



2013 Annual Report



RESCUE, REHABILITATE, PROMOTE, ADVOCATE

Contents



In 2013 we said good bye to Reggrae, a permanent AARCS foster dog. A special thanks to Patricia and her family.

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Message to Our Supporters



The year 2013 was a historic year for AARCS. Not only was it marked by incredible growth in terms of animals in our care, program success, adoption numbers, associated foster home and volunteer numbers, but by the sheer triumph over tragedy. We experienced many amazing rescues including being a part of saving hundreds of lives during the flooding in Southern Alberta, three cases of animals being burned intentionally and witness to much abuse and neglect.

True to our mission, we were proud to witness AARCS volunteers flocking to areas in need and helping rescue hundreds of animals. People selflessly dedicated days and evenings to assist our community, working at the shelter to feed, clean and walk the animals, fundraising, educating and much more. The key to our many successes is the hundreds of foster homes who stood up to take in an animal in need into their home.

AARCS is an organization that has built a strong foundation for the future. 2014 looks to be another remarkable year and we are excited to enter the new year with goals to help more animals. AARCS remains deeply committed to integrity of this foundation and that the animals remain the most important aspect with regard to every decision and every action we take. With your help we can ensure a bright future for animals in our province.

On behalf of the leadership behind this amazing organization, we want to express our gratitude to the families, individuals, businesses and foundations for whom have made AARCS your charity of choice, thank you from all of us. With your donations, financial support and gifts of time we are one step closer to our goal of ending animal homelessness.

DEANNA THOMPSON

Executive Director

CLARISSA VON STETTEN

President

About AARCS



Abandoned, stray, neglected and unwanted animals are the focus of AARCS' work. These pictures show some examples what rescue teams routinely encounter.

History and Operations

The Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society was founded in 2006 and is a registered, non-profit charity whose mandate is to rescue abandoned, surrendered or abused animals.

AARCS operations are based around a foster care system that allows animals to be rehabilitated, learn necessary skills and be provided support in a home environment. We provide all the necessary veterinary care, food and training required.

In 2012 AARCS open the Safe Haven Quarantine and Emergency shelter in order to respond to the increased needs of the animals and the organization. The facility is used to conduct medical and basic behavioral assessments to ensure appropriate foster home placement and provides a Safe Haven for animals in emergency situations. It provides shelter to these animals while awaiting placement in foster care. In addition, the facility uses the equipment and supplies needed to care for over 400 animals in care on a daily basis.

Over the years AARCS has grown into one of the largest animal welfare organizations in our province providing many additional and vital programs to our community, including funding for spay/neuter assistance, trap-neuter-release, medical assistance, emergency foster care, pet food programs, and educational programs.

The rapid growth AARCS has experienced over the years has been achieved through the efforts of over 800 dedicated volunteers and hundreds of supporters, foster homes and donors.

Mission Statement

The Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS) works to improve the lives of animals by rescuing and providing sanctuary to abandoned, surrendered or abused animals; assisting communities to achieve healthy and respectful relationships with animals; promoting responsible and compassionate guardianship and advocating on behalf of all animals.

Vision

The Alberta Animal Rescue Crew's Vision is to become **the nation's leading animal welfare organization by spearheading Canada's efforts in eliminating animal cruelty**. Through this initiative, AARCS will work to ensure every animal has adequate food, shelter, kindness and companionship.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force

The ASNTF's mission is to support First Nation Members in restoring the importance of companion animals by helping create spay/neuter and other animal-centered events in their community that stresses the care of dogs and cats and creates a safe and caring environment for all living creatures. AARCS works closely with the Task Force at their clinics and throughout the year, helping with clinic operation, volunteer staffing, animal 'round-up', and taking in animals surrendered at the various clinics.

City of Calgary Animal & By-Law Services

AARCS continues to build an important relationship with the City of Calgary Animal and By-Law Services. At AARCS, we feel there they a benefit to partnering with local animal control and Calgary has an exceptional Animal Services Department.

YWCA

A new initiative between AARCS and the YWCA has opened the doors for people escaping abusive or other emergency situations to temporarily place their pets into AARCS' care.

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

AARCS received Humane Society status in 2013. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies is a national body comprised of animal welfare organizations whose purpose is to promote compassion and humane treatment of all animals.

Other Rescues and Humane Societies

AARCS participates with numerous other rescue groups and humane societies to form a collaborative union of like-minded groups. Ultimately this union of groups believe that we are not competing against each other for resources but are on the same side of the battle against animal cruelty. We often share resources as well as help each other out with placement of rescued animals.

Veterinary Clinics

AARCS collaborates with 14 veterinary clinics in the province of Alberta. This essential relationship provides discounted veterinary care to the hundreds of animals we treat every year. This collaboration is critical to our operations.

WSPA

WSPA (World Society for Protection of Animal) - WSPA's vision is of a world where animal welfare matters, and animal cruelty ends. WSPA is the world's largest alliance of animal welfare societies encompassing more than 1,000 member organizations in over 150 countries and AARCS is a proud member society.



Local Businesses

AARCS partners with a number of local businesses and foundations. Many of the businesses provide donated goods, services, financial support, and in return AARCS provides tax receipts, recognition, and volunteer opportunities for employees. AARCS continuously seeks out opportunities to develop these relationships.

AARCS Programs

3 R's - Rescue, Rehabilitation, Rehome



AARCS rescues abandoned, abused or surrendered animals and places them in the safety of a foster home system while awaiting suitable placement in forever, adoptive homes. We provide all veterinary care required, in partnership with our participating veterinary clinics. This may include medical attention for fractures, parasites, disease, and viruses. There is no time limited for animals requiring rehabilitation, either medical or behavioral issues. During their transition to their new adoptive homes our foster homes provide the love and support in a home environment for these animals as we search for appropriate adoptive homes.

Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)



The aim of a sustainable and accessible spay/neuter and veterinary care program is threefold: to significantly reduce the overall number of animals in selected communities; to improve the ongoing care, health and welfare of each animal; and, to empower communities to achieve long-term, healthy human-animal bonds through knowledge and understanding of the well-being of their animals. We will continue our collaborative efforts with the Alberta Spay and Neuter Task Force by providing funding and volunteers to work their large scale spay and neuter clinics. Our 2013 Program will assist First Nation communities and low income individuals. In addition, AARCS provides large scale TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) for large semi-feral and feral cat colonies.

Trap - Neuter - Return (TNR) Initiative



At AARCS we advocate responsible pet ownership, which includes spay and neuter of all pets. Not only does spaying and neutering help us control the amount of unwanted and euthanized animals in our community, it is important for your pet's health and longevity. TNR is a method of humanely trapping unaltered feral (wild) cats. They are placed in our care on a temporary basis to be spayed and/or neutered. Once they have healed from their surgery, they will be returned to the location where they were collected. TNR is considered a humane and more effective alternative to euthanasia for managing and reducing feral cat populations.

Humane Education



The goal of AARCS' Humane Education Program is to create a compassionate and responsible community. The curriculum teaches children and youth how to care for their animals and develop a sense of responsibility. By teaching children to act compassionately and respectfully towards animals we hope it will foster the same behavior towards themselves and each other. An important part of the Education Program involves bite prevention and how to deal with stray animals as well as disease prevention and prevention of disease and parasite transfer from animals to humans.

AARCS Programs

Emergency Medical Care



An Emergency Medical Care Program will allow AARCS to address immediate medical concerns. AARCS often comes across animals requiring extensive medical treatment for very treatable injuries and illnesses. Due to unforeseen circumstances often pet owners are faced with substantial medical bills. This fund will not only allow for AARCS to treat rescued animals, but also to assist individuals within our community. Based on a set of criteria, AARCS will be able to provide funding for diagnostics and treatment. Ultimately, we want to see family pets stay in their home, rather than be surrendered to local shelters or put to death for treatable medical conditions.

Emergency Shelter Care



Our Emergency Shelter Care program provides family pets(s) displaced due an emergency situation. This may be an appropriate option for individuals who are no longer able to safely remain in their own homes due to physical, cognitive, and/or emotional violence or in emergency situations, such as a house fire. This program became essential during the flooding of 2013. It is a requirement of the program that all animals are spayed or neutered and up to date on vaccinations. AARCS will provide veterinary care, including spay/neuter should they qualify under our Spay and Neuter Program.

Barn Buddies



Launched in late 2012, this programs has seen dramatic growth and success. Geared at otherwise hard to adopt cats, and cats that prefer an outdoor lifestyle, Barn Buddies has rehomed over 100 so-called unadoptable cats into insulated barns/shops that also provide the basic necessities to help the cats feel comfortable and cared for while ensuring a rodent free environment for their adopters.












NEW - Small Animal Program



In line with its mission, AARCS recently launched its newest program geared at rescuing, rehabilitating, rehoming, educating and advocating for small animals. This program is focused on domesticated animals such as rabbits, hamsters, birds, guinea pigs and other exotic animals. A large focus of this program is to educate the public about the extensive care needs of small animals, that while they are prolific and available, impulse purchase decisions are often detrimental to the animal. Impulse purchase decisions coupled with long life spans, and little knowledge of care requirements, are some of the reasons so many small animals end up rehomed dozens of times or worse. This program aims to combat the cycle of rehoming while ensuring the animals receive the appropriate love and care.

Program Results 2013

ANNUAL ADOPTIONS

2006  52 animals	2010  326 animals
2007  65 animals	2011  453 animals
2008  170 animals	2012   674 animals
2009  298 animals	2013    1,115 animals

Foster and Adoptions Programs

2013 saw a 65% increase in adoption numbers year-over-year for AARCS totaling 1,115 animals including 702 dogs and 413 cats. While puppies and kittens are often easier to find forever homes for, we are incredibly proud that a large



percentage of these numbers include adult and large-breed animals, which are often harder to place. We ALWAYS spay and neuter our pets and an increase awareness and education surrounding the beauty and benefits of adopting adult animals has lead to hundreds of animals finding forever adoptive homes in 2013. On average, we care for over 400 animals at any given time, which is more than double what we could manage this time last year. We accredit this to a full-year operations at Safe Haven, the addition of our full-time Foster Home Manager staff position and the ever increasing number of amazing foster homes.

Shelter Operations

Safe Haven true to its name has been instrumental in AARCS' growth and ability to save hundreds more animals. 2013 alone saw over 1,400 animals sheltered at Safe Haven. This would not have been possible without the dedication of the many volunteers that come in daily to feed, walk, socialize with the animals and keep the facility in top quarantine clean condition. In order to ensure maximum cleanliness, and disease prevention, AARCS implemented a variety of mandatory training courses for all volunteers to ensure consistency in handling, hygiene and cleaning for the safety of all volunteers and animals coming through our doors.

Program Results 2013

Volunteer Programs

In 2013 AARCS increased its active volunteer base to 800 people and volunteers logged over 25,000 volunteer hours! We are very proud of our volunteers and their dedication to the cause. As a volunteer and foster home based organization, people are essential to the success of programs and services.



SNAP -Spay/Neuter Assistance & Medical Assistance Program



In 2013 AARCS increased spay/neuter assistance for owned animals providing funding in excess of \$ for medical assistance and spay/neuter surgery. 286 animals were spay or neutered (not including the over 1000 AARCS adoptable animals) and we funded 26 medical cases. AARCS SNAP program is the second largest program for AARCS aside from

Adoption Program. We are proud to say that AARCS is one of the leading animal welfare groups providing free or low cost assistance for low income and First Nations in Alberta.

Dog House Program

AARCS has provided 48 insulated dog houses in 2013 to families whose pets live outdoors. The AARCS dog house coordinator plans and conducts "build days" where volunteers or companies can come out for a day or afternoon and build these dog house from scratch or refurbish donated dog houses. In partnership with Detailed Drywall this program has seen huge success in 2012 and we expect to see it grow even more in 2013.



Food Program

In 2013 AARCS distributed over 200,000 pounds of dog and cat food to needy communities. We establish partnerships in the communities we service that allow us to educate and assist the community about responsible pet guardianship. These efforts empower the communities through resources and knowledge to advocate and care for the welfare of their animals. In addition to feed the thousands of animals in our care we

are able to provide pet food bank service to those in need.

Barn Buddies Program

AARCS is pleased to announce a successful first year of its Barn Buddies Program helped to help find suitable homes for 90 feral and semi-feral cats in 2013.

Education Team

AARCS Education Team consisting of youth, teachers and adult volunteers conducted seven school presentations in Calgary and area as well as First Nations schools including Sunchild and O'Chiese, reaching a total of 487 students between grade 1-7.



Trap - Neuter - Return (TNR)

AARCS TNR program was formalized in 2013 to provide a humane solution to cat overpopulation. We saw XXX cats spayed or neutered in 2013 from rural farms and businesses. We expect to see these numbers triple in 2014.



2013 AARCS Events



Above: Diva's for Dogs Team at the Calgary Marathon raised over \$25,000!

Left: First Annual AARCS Art Combat Event held in Calgary was a huge success.

Below: Volunteer Appreciation evening.



2013 Events

AARCS organized or participated in a variety of events throughout the year, including 14 trade show events, 18 festivals and markets, 44 small adoption events and 21 other events. This equates to two events per week. Thanks to our dedicated Events Coordinator and her team of volunteers we rarely turn down an opportunity to get in front of a crowd.

Unfortunately, due to lack of sponsorships caused by redirected funds to the flood efforts, the 2013 **Golf Tournament** had to be canceled, but will resume again in 2014. AARCS was still able to organize a number of successful fundraising event including

the popular **AARCS Annual Poker Tournament, Art Combat** and **Barks n' Bids** which helped raise much needed funds for our programs.

Art Combat

The sold-out event was based on a friendly competition between talented Calgary and area artists in front of a live audience. Pieces were auctioned off at the end of the night and included a silent auction component.

Volunteer Appreciation

AARCS held our first formal volunteer appreciation party in November 2013 where outstanding volunteer contributions were recognized through plaque

presentation. It also gave all the volunteers a chance to mingle and get to know their fellow volunteer in a fun evening of food, drinks and dancing.

Third Party Events

AARCS supporters hosted a number of third party fundraising events, including Calgary Marathon, Sleep Rover's Santa Paws, bottle drives, and company sponsorship events. Thank you all the people and companies who support AARCS through these great initiatives. We would also like to thank the many children and families who in lieu of gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, and special holidays chose to donate to AARCS instead.

2013 Highlights

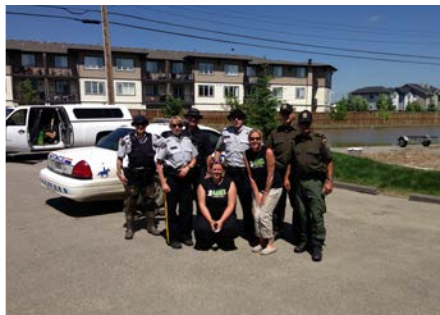
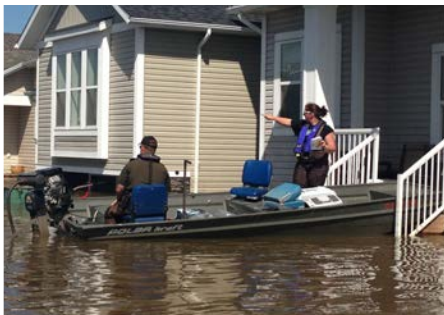
Flood of the Century



These horses's heads were the only part of their bodies not submerged in water. They were weak from fighting against the immense current that sadly had already taken the life of a few of their friends by the time we reached them. AARCS volunteers worked for hours to save them and it was a very emotional moment when the horses were finally pulled to dry land.

Flood of a Century

This summer came with the worst flooding in Alberta's history, and AARCS was there to help. Calgary and the surrounding areas of Siksika First Nation and High River were also devastated by the flood waters, with many animals needing rescue. In total AARCS assisted in taking in and housing over 150 animals displaced due to the floods. Further, and above and beyond the direct mandate of our organization, some 20 horses, 4 pigs, a dozen chickens, a turkey, several baby hares, a fawn, and a turtle, were rescued and in some instances transported to sanctuaries.



2013 Highlights

The burn victims and their stories

CBCnews | Calgary

Home World Canada Politics Business Health Arts & Entertainment Technology & Science Community

Canada Calgary Photo Galleries

Badly-burned puppy Nero finds home for Christmas

\$5,000 reward posted for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible

CBC News Posted: Dec 20, 2013 2:38 PM MT | Last Updated: Dec 20, 2013 2:38 PM MT



Nero, a badly-burned puppy recently discovered in Saskatchewan, is on the mend after emergency surgery in Calgary. (CBC)

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Left: Nero in the news. Above: Annie's torso before. Annie was one of five adult dogs rescued, all of which exhibited severe burn injuries.

The burn victims

Sadly AARCS saw a large number of dogs who were likely intentionally burnt in 2013. Starting with five adult dogs that had bad burns covering their torsos, due to the extensiveness of their injuries they were sent to experienced foster homes within AARCS and one of our partner rescue organization Second Chance Animal Rescue Society. We are happy to report that all recovered remarkably well. Their case was turned over to authorities.

However, no AARCS rescue story received more worldwide attention than the story of baby Nero, who had been doused in a flammable liquid and set on fire. Nero sustained significant damage to his face and lost both his ears. Nonetheless, he has also

recovered remarkably well and is a testament to an animal's resilience. Nero will require eye surgery when he is closer to fully-grown to allow him to fully close his eyes.

Nero captured the hearts of thousands and the outpouring of support AARCS received was tremendous. Nero has his own Facebook page with over 8,000 followers and has been featured in news and media around the world. Nero's case is being investigated by the RCMP and AARCS has issued a \$5000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in this case.

Ultimately, this sad story has a very happy ending. We are thrilled to report that Nero found a loving forever home where he spent his first

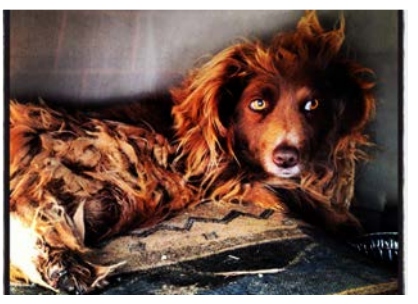
Christmas. His new parents run an organization using therapy horses for rehabilitation and hope that when and if Nero is ready and wants to he might turn into a therapy dog for children and adults facing problems of their own.



2013 Animal Stories

A few more stories that touched us

Corrie - the broken girl



We were called about a dog that had been hit by a car, when we arrived we found a sweet, very injured little lady. By her state it looked like she had been suffering for days or weeks, she was unable to walk, we rushed her to an emergency vet clinic where it was determined she had a fractured pelvis and severe bruising. She was put on bed rest and received a grooming to remove all the thick dreads, burrs, feces and dirt. She has since been adopted into an over-joyed forever home.



Baby "Seal"

Seal was accidentally slammed in between a door, it was determined that the kitten luckily did not sustain any serious injuries

and Seal was quickly adopted into a loving forever home.



Ranger the frostbitten puppy

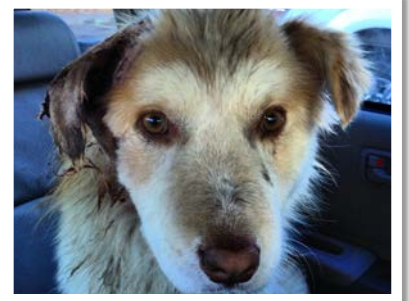
Ranger was found abandoned in a snow bank, the tip of his tail later fell off due to frost bite. Black dogs are notoriously hard to adopt, for some reason other animals are picked over black dogs and cats



across North American shelters, sadly leading to black animal being some of the highest euthanized animals no matter their breed or temperament. Fortunately, Ranger did not have a problem finding a home. After all, who could resist his cute little face.

Toby - the lucky survivor

Toby was attacked by other dogs and sustained serious injuries that could have killed him. His infection was so bad that it took months of constant vet visits, heavy medications and rehabilitation to get it under control. He is now happy to live in a loving forever home where he will never



be hurt again.

The OUTHOUSE puppies

We come across strange things, but finding puppies under a luckily for us abandoned outhouse is rather uncommon. Thankfully AARCS' volunteers don't mind getting a little dirty when fishing puppies out of strange places. In this case retrieving three puppies and their momma, all of which went into foster care.



INFO & THANKS

Registered Charity # 80718 8479 RR0001

www.albertaanimalrescuecrew.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Clarissa von Stetten - President
Brian Churchman - Vice President
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Randy Vanee - Board Member
Deanna Thompson - Executive Director**

SPECIAL THANKS



Four Feet Animal Foundation

Calgary Foundation Flood Rebuild Grant

Sherling Animal Welfare Fund (Calgary Foundation)

Heather Waddell

Alberta Culture - Community Spirit Program

WISH LIST

FOR THE ANIMALS

- ✓ Scratching posts
- ✓ Cat litter (all kinds, including pellet)
- ✓ Mammalac for puppies and kittens
- ✓ Dog, cat and small animal toys
- ✓ Cat food (wet and dry)
- ✓ Dog food
- ✓ Gastro Food (canned and dry)
- ✓ Exercise Pens / Dog Runs
- ✓ Medium-Large Wire Crates
- ✓ Puppy pads
- ✓ Dog Houses (new or used)
- ✓ Other (litter boxes, collars, cones, beds)

FOR SHELTER

- ✓ Virkon (available at UFA)
- ✓ Bleach/dish soap
- ✓ Medical Supplies (gloves/syringes)

FOR OPERATIONS

- ✓ Gift Cards to gas stations grocery stores, pet stores, department stores (ie costco)
- ✓ Printer paper
- ✓ Envelopes/folders/address labels
- ✓ Printer ink HP05A, HP951/HP950, HP920/921
- ✓ New/re-conditioned computers (mac or PC)
- ✓ 4x4 Truck, AWD Van, Horse Trailer

AARCS relies on the generosity of the public to operate. As a registered non-profit charity your support is greatly appreciated. Save a life today - donate to help the animals.