

**KYRENIA ANIMAL RESCUE SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Eziç Premier Restaurant Function Room**  
**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

**Apologies were received from Lynda Jorgensen, Christine Oketkin, Hilarie Jones and Hilary Flint.**

The meeting was opened by Margaret Ray who welcomed those in attendance and reminded them that only paid up members were eligible to vote.

1. Clare Morley was elected to chair the meeting. Pam Kennedy and Anita Woods were elected as reporters. There were no objections.
2. Minutes from the last AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 were taken as read. Proposed Ann Bosley and seconded by Jean Schrantz.
3. **Chairperson's Report (Margaret Ray)**

I was asked the other day if I had ever thought that Kyrenia Animal Rescue would grow to the extent that it has today and whether if I had known would I have still taken the role that I have? The truth is that at the beginning the statistics were not thought about, it was concerns of the plight of each individual animal that mattered and if I had known in 1997 how KAR would grow into what it is today I probably would have felt too terrified and under qualified for the job! But it has gradually crept up on us all and has been a fantastic learning curve. here we are today about to report proudly on the activities of Kyrenia Animal Rescue for the year 2008.

The name Kyrenia Animal Rescue has become very important in the community as, 'the people who take care of the animals'. We have also established ourselves as one of the largest charities in North Cyprus. It is because of the first statement about taking care of the animals that we have HAD to become one of the biggest charities, as to be able to take care of the animals we have had to raise the funds to be able to achieve this. We are committed to helping the animals and by reaching out to other international organisations that are more qualified than ourselves, we are learning to form ideas and establish programmes that can help.

The neuter and return programme is one of those ideas that is already well established in many other countries including parts of Turkey and is proving to be the only way of humanely reducing the population of dogs. Since beginning the programme to the end of 2008 KAR had neutered and returned 421 dogs. We could not have achieved treating this amount of dogs had we had to keep them in our centre to care for them and then try to find a new home for them. Think about how many puppies 421 dogs would have made and what difference it would obviously have made to the stray and feral population on the streets! To find new homes for any of the dogs and cats in our care has always proved a struggle and the amount of dogs re-homed in 2008 was 258, a small rise of 19 over the year before. Cats homed in 2008 was 46, a rise from 26 in 2007. All adult dogs and cats re-homed from KAR have been neutered and many of the dogs have been micro-chipped. It was decided in February 2008 that micro-chipping dogs before they went to their new homes would be a good way to encourage registration and control.

A special offer was also announced to the public for micro-chipping by KAR at a reduced cost. Out of the 258 dogs rehomed 10 of those were given new homes in Germany and 3 to the UK and 8 of the 46 cats went to Germany. We had been finding it extremely difficult to receive permission to move animals to Germany aboard Turkish Airlines and in September the airlines announced that if permission was granted that only one dog or two cats could fly at one time. This was a great blow to KAR and to our friends in Germany who were working hard to help us rehome to good homes in Germany. With the shortage of flight attendants willing to accompany the animals and the additional costs incurred because of only being able to send a limited number at one time this has clearly put the project in jeopardy for the future. With the continuance of the political ban of the TRNC on the Passport for Pets scheme and the cost of the six

months quarantine in the UK many people are deterred from choosing dogs or cats from either our centre or from the streets of the TRNC and giving them new homes in the UK.

Despite trying to keep the number of dogs and puppies in our care down, at the Rescue Centre they have gradually managed to creep up to 239 at the end of 2008 a rise from 218 the year before. Reduction of the numbers of cats and kittens was actually achieved and at the end of the year they numbered 60, this was 16 less than 2007. The amount of animals at the centre does fluctuate throughout the year and the figures I have given are as of 31.12.08 and by that date it estimated that 1536 animals had been handled by the centre which is a great feat as the previous four years figures showed an average of 1300. This rise in the number of animals handled of course has a knock on effect i.e. higher costs such as food, care and veterinary treatments etc.

It had also sadly become apparent in this year that we were to fight another disease prevalent in the TRNC besides the normal ones of Parvovirus, Distemper and those caused by ticks and fleas etc. We had discovered the heartbreaking damage to the dog population that Leishmeiosis was inflicting and the suffering of the dogs in our care and found on the streets. Despite pleas we found no one who could help us by donating testing kits. Collars to protect the dogs from the sand flies, which are carriers of the disease, were purchased from Turkey for every dog in the centre. This costly exercise is continued throughout the months but the disease continues to rage onwards bringing many sad cases to be treated by the staff and vets. A donation by the World Vet Service of tick and flea treatments helped immensely with the hundreds of treatments required throughout the year and especially in the spring and summer not only for the animals at the centre but also for the dogs which were neutered and returned into the community. If you have a pet of your own you will know how much you spend just on tick treatment! Multiply that by the number of animals that come through our door each week and you will realise just how big a challenge tick treatment alone is for KAR! KAR are extremely grateful to the help, friendship and support given by Firdez and Sibel the two vets who work tirelessly with the animals we bring to their clinics. Without their reduced charges we would not be able to treat the hundreds of animals that we handle. During 2008 they neutered 246 dogs for us and an amazing 609 cats. These figures are a rise over 2007 by 50 dogs and 24 cats.

To be able to have achieved these results the group of volunteers named the 'Cat catchers' in their little red van have been really busy as follows is a short report from Karin.

'KAR's "Cat Catching" teams are out there every Tuesday and Thursday trying to break that cycle by neutering/spaying every cat we can get our hands on! The cat catchers have rarely numbered more than four people working throughout the year, covering the Girne area from Catalkoy to Karsiyaka. It has come a long way since the early days we used our own cars and had to find cats by trawling the streets and holiday resorts. These days the office provides us with most of our leads, and now most calls are to individuals feeding colonies of feral cats. Two vets give their time free for one day a week each and are patient with us when we exceed our "quota" for the day. They also deal with all the sorry specimens that we bring in when we are called on to deal with poorly and injured cats. This year Sibel became our Thursday vet, joining Firdez who has been with us since day one.

Most of the cat catching volunteers continue for years - the "hands on" nature of the job makes it very enjoyable - every week we meet people across both communities of North Cyprus who looking out for stray cats. We get to organise our own schedules, we get an "knowledge" of Girne that a London cabby would be jealous of and we can take pride in the knowledge that we are out there at the grass roots, rain or shine, gently getting the message across about neutering and spaying'.

Karin also heads our kitten fostering programme and has written her report as follows:-

'2008 was the sixth year I coordinated KAR's **Kitten Fostering Programme**. Although we deal with a few adult cats every year who need special care, fosterers predominantly raise orphan kittens who are too young to go to our Rescue Centre. In 2008 48 new kittens and two adult cats came into our care. As of 1<sup>st</sup> January we had fourteen kittens still in foster care from 2007, making a total for the year of 64 kittens and cats. The average four week old kitten will stay in foster care for about eight weeks before being homed or going to the Centre. While plans were afoot in 2008 to improve kitten facilities at the Centre, for now new arrivals continued to be accommodated in a room inside the house. Ten kittens taken in this year requiring bottle feeding, all of those arrived in the months March to May. Those who were two weeks or more were all raised successfully by fosterers who don't mind the lack of sleep! Three kittens estimated at a week old unfortunately did not survive, and two others of the same age were saved by the availability of a

cooperative surrogate mother cat. As in previous years we were at our busiest in the spring and autumn months. April was the most popular month with ten new arrivals.

July was very low point in the year when my worse nightmare happened. A new litter brought with them the highly infectious feline enteritis virus. All of the thirteen kittens I was fostering at the time became ill except one. Treatment is not very successful in such young kittens and nine died. It is inevitable when fostering immature kittens that a few will sadly not make it, but loss on this scale is devastating to deal with. Our three little survivors were a minor miracle!

It was clear that in future numbers had to be restricted sufficiently to have the space to "quarantine" new arrivals to prevent the spread of health problems. In 2008 we took in about thirty fewer kittens than the previous year, reflecting the belief that although demand has grown it is not a good thing to keep increasing our numbers year upon year. We have to be realistic about what our fosterers can cope with, the limited space in the cattery for kittens not homed, and our financial resources. Hand raising kittens is costly not only in terms of food and vet bills but also of time. The fact remains that throughout the year KAR typically receives several calls a week asking us to take in kittens. Our message that those three month old kittens are actually viable on their own with a little bit of human help isn't always well received.

What did fate hold in store for the rest of the "Class of 2008"? Out of 49 surviving kittens seventeen were homed directly from their foster homes. Of the kittens sent to the Rescue Centre, sixteen were subsequently homed, leaving at the time of writing (27 September 2009) sixteen still in our care'. Thanks to Karin and the wonderful team of kitten fosterers.

The additional rise in the numbers of dogs housed at the centre inevitably gave rise to concerns on space and living conditions for the animals. In March following a kind donation by one of our sponsors work began by a group of hard working volunteers to build an additional block of eight kennels, this work continued throughout the year. Towards the end of the year a new unit for the kittens was installed and fondly name 'The Kittery'. This would enable the kittens to be moved from a room in the house into this unit once it had been adapted and thus releasing much needed space in the house for other uses. Plans were put forward for increasing compound space and further kennel space. Many new individual wooden kennels were built, by kind volunteers and a new water tank purchased to replace a leaky rusted one on the roof. We have a lovely team of workers at the centre who are headed by Suzanne, the supervisor and we are very grateful to them for sticking with us through the good times and the bad!

In May we were very pleased to have a visit for the very first time by an RSPCA inspector. Coralie Farren, RSPCA's International Aid Officer, spent some time at the rescue centre as well as visiting KAR's office and charity shop. We all felt that the visit was of benefit and hope that it will help KAR in the future. A meeting took place in March with the Under Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture Hasan Kestigul in which discussions took place regarding the work that KAR does in the community including our anti poison campaign and neutering campaign. This prompted a visit to our Rescue Centre in August by the Minister for the Environment and National Resources Mustafa Gukmen with his associated staff and guests. The visitors were given a tour of the centre and introduced to many of the animals in our care and to members of staff. Discussions took place as to how the government could help us but sadly none of the promises made were ever fulfilled.

Visitors are encouraged and well over a thousand members of the public came to the centre during the year. Some of the visitors were ones that come year after year as walking the dogs in the beautiful countryside is the highlight of their holiday. Kindly some of them help the staff with some of the time consuming jobs such as bathing puppies, grooming dogs or socialising cats. It is a particular favourite job of the students to bath the dogs but we are not sure who ends up the wettest! In September we were very happy to offer a work experience place to Marjike who arrived from Holland to learn about KAR and to work at the rescue centre for a few weeks. I believe that it made a big impact on her thinking about rescue centres and charities and she left with tears in her eyes and a promise to return to take back to Holland one of the dogs that she had fallen in love with.

Many of the visitors walk the dogs that they sponsor. The sponsor and their sponsored animal begin to build up a bond and there is much excitement when the dog learns to recognise the visitor that comes to walk them as their own. Sponsorship of either a cat or dog helps KAR tremendously as it is a regular income that we can depend on to help pay the bills. By December 2008 96 animals were being sponsored. Throughout the year the sponsor receives updates and photos about their named sponsored animal. The administration

of the sponsorship is done by the staff in the KAR office, and to save on costs of postage etc is mostly now sent out via email. KAR's website also has a page where people can choose by photo an animal that they would like to sponsor. KAR's website has become a very important communication tool and is regularly updated with many notices, events and reports of activities.

The office is the centre of all the reports that come in from members of the public asking for help with animals in distress, requiring neutering, reports of cruelty or requiring information on animal care. These calls are answered by giving written reports with all the relevant information and then discussed to see how best to deal with the problem. The staff try to deal with the caller in the best manner possible but unfortunately as we have to prioritise we cannot always give the caller the answer to the problem as they would like at that time. 1184 helpline calls were received by the office staff during 2008 that was 156 additional calls on the year before. Many members of the public also visited the office in Girne. Some requiring help and needing to borrow cat baskets and traps, some asking for help with veterinary costs to neuter animals that they are feeding others bringing in donations for the animals or goods to sell at the shop the list is endless.

A pilot scheme was launched in 2008 KAR volunteers worked with staff and students at Sunny Lane School as part of our education project. Year 6 students discussed the work of KAR and researched leaflets and posters aimed at their peer group and the secondary students designed websites aimed at the older children encouraging them to think and be interactive with us. Plans were drawn up for future visits to primary schools in the Girne area to educate the children on the work of KAR how to care for animals and how to stay safe and sound around dogs and cats.

A new leaflet was produced 'Putting Paws First' to show the statistics of the achievements of KAR and make the public aware of how much it all costs. 'Friends of KAR' was launched in December as an addition to our Life Membership. It enables those supporters to join paying a small annual fee in which they can enjoy the incentives of receiving up to date information via email of all social activities and events. Sadly we have lost some of our life members in this year and the figure for 2008 stands the same as 2007 that is 253 members.

An extremely large part of KAR is the fundraising as without it none of the work could be achieved. I would like to read out a few lines from Anita as to how the events were run throughout 2008.

'Not much happened in the early months of the year, as the fundraising ladies regrouped and recovered from the Christmas Bazaar. Quiz evenings with supper, a meze luncheon, a railway day in the garden of Ann Bosley, Lunch at Veranda Restaurant, Maureen Hutchinson's Orchid Walk, Coffee Mornings, Street Collection, KAR stalls and raffles at various events in the area, and a Car Boot sale were among the 'usual' KAR fundraising events. The Christmas Bazaar again beat all previous records with a staggering 18,934 Lira plus £260 and the annual Dog Show also smashed previous records bringing in a record 10,970 Lira. There were also a few special events arranged on behalf of KAR by supporters. The main one being a high profile Fashion Show held in Woburn Abbey Sculpture Gallery, which was the brainchild of Marilyn Hubbard, a long term supporter of KAR, which raised £2,003. Kensington Development Group held an open evening at their Turtle Bay Village, raising over £900. The weekly Pegasos stall continued to bring in money week after week come rain or shine. A number of children got on board the KAR fundraising bus, including a young visiting English girl who managed a three-hour sponsored silence much to her mothers' amazement, which raised £200. Sunny Lane School collected 213 Lira on their 'muffti' day. So you see, anyone can raise money for KAR. The event does not need to be grand. Get your thinking caps on and raise some funds for KAR!' Thank you to Anita and all the volunteers that have helped to raise so much money.

The KAR shop is another of our main forms of income. It is again run by volunteers to whom we are extremely grateful. As follows is a short report from Ann Bosley.

'At the last AGM it was announced that the Charity shop takings had incredibly increased from 59,400TL in 2006 to 81,200TL for 2007. So a formidable task was set to raise and be able to announce even better results at the end of 2008. The jump was not quite so high but 97,400TL was an excellent result that everyone involved in running the shop can be very proud of. The continuing extended opening hours, increased and better quality donations from local residents plus the start of regular good donations acquired from 2 sources in the south all helped to achieve this. The only drawback to having a higher stock level

was a definite lack of space, conditions were very cramped for both customers and volunteers. New premises were sought but nothing suitable could be found, so plans were made and put into action to improve what we had. The first phase of the scheme started in the autumn with the installation of a new counter which immediately improved the floor space for customers. Hopefully the completion of the scheme in 2009 will improve the shop radically for everyone. About 22 ladies volunteer their time to staff the shop, maybe one day there might be a man brave enough to join us!

Thank you Ann and all the ladies! In Addition to our Neuter and Return scheme that I mentioned earlier is our Anti Poison campaign that we have been running for a number of years and in January we held a public meeting with fifty people in attendance. Harrowing tales were told by members of the public of their own experiences and a discussion took place on the way forward to try to persuade the Government to control the availability and use of poisons to kill animals. After further meetings and help by the 'Green Action Group' a Mission Statement was drawn up and the 'Anti Poison' petition with over 2,200 signatures was finally handed over at a ceremony in Lefkosa. Sadly this is not the end, and KAR's campaign against such cruelty continues indefinitely.

Happily in September a new 10 year lease was agreed with the Forestry Department for the land that the rescue centre has been built on. During 2008 the relationship between human and animal welfare we feel has moved on a notch and is receiving greater prominence in the TRNC. There is a great deal more work to do to help set the standard in line with the EU. We intend to continue to promote and encourage responsible animal ownership and to find the most effective and resource efficient approach to managing the population in a humane manner. None of our work can be achieved without proper finances in place and this we strive to do week after week. We have a great team of volunteers who work extremely hard to help us achieve our goal and to them we are very, very grateful.

We were sorry to hear that we were to lose Christine Oktetkin from the Executive Committee due to her other commitments; I would like to thank her and the other members of the committee who have worked with me and have given hours and hours of their time freely to KAR.

A big thank you also to our many supporters and friends who have stood by us through the good times and the bad, and who have stayed positive throughout. A big thank you for all the generous donations, to our sponsors and those that have put their hands in their pockets and given however large or small it all goes to help the animals. If the donations stop then KAR stops! We hope that we can continue to help the animals in the TRNC for many years to come. Thank you for listening to my report of the activities and work of Kyrenia Animal Rescue in 2008.

The Chair asked for proposers in acceptance of this report. Proposed by Audrey Ellison, Seconded by Tony Woods.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts (Jean Schrantz)**

Welcome everyone it's a pleasure to meet you all again. I want to start by thanking you for all the work that you do to represent K.A.R. I am presenting the Treasurers report audited by our accountant Mr Sezinler. I am reporting in sterling to make it easier to understand.

As you can see last years surplus of income over expenditure was 11,956 TL equivalent to £5,459.00 this is down by £540.00 from the previous year. The total income for 2008 was £143,697 and the total expenditure £138,236.

If we run down the expenses starting with kennel running costs there is a huge increase of £18,452 compared to 2007 this is partly due to the change to dry dog food that had been purchased.

There was also a rise of £2,500 in vet fees in comparison to 2007 due to the rise in the number of animals being treated and the rising costs in medicines. Expenses not found in the accounts, our accountant advised us that this difference is due to the fluctuation of the exchange rates. We have to work in 4 different currencies, which we calculate using the exchange rate given by the government. We purchased a discounted new cabin in November which houses the kittens and younger cats. This has made a great difference to the health and welfare of the animals. Under the headings of income. The rise of fundraising donations and events were £133,076.00 and together were an increase of £23,723 up on 2007.

Incorporated in the donations figure we have the sum of £44,500 received from the charity shop, that figure is up by over £7,000 from the previous year. KDV received is not a figure we receive, it is a paper exercise, which we have to complete by law and present it to the KDV office each month. I have asked the question why we cannot claim back any KDV and I have been told by our accountant that as a charity, we are not eligible, if we were in the manufacturing business we could claim a refund (perhaps we could recycle dog poo into fossil fuel and then we could qualify ). Overall the balance sheet remains reasonably strong, however the global credit crunch is also starting to have a knock on effect.

Our vision for KAR would hopefully be to grow and thrive and play an increasingly important role in the community. All charities need a sustainable and steady source of finance. It has been a long year since I last gave my report on the 2007 accounts. So my message this evening is simple, we will continue to move forward and hopefully continue to thrive. The only way of achieving our goals to help all the animals will require clear signals, consistent implementation and no doubt some gentle pressure and I dare say a degree of patience.

This Financial Statement will be filed for audit. Please may I have a show of hands in accepting this report. Thank you. All in attendance accepted. Proposed by Tony Woods, Seconded by Jane Knoble

## **5. Election of Committee Members**

The Chair reminded all present that there could be no more than 5 members on the Committee Those members standing down were Margaret Ray, Jean Schrantz, Christine Oketkin, Jane Knoble and Anita Woods.. The following committee members were willing to stand for re-election; Margaret Ray, Jean Schrantz and Anita Woods. Through a show of hands members present accepted these nominations. Two vacancies remained and nominations had been received from Ann Bosley and Diana Peek. Though a show of hands members present accepted these nominations. These results require that Margaret Ray, Jean Schrantz, Anita Woods, Ann Bosley and Diana Peek have been voted on as members of the Executive Committee for the following year.

## **6. Honorary Auditor**

Those in attendance were asked if they had any objections to the proposal for the current Accountant Sezinler & Company to continue as our employed auditor. There were no objections.

## **7. Any other admissible business**

There was no notification of any admissible business received. Claire Morley thanked Margaret and Jean for their reports. Margaret Ray thanked all for attending.

Tony Woods gave a vote of thanks to the Committee for their hard work during the year.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm