



Animal Rights & Rescue Group Inc. Northern Rivers

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www.animalrights.org.au

NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

ARRG Patron: Phillip Wollen OAM

Animal Rights & Rescue Group is a local, non-profit, No-Kill, Foster care organisation run without any government funding.

It is the only such group covering the whole Northern Rivers NSW area

ARRG rescues homeless & unwanted animals & hundreds of unclaimed dogs and cats from three local pounds that would otherwise be killed.

We provide them all with individual care, all necessary vet treatment and find them homes that suit their needs for life.

ARRG does not euthanase any animal unless too ill to respond to any veterinarian treatment.

There is no RSPCA branch or shelter in the Northern Rivers area.



Dear members and supporters

2009 is proving to be a tough year for Australia in many ways & we are all saddened by the many tragic events. From horrific bush fires in Victoria resulting with a shocking toll on human and animal life that will take many years to recover from.

To Queensland and Northern NSW hit by wild storms and major flooding that affected thousands of people leaving them homeless & many animals dead.

The Northern Rivers floods resulted with the evacuation of 5,000 Lismore residents to a centre at the university. ARRG was also affected with access to our office centre in Lismore cut & many volunteers isolated in their own areas. Thankfully the emergency situation lifted in a matter of days and the big costly clean up started.

During the Lismore evacuation an issue was highlighted when ARRG received calls from distressed residents who were turned away from the Evacuation centre because they had their pets with them. Disturbed at this oversight & unable to offer immediate help, we will address this issue with Lismore council and urge the public to do the same.

Add the current Global financial crisis that has hit everyone and it's not hard to understand why many charities that provide vital community services are now struggling to cope with the huge demands during times of disaster and many are faced with closure.

All charities are recording a dramatic drop in donations and ARRG is no exception, during the past 6 months financial & food donations are low. We are very concerned because a predicted impact of these tough times was that animal shelters & pounds would see a dramatic increase of unwanted animals.

Now considered unaffordable.

ARRG IS STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT

We strive to rescue as many unclaimed animals from 3 local pounds that would otherwise be killed. Plus deals with the public daily at the centre & via our busy phone on many animal related issues. The predicted increase of unwanted animals is now evident in this region. ARRG is overwhelmed with people wanting to surrender their animals because they feel they can't cope or can't afford to desex their pet.

We are not a shelter we can't take all animals in on short notice but we do offer a range of practical help to callers. **ARRG does provide** immediate support eg: food & care product during difficult times, training for pet behaviour and **Safe rehoming** while they hold their pet. We also offer assistance to desex pets and take unwanted litters of puppies & kittens but require the mum cat or dog is desexed at the time with our help.



Our small number of volunteers are working flat out opening the centre Monday - Friday 9am – 3pm (closed Tuesday), cleaning and maintaining the centre and grounds. Plus trying to cope with a never-ending load of official paperwork & accounts. Driving to pounds to pick up animals, taking animals to carers & vet appointments. Making time for cuddles & exercise for a growing number of rescued animals held at the centre in very temporary pens until we can find a foster home for them. An immediate problem is finding more foster carers for the growing intake.

Can you help by caring for a pet?

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SUCCESS STORIES

These are some of our recent adoptions to wonderful people



One of many litters of kittens saved during the never-ending Summer cat breeding season



'Sarah' a young Collie x dumped no longer wanted & left for dead, & saved from pound death row



'Garfield' one of 3 five day old kittens dumped in Casino, tragically two kittens died but due to the dedication of Louise Hunter (pictured) & Helen Small both cat carers Garfield is now thriving.

ANIMAL RESCUE STORIES

Every day brings a constant stream of unwanted animals & pound rescues facing death.



'Larni' a tiny 6 week old terrier x pup dumped in Casino & saved from the pound.

A very big thank you to all our foster carers past & current you are the lifesavers for all our rescue animals & are truly the backbone of rescue work

LAW CHANGES NEEDED TO SAVE COMPANION ANIMALS

We need your help now to end this ongoing & shocking treatment of our companion animals. Despite all the hard work done by many rescue groups like ARRГ, the number of healthy but unwanted cats and dogs killed in shelters & pounds still grow. It is inconceivable that as a 2

so-called civilized society **we appear** to accept the killing of over 500,000 unwanted but healthy animals each year in Australia

For information on statistics & law proposals go to these websites & let's work together to change a tragic situation.

Take action now.

www.deathrowpets.com.au

www.clovermoore.com.au

While groups like ARRГ do all they can to rescue and rehome as many animals as humanely possible we know that pet overpopulation is out of control & beyond the efforts of rescue programs with only a lucky few saved & this is not the solution.

PET ADOPTATHON 2009.

Our 8TH year with the North Shore Animal League USA.

View their amazing No-kill work at www.nsalamerica.org.

Held the 1st weekend in May in over 40 countries by rescue groups all with a common goal of rehoming rescue animals.

This was the 2nd held at our centre and another success with 28 animals rehomed.

Volunteers worked tirelessly for 2 days meeting the public, processing adoption enquiries, & providing info on pet care, responsibilities & the laws



ARRГ Adoption Days are held as regular as possible on Saturday to help us increase our adoptions in these demanding times but we need more helpers to help spread the workload for our volunteers

If you can help on these Saturdays please call us.

WEBSITE UPDATE

ARRG thanks Vicki & Phil of **Keenstreet Communications** for all their work in the last 4 years with no cost to ARRG. During recent months Vicki has donated many hours updating the look, format & information. Our website is a valuable tool & highlights our work to people around Australia & overseas. It features rescued animals waiting adoption & tells their stories, current news & issues & helps us raise funds. A new feature to view & use is the **'Success stories'** where people can submit photos & stories of their adopted pets.

FUND RAISING NEEDED LISMORE MARKET.

We would like a monthly stall & need reliable volunteers for a roster & need saleable items. Items can be dropped at 135 Three Chain Road Lismore. Call for drop of times or if you can volunteer a Sunday.

RAFFLE- Tickets enclosed.

- 1st TEC 51cm colour TV
- 2nd Top Fuel 20" Boys bike
- 3rd Vegetarian cookbook

Draw date September 30

Return tickets by 25/9/09.

DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO COVER COSTS

Many thanks to all the people who have made donations to help us rescue animals.

We solely rely on donations from the caring public, our regular supporters, & our own fund raising efforts

But donations have dropped dramatically & we are struggling to cover the huge monthly vet bill, telephone account & the centre running expenses. ARRG now operates as a full time charity & is open to the public unlike smaller groups & has increased the workload. We do our best every day to protect & save as many animals as possible but without your donations this is not possible

**DONATIONS CAN BE MADE
ONLINE/BY MAIL/PHONE**

CAN ARRГ KEEP GOING??

Financial members will receive a report explaining our crisis.

Over the last 2 years the number of volunteers available for charity work has dramatically decreased due to Centre link obligations. Now this situation has seriously impacted on ARRG when Suzanne Lavis our secretary & admin person for 8 years was required to accept a paid work to meet her Centre link obligations or lose income support.

In April Suzanne had to start her part-time job, now increased to include further casual hours. Suzanne is also trying to do one day a week at the centre when she can to help the group cope.

This has put enormous strain on Barbara to cope with all the full time admin & rescue workload and this is not sustainable for much longer. Suzanne & Barbara & all volunteers are very distressed at the very real possibility of closure now, after 15 years of so much hard work building up this very successful animal charity, overcoming huge challenges to build our own centre in 2006. This crisis is not due to any failure of ARRG & is not of our making and we are very angry & concerned. Suzanne would return to her previous position at ARRG if we can provide a wage & comply with centre link.

TO KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN

We urgently need help to raise approx.\$50,000 to secure a paid admin position for 18 months.

ARRG will continue to rescue animals with our usual commitment & passion until we have tried all avenues **so please don't withdraw your support.** To date letters of appeal have been sent to sponsors, media, councils & celebrities. Attempts to get help from all levels of government since 2007 have received little interest & zero help.

IN MEMORY VERA FLATLEY

A friend & long time supporter. defender/activist for animals, ardent writer to politicians for desexing laws to stop the unnecessary killing of animals. Vera will be missed by friends & all the animals she loved. Our thoughts to her family.

IN MEMORY PETER HANBURY

ARRG was sad to hear of the death of Peter who adopted several dogs from us. Our thoughts to his family & we thank Peter for remembering our work with a \$500 donation.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

General & Urgent meeting August 23rd 1pm at 135 Three Chain Road Lismore. We urge all members/volunteers attend to discuss pending closure.

ARRG applauds Lismore council for the decision banning circuses using exotic animals from performing in our shire.

Wish list:

- * Blankets needed for animals.
- * Dog mesh for animal pens
- * Worm and flea products.

ARRG Annual Membership Form Due on Feb 1st each year

Junior ,, \$5.00 Concession ,, \$8.00 Full membership ,, \$15.00.

Life membership ,, \$150.00 Indicate if Renewal ,,

I would like to make a donation: Payment Options below

I include a cheque or money order for the amount \$_____

OR debit my Visa/Mastercard/Bankcard details below

Card Type_____ Card No_____

Expires_____ Name_____

Ph_____ DOB(if under 18)_____ Date_____

Post to ARRG PO Box 987 Lismore NSW 2480

Thank you for caring.

