

# ANIMAL RIGHTS AND RESCUE GROUP Inc

## FAR NORTH COAST NSW AUSTRALIA. JUNE/JULY 2005

- A self-funded, Foster care, No-kill Organisation -

CFN 14802

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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. ARRГ does not euthanase any animal unless it is too ill to respond to veterinarian treatment. There is no RSPCA shelter in this area.



Dear supporters and members

Thank you for being patient with us regarding our newsletter issue dates, our last newsletter was sent out in stages which resulted with a fragmented mail out with some urgent entries added at a later stage. At ARRГ we are now attempting to make this newsletter a very complete report of our work in 2005 and an accurate view of our current situation for all our members.

ARRГ has been working hard to progress our shelter plans, which has involved meetings with Lismore City Council and an earlier decision this year by council to offer a site for lease for our animal shelter at Three Chains Road, Lismore was welcomed. Following discussions with council, ARRГ and Mark Smith our Architect did site viewing and our DA application is now being prepared. ARRГ once again thanks Mark Smith of 'Running Dog' Architect Byron Bay for his ongoing efforts for ARRГ; free of charge Mark has attended many meetings over several years to assist ARRГ.

ARRГ would also like to thank the Animal Welfare League at the Gold Coast for their assistance over the last few months by meeting with ARRГ to offer help and guidance for our plans based on the very successful AWL shelter at Coombabah Gold Coast. ARRГ spent one day at the AWL shelter taking notes and a video recording. The assistance given by AWL has been of great value and ARRГ thanks Denise the AWL president and the volunteers for their encouragement.

Our move in December 2004 to our current premises at 181a Keen Street Lismore has been a success. This huge building operates as our OP Shop and office and has now become a very busy centre for a wide range of animal welfare programs to assist the public and many animals.

Due to the extra space and a successful advertising campaign for donations of saleable items for our Op shop the increased sales are helping ARRГ to cover the ever-growing running costs of our rescue and rehoming work and our assisted desexing program. A sincere thanks to the many Op shop supporters and a huge thank you to all the volunteers who donate their time to help man the shop which is open Monday to Friday from 9 am – 3.30 pm.

While ARRГ's rescue work has to take number one place we continue to provide education and political material throughout this region. ARRГ covers the whole of the Far North Coast area and we now have a very active volunteer force in Port Macquarie who is doing really well.

The Summer cat-breeding season was the worst to date and even at this point we are still receiving calls about unwanted & dumped kittens and we have many cats & kittens in care. ARRГ's rehoming figure for the last year has been staggering and we are very thrilled and proud to know so many lives have been saved. Many of the stories are very sad and our anger sometimes is hard to contain, but the wonderful results are our ultimate reward.

#### THE REAL MEANING OF ANIMAL WELFARE

ARRГ has been working here for ten years and accepts that we operate in a region with high unemployment and many social problems and Animal Welfare programs are very needed and the demand grows. We provide food, vet care and temporary pet housing for people during a range of personal and family crises. Local Welfare agencies such as The Women's & Children's refuge, Richmond Mental Health Clinic, Corrective Services, Lismore Base Hospital and others regularly call ARRГ for help and we strive to provide any assistance we can for their clients and the pets involved.

Our assisted desexing program is now very busy all week and we will also provide transport for the pet to attend the clinic if needed. (what ever it takes to get a pet desexed is worth the effort) Because of our experience with the welfare agencies we would like to applaud and highlight the work of organizations such as the PDSA - Peoples dispensary for Sick Animals in UK. The PDSA has clinics all over the UK that operate on a donation basis only to assist all people care for their pets during tough times.

I have personally attended one of their large and busy clinics in the Midlands in the UK where people pay by an honour system, paying what they can afford, **no stigma attached.**

This is true Animal Welfare at work large public funded organization give back the funds raised by them to help animals in the most practical way. A wonderful program that ensures that pet care is available for all pets.

Australia sadly lacks this type of Animal welfare initiative and mentality, yet is desperately needed here. Another ARRГ goal for the future is to see similar programs initiated in Australia. Can you help us fund a PDSA program HERE???

**Outcome of RSPCA  
deformation action against  
ARRG September 2004.**

A letter dated March 28 2005 was sent to all members notifying of the date we set for an Extraordinary meeting in April 2005 to discuss the legal action threatened by RSPCA against ARRG.

We are now able to further update you of the situation and the details of the final outcome of this matter. Following a letter from the RSPCA solicitors McDermott and Associates in September ARRG was accused of defamation regarding an article published on our website which reported our anger and concern of an incident that happened in 2002.

The article was badly worded and resulted with ARRG being threatened with defamation proceedings. During the period September 04 to June 05 ARRG was involved in negotiations regarding allegations of defamatory matter being on our website. To avoid Supreme Court action against ARRG we complied with the legal request to remove the article from our website. A later demand by RSPCA via McDermott and Associates to remove other material was also done.

To resolve the matter that could have resulted with Supreme Court Action against both Barbara Steffensen (ARRG President personally) and ARRG the requirement by RSPCA for us to publish an 'Apology' provided by RSPCA was accepted and had to be placed in the Sydney Morning Herald, Northern Star Paper and Port Macquarie News and on our website was agreed to.

The said 'Apology' has now been published and with a 'Deed of Release' signed by all parties this is an end to that matter.

This has been both a harrowing and expensive experience for ARRG and we have learnt a valuable lesson.

**"Its not the truth of what you say it's the way you say it and we will be very careful how we say or report other matters!!!"**

**PET ADOPTATHON 2005 APRIL 30 / MAY1 ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS FOR THIS WORLDWIDE EVENT HELD IN OVER 30 COUNTRIES. TO REGISTER CONTACT NSAL OR ARRG FOR INFO.**



Some of the volunteers who worked so hard all weekend to ensure our ARRG pets were cared for during the event. This year over 40 cats, kittens, puppies and cats were adopted during the Pet Adoptathon and we will be excited to report this great result to the NSAL in the USA who is at this moment collecting results from around the world. Some 30 countries join this even each year with a common goal to see many unwanted pets adopted into selected loving homes.



**One lucky little kitten with her new life carer on the adoption day.**



**A very happy family going home with there newly adopted family pet.**

ARRG is a proud supporter of this annual event and would encourage all animal rescues to join by registering with NSAL

North Shore Animal League USA who do their utmost to assist all organisations to participate and provide support material and super posters for the event. Contact NSAL on [www.nsalamerica.org](http://www.nsalamerica.org). If any Australian group would like help to hold a Pet Adoptathon 2006 just contact ARRG.

**MORE GOOD NEWS**



ARRG was so pleased to hear from Hayley whose family adopted 'Jack' one of the 17 Jack Russell rescue case dogs. Hayley emailed us to tell us how much she loves 'Jack' and all the fun they have together. Hayley tells us 'Jack' has so many toys around the yard and he just waits for Hayley to come home from school. Many thanks to Hayley & her family for adopting and loving Jack.



**THIS IS HOW THEY LIVED.**

Update of ARRG's Siamese cat Rescue case. Late 2004 we were contacted by the Dept of Aged care, over 21 breeding cats needed help following long term neglect and the hospitalisation of the owner. ARRG has now rehomed all the 21 rescue cats who were severely neglected and very sick with cat flu and very anti-social. One of the largest rescue cases and not one animal died.

ARRG ANIMAL RESCUE CASES



This mum cat and her kittens were dumped in a yard in Casino and the property owner called ARRG for help. Casino council had also been contacted and said they didn't deal with or accept cats; they didn't attend the property to scan the cat for microchip. It appears cat owners have been duped by the local government with the microchip law when councils refuse to do their job. Residents should consider refusing to microchip cats until councils take responsibility and helps cats.



'Mitzy' a female silkie x (top) and 'Lucy' a female maltese x (below) are two young adult dogs rescued from the same area in Casino after neglect and abuse and were rescued by ARRG with the help of a resident who witnessed their plight. We are looking to rehome them together as they are great pals. They get on with other pets and are very playful and would be great with older children.



'Fifi' is a 14-week-old poodle x spaniel female puppy. Dumped in Lismore and unclaimed from the pound who called ARRG to rescue her. She is so pretty and a very loving baby and needs a home with lots of time and love to give to her, preferable with another pet.



These three gorgeous six-week-old puppies were rescued last week from the Lismore area and were part of an unwanted litter. They are now safe in care with a foster carer and ARRG has agreed to assist desex mum dog.



'UNTUNG' (which means Lucky) but not this time though, she is a 4 year old female Ridgeback x and was surrendered to ARRG last week by her owners. She is a very attractive medium sized girl and has a distinct ridge down her back. Her nature is wonderful and she gets on well with all pets, cats, children and loves affection. She is obedient and very playful and would love a family home with lots of love and activity.



'MAISY' is one of three 4 month old female collie x puppies dumped on a property at Alstonville and left for dead. ARRG was called by the property owners to help these girls. Maisy, Daisy, Lucy were very timid at first but are now doing really well and are very happy in the care of our foster carer Paul Slessor, with several other puppies. They will be small to medium in size when fully grown, they are black and white and short haired. They are very loyal and obedient and so ready to please.



'Maurice' and 'Barry' are two of a litter of seven unwanted kittens surrendered to ARRG all identical champagne & ginger in colour and very affectionate. Three are still in care waiting for a home and are now 6 month old.

**OUR ASSISTED DESEX PROGRAM HAS TO DATE HELPED HUNDREDS OF PETS TO BE DESEXED THAT WOULD OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO BREED. DESEXING PROGRAMS TRULY WORK TO HELP DISADVANTAGED PET OWNERS DO THE RIGHT THING. DISPELLING THE MYTH THAT THESE PEOPLE DO NOT CARE. BOTH OWNER AND PET ARE THE WINNERS AND ARRГ WILL SEE LESS LITTERS NEXT YEAR.**

**WEBSITE NEWS**

ARRG is very lucky to have Vicki Skinner of Keenstreet Communications on board. Vicki and her family have always been involved in animal welfare and have a vast experience in wildlife rescue. Our website is visited by many people in Australia and overseas and continues to receive praise. ARRG has a great working relationship with many like minded groups and we welcome links with these groups ARRG believes that networking with other groups is the way to advance our course. Many issues and campaigns of animal abuse are covered on our website and we urge any group to contact us if we can help. Our adoption page with the wonderful pictures of the animal in care brings many enquiries from around the state. Our rescue and success stories can bring a tear but are so worth reading. ARRG thanks all the people who submit their stories to us.

**BYRON BAY MARKET STALL<sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> Sunday each month - HELP NEEDED**

We urgently need volunteers for the Byron market we have not held our stall for a while as we need someone to do the early shift to open 7 am until 10 am. The market is a great information stall and we also do well with some second hand items. Can you help do the early morning shift?

**ARRG BIG WISH LIST**

\* ARRG SHELTER we need firm offers of help now from people with trade, skilled or labour experience, retired people with building and trade knowledge to offset the building costs of our shelter in Lismore.

\* We need more saleable items for our Op Shop 181a Keen Street Lismore.

\* We need casual drivers all areas, Op shop and office help in Lismore.

**ADOPT A PET A MONTHLY FEATURE**

ARRG and the Northern Star paper initiated this feature some eight years ago and it is still one of our most successful promotional features. ARRG thanks all businesses that advertise monthly on this feature. To all readers we urge you to support these businesses that make this page possible.

**YOUR DONATION IS NEEDED NOW**

ARRG is self-funded and receives no government or council funding to support our animal rescue work in this region. ARRG is the only group covering the whole Northern Rivers area and there is no RSPCA rescue here, Coffs Harbour their closest shelter. ARRG's foster carers are constantly full with unwanted pets surrendered by heartless owners and many pets abandoned in all areas around the region.

Without your financial support, our hard work and dedication to save these animals would still not be enough. Financial donations are the only lifeline for the ARRG pet rescue program and we sincerely thank you on behalf of the thousands of animals saved by ARRG. In 2004 over 1500 unwanted and dumped pets were given a second chance at life due to your support, Your donations are urgently needed to help another 1500 unwanted and homeless pets this year.

**A HUGE APPRECIATION FOR RECENT SUPPORT.**

The RSL Ballina staff club just donated pet food valued at \$500. To Pam and all the staff thank you so much.

**KITTEN and CAT ADOPTION DAY**

On June 4th we held another Kitten/Cat Adoption day because of the high number of unwanted and dumped cats and kittens leaving our carers overcrowded. The day was a great success and we rehomed ten kittens and three adult cats. These adoption days prove that with our own Shelter/Centre a permanent location for events and public to viewing many more animals could be rescued and rehomed by ARRG.

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FOSTER CARERS THE MOST IMPORTANT ARRГ JOB.**

It is hard to imagine how it all works, can I tell you that our foster carers juggle very busy lives. They are mothers, families, students, single people & most have pets. ARRG gets a phone call and yet another pet or litter of puppies or kittens needs rescue and Suzanne and myself start contacting our foster carers and these carer's go into action preparing for another arrival, another disruption to there daily lives and they do it all so readily time and time again.

**OUR PARTICIPATING VETS**

Many thanks for the support of these vets. Suffolk Park Vet Clinic, Evans Head Vet Clinic Northern Rivers Clinic Casino, Casino Vet Clinic, Shaw's Vet Ballina, Central Vet Casino, Yamba Vet Clinic, Billinudgel Vet Clinic, Fairymount Vet Clinic, Kyogle, Keen Street Vet Clinic Lismore, Mullumbimby Vet Clinic, Iluka Vet Clinic. Clinics from other areas that have assisted us



**DATES FOR THE DIARY.**

\* Next General Meeting is July 17 181a Keen Street Lismore at 1pm.  
\* International Homeless Animal Day 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in August Lismore, help needed for the day.

**MORE NEWS** The East Ballina Lions club has chosen ARRG for a donation to be presented next week, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> donation and we thank President Wal and all at Lions for their generous su

**MEMBERSHIP DUE ANNUALLY IN FEBRUARY renewals and new memberships much needed. All monies raised from our membership goes to pay our vet and food costs. If you enjoyed this newsletter pass it on to someone who may be interested in our work.**

**Membership form – ANIMAL RIGHTS AND RESCUE GROUP INC. Far North Coast.**

Enclosed cheque/MO for \$..... New Member  Renewal

or charge Bankcard  Visa  Mastercard  Application date.....

Card number:           Exp.

date.../..... Signature:..... Adult  (\$15.00)

NAME..... Concession  (\$8.00)

ADDRESS:..... Junior  (\$5.00)

.....Code:..... Phone.....

**FREE BUMPER STICKER AND QUARTERLEY NEWSLETTER.**

Included is a poster published several times in our local paper. To help save the organization some costs we ask you to put the poster up on any community billboards. This **HOTLINE** initiative is long overdue and comes as a lifeline to the many animals suffering misery and abuse, especially in rural areas such as ours. ARRГ thanks FAS (Federation of Animal Societies NSW) for their commitment to reach all animals in need and we urge everyone to support this organization.

**STOP PRESS:** An email last night was received from our animal network system calling for further urgent action to stop the whaling of humpback whales. International Fund for Animal Welfare is asking all groups and the public to help by going to their 'STOP WHALING ACTION CENTER' at ([www.stopwhaling.org](http://www.stopwhaling.org)) and signing the petition, pass it on to anyone you can.

Lets do all we can to make sure we don't lose the songs of the sea forever. IFAW says if we tell as many others as we can about the unfolding tragedy about to occur in our oceans, we can win this fight

Australian shelters & pounds kill over 500,000 dogs and cats yearly, and many more die or become feral.

HELP STOP THIS.

PLEASE DESEX YOUR PET.



**Don't breed or buy  
while homeless  
animals die**

**FROM:**



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