fail to provide suitable land ARRГ is again facing closure in the next few months and we are so concerned to think of the devastating fallout if ARRГ is forced to close.

ARRГ has become a crucial service in the Northern Rivers Community during our ten-year operation, providing one of the best Animal Welfare Services in the state of NSW.

Our animal welfare work for the community involves working with Centre link and other welfare agencies such as Lismore Women's and Children's refuge, Richmond Mental Health clinic, Department of Community Health for the Aged and Disabled, Lismore Base Hospital and others, all these agencies turn to ARRГ for assistance for care of their clients pets.

No other group is willing to do this work in the region and local councils cannot provide this service. A serious dilemma for all.

ARRГ SHELTER SPONSORS

ARRГ would like to mention all the people who have committed financial support to build our shelter: Ms June Peterson, World League for Animal Protection NSW, Mr Phillip Wollen VICTORIA, Ms Sue Barker, Ms Barbara Steffensen, Ms Judy Rawlings, Dr Tonkin and Mark Smith 'Running Dog Architects' for all the time and help donated to our shelter plans.

The hundreds of Buy-a-Brick purchasers from all around Australia and Overseas. All these people support ARRГ and are committed to seeing an Animal Shelter built in this area. ARRГ thanks you all so much for your faith and support in us.

ARRГ AGM JANUARY 20 2005.

Due our auditor's commitments our AGM will be postponed from December 12. Please note the new date and ARRГ urges all volunteers and members to attend this vital meeting.

SAD NEWS FOR OUR OP SHOP

We have notice to move in 30 days from 210 Keen Street Lismore due to new tenants. This move is a huge blow as this shop has been so successful for ARRГ. We have looked at other suitable shops for our office/Op shop and the news is not good. Very few shops are available in Lismore and they are far more expensive. We are urgently seeking supporters who can commit a regular small monthly donation directly to our bank to help us cover this rent and help us proceed. Can you help? Call Suzanne Lavis on 66221881 or 66637035

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND CARERS

Our Op shop volunteers have worked so hard this year and made the shop a real success, a great team. A huge thank you to Suzanne Lavis our secretary and dedicated foster carer who gives 150 % to this organization.

To all our foster carers you are the backbone of our life saving rescue work and we thank you for your dedication and the caring contribution you make for all our rescue animals.

Sincerely for the Animals Barbara Steffensen.