



2012 Annual Report



RESCUE, REHABILITATE, PROMOTE, ADVOCATE

Contents



Albert was found as a stray in awful condition and had to have his tail amputated. Albert has since been adopted!

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Message from the Director

DEANNA THOMPSON

Executive Director



On behalf of all of us at The Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society let me be the first to say, what an amazing year! I am so proud of the dedicated people who have come together for the less fortunate animals in our province. I hope everyone will share in the joy of our accomplishments and how far we have come in the past year. 2012 saw many challenges that we overcame with fierce determination and also present many milestones that we should be proud of. When I see the faces of so many innocent animals that now have a second chance at life I smile and it warms my heart to know they are in the gentle hands of our volunteers and foster homes and will never know another day of suffering.

I believe that everyone, including our volunteers, foster homes, staff, animal caregivers, followers, supporters and donors all play an important role in our continued success. In a year where we had a major construction project on the go, we still managed to fulfill our mission and increase the services and programs. In September the dream of opening a shelter came true and yet another milestone was achieved when we celebrated the grand opening of AARCS Safe Haven. Over 400 animals passed through the doors of our shelter in the four months we have been operational.

Thank you to everyone who has made 2012 an amazing year for AARCS and the animals. I look forward to all that the future holds for us in 2013 and beyond.

Deanna Thompson

About AARCS



Abandoned and stray animals on an Alberta landfill site. These pictures show some examples of what rescue teams routinely encounter.

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. At AARCS, we feel there is a benefit to partnering with local animal control and Calgary has an exceptional Animal Services Department.

Responsible Pet Guardianship Committee

AARCS is a proud member of Calgary's Responsible Pet Guardianship Committee.

YWCA and Sheriff King Home

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.

Pound Rescue

AARCS greatly appreciates the close working relationship we share with Pound Rescue. Rescue missions are often conducted collaboratively and the organizations share tools, resources and even foster homes. Furthermore, this collaboration has led to several successful joint fundraising events.

Other Rescue Organizations

AARCS participates with numerous local rescue groups to form a collaborative union of like-minded groups, with similar missions and underlying organizational beliefs. 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.

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.

WSPA

WSPA (World Society for Protection of Animal) - WSPA's vision is of a world where animal welfare matters, and animal cruelty ends. WSPA has been promoting animal welfare for more than 25 years. With consultative status at the United Nations and the Council of Europe, 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.

Businesses

AARCS greatly appreciates the close working relationship of many local businesses, including numerous pet stores, doggy day-care, trainers, pet food manufacturers and distributors.



AARCS Programs

AARCS expands its reach in animal welfare and the community through various programs and initiatives.

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 limit for animals requiring rehabilitation, either medical or behavioural. 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.

NEW - Transfer Program



Active rescue involves hands-on work in the field and we often find ourselves faced with many homeless animals that we may not be able to accommodate within our own organization. This is when the much needed transfer program was born. AARCS has facilitated rescuing hundreds of animals, often caring for them for a period of time and then placing them with like-minded rescue groups or humane societies. In addition, AARCS takes in animals from other groups or shelters facing capacity restraints or taking on an animal better suited in a foster care environment. By collaborating with local shelters and organizations we have been able to save the lives of hundreds of homeless animals in Alberta.

Humane Education Program



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

Spay/Neuter and Disease Prevention Initiative



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. Our goal is to fund small-medium spay/neuter and wellness clinics with a target of 20-70 animals per clinic receive spay/neuter surgeries in one weekend.

One female dog & her
offspring can produce
67,000 dogs in 7 seven
years.

~Source HSUS~

Emergency Medical Care Program



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 pet owners are often 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 Program



Our Emergency Shelter Care program provides shelter for 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. 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, or facilitate this through the City of Calgary's Low Income Spay Neuter Program.

Program Results 2012

ANNUAL ADOPTIONS

2006  52 animals	2010  326 animals
2007  65 animals	2011  458 animals
2008  170 animals	2012   674 animals
2009  298 animals	2013 With the opening of AARCS Safe Haven, the growth of the cat program and the expanded foster home network we anticipate we will be able to re-home over 800 animals in the upcoming year.

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.

We are pleased to see that adoptions have increased by 91 dogs and 125 cats in 2012 over 2011. This is even more impressive as AARCS was in a year of transition including a major construction project.

The majority of animals will have a brief stay at AARCS Safe Haven quarantine and emergency shelter in order to have medical and basic behavioural assessments conducted to ensure appropriate foster home placement. They are then placed in the safety of the foster home system currently encompassing approximately 180 foster families. The animals remain in foster care while awaiting suitable placement in permanent

adoptive homes. Sadly there are many tragic cases of animal neglect, cruelty, sickness and injury which AARCS volunteers encounter almost daily, however once in care these animals are provided with all necessary veterinary care as well as food, rehabilitation, training, kindness and support. Many require extensive medical treatment and long-term care. All AARCS animals are spayed/neutered, provided identification through tattoo or microchip and vaccinated. The rapid growth AARCS has experienced over the last few years has been achieved **solely through the efforts of dedicated volunteers.**



Program Results 2012

Spay/Neuter Assistance & Medical Assistance Program

In 2012 AARCS increased spay/neuter assistance for owned animals by over 200% providing funding in excess of \$35,000 for medical assistance and spay/neuter surgery. AARCS is one of the leading animal welfare groups providing free or low cost assistance for low income and First Nations focusing mostly on free-roaming dogs.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	SPAY/NEUTER
21	176

Through our Medical Assistance Program AARCS was able to assist members of the public with unforeseen medical bills, including two FHO surgeries, two luxating patella surgeries, two prolapsed rectums, one leg amputation, numerous mange and parasite treatments, and three assisted euthanasias for terminal ill animals.

In addition to our spay/neuter and medical assistance programs, AARCS participates in the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force clinics throughout the summer. Six clinics were held in Alberta First Nation communities in 2012, which saw 1104 animals altered.



Food Program

In 2012 AARCS distributed over 100,000 pounds of dog and cat food to needy communities. We established partnerships in the communities we service that allowed us to educate and assist the community in learning about responsible pet guardianship. This includes documenting the number of animals in a given home, setting up an agreement and ensuring that owners understand the importance of spay/neuter surgeries, placing and tracking these animals onto our waiting list and ensuring follow through. These efforts empower the communities through resources and knowledge to advocate and care for the welfare of their animals.



Dog House Program

AARCS has provided 67 insulated dog houses in 2012 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 houses 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.



Animal Transfer Program

Collaboration with other like-minded rescue organizations and humane societies has been a key strategy in being able to rescue more animals. AARCS works at capacity the majority of the time, therefore we often come across more animals in need than we are able to take in. AARCS is working together with other responsible rescue groups and Humane Societies to combat pet over-population by transferring animals in and out of other organizations. This provides safety for the animals at risk by placing them with organizations that best suit the needs of the animal (such as breed specific rescue groups) and the space available.

Barn Buddies Program

AARCS is pleased to announce a brand new program to help find suitable homes for feral and semi-feral cat populations. Adopters must have a heated barn or other secure heated outdoor structure (shops, warehouses, etc.) and provide fresh food and water. Cat temperaments range from feral / semi-feral to friendly and this program is designed to find homes for cats that have traditionally been deemed unadoptable through "normal" adoption procedures.

2012 Highlights



Safe Haven Grand Opening

On September 15, 2012 AARCS proudly hosted the Grand Opening of our Safe Haven. After being announced only a year ago, the huge project of opening a shelter has finally come to fruition. Over 200 people attended the ceremonies where we had guided tours of the facility, informational booths, raffle prizes, food and drinks, a live band, speeches and of course showed off some of our adoptable animals. The Safe Haven is designed as a centralized, multi-functional facility to provide a safe haven, and temporary placement quarantine for rescued animals prior to entering foster homes. In addition, it is a place where volunteers can gather and we can provide orientations and training. It is not designed as a shelter where animals stay through to adoption.

Shelter Operations

Although our doors only officially opened in September 2012, we have seen over 400 animals come through since acquiring the space in September 2011. 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 superior quarantine clean condition.

Volunteer Programs

In 2012 AARCS increased volunteer numbers by 191 individuals over 2011 and over 100,000 volunteer hours were logged in 2012. We are very proud of our volunteers and their dedication to the cause. As a foster home based organization, volunteer programs are essential to the success of programs and services.

Our Animals

The heart of our organization are the animals that we rescue and some come with amazing stories of survival. In 2012, AARCS has rescued over 800 animals and here are some of their incredible stories.

Cattle Dog Seizure

In September, AARCS, along side Pound Rescue, assisted the Alberta SPCA by providing secure shelter at AARCS Safe Haven for 18 cattle dogs seized from a property in Priddis where a homicide investigation took place. These animals required patient and tender care as many of these dogs had little to no social skills. We are proud to say the majority of these dogs have found adoptive families, while the remaining ones are doing well in foster care as they continue to work on becoming much-loved family pets.

Leg-Hold Traps

Sadly AARCS has seen an increase in domestic animals caught in leg-hold traps. Unimaginable pain and suffering is inflicted by these traps to any poor creature caught in them. Some animals go to great lengths to escape, even gnawing off their own limbs in a desperate attempt to free themselves. The acting veterinarian suspected that this is exactly how our Jeannie lost her leg. Trinity, was found and rescued with the trap still on her front paw.

Unfortunately, both Trinity and Jeannie required leg amputations as their legs were not savable.



Other injuries/Surgeries

- 8 leg amputations
- 5 FHO surgeries
- 7 broken limb repairs
- 4 knee surgeries
- 2 prolapsed rectums
- 7 cases are parvo virus
- 2 cases of distemper
- 2 tail amputations
- 2 embedded collars
- 4 gunshot wounds

Countless cases of parasites and mange, including sarcoptic & demodex.

Sadly, despite our best efforts we lost 18 dogs and 12 kittens that we were unable to save and they await their rescuers at the rainbow bridge.

Festival/Events

Not only are AARCS volunteers busy caring for our animals, they spend most weekends helping to promote our cause by attending local festivals, farmers markets, multi-group Adopt-a-thon, Spruce Meadows Christmas Market and tabling at local businesses.

Our People

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

The Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors

President, Clarissa von Stetten
Vice President, Brian Churchman
Treasurer, Anna Thompson
Secretary, Diana Segbour
Board Member, Randy Vanee
Advisor to the Board, Sheila Hyatt, LLP
Advisor to the Board, Craig Orchard

Staff

Executive Director, Deanna Thompson
Operations Manager, Katie Ayres
Volunteer Manager, Rachel Howard
Staff and volunteers work together to fulfill our mission and programs.

VOLUNTEERS

AARCS is very proud to be run by dedicated volunteers. We currently have 509 people on our volunteer list. They range in age from young children to seniors and are all animal-lovers looking to make a difference. Included in our volunteer numbers are over 180 volunteer dog and cat foster homes. Our foster homes are the backbone of our organization caring for the hundreds of animals that come through our society, looking after them in their own homes as they would their own pets until a permanent loving home is found. Our volunteers maintain operations through an array of duties including; working shifts caring for the animals housed temporarily at the shelter, organizing and volunteering at events, transporting animals, fundraising, donation drives, building dog houses, administration and organization, and a multitude of other tasks.

MEMBERSHIP

The organization currently has 117 active memberships. Cost of a membership to The Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society is \$15 for individuals and \$25 for a family. AARCS provides an incentive program for membership, which includes discounts at local retailers. Members receive newsletters and more importantly an invitation to the Annual General Meeting where their vote provides direction for the organization.

Future Initiatives



AARCS Safe Haven, Headquarters and Shelter located at Bay G, 3851 - 21 Street NE, Calgary, AB.

AARCS is a Calgary based organization that rescues animals throughout Alberta from Cold Lake to Lethbridge and everywhere in between. The very dramatic and rapid increase of AARCS' direct work with rescued animals over such a wide area illustrated the critical need to continue to grow our organization.

Proven Track Record

AARCS started laying the groundwork for the creation of its headquarter, emergency and quarantine facility and operations center dubbed Safe Haven in early 2010. By September 2012, the facility was officially opened. This serves as

an example of the effectiveness and efficiency with which AARCS operates. The idea of Safe Haven sprung out of AARCS' strategic plan, AARCS then launched into action by creating a Fundraising and Development Plan, and quickly formed partnerships, garnered support in the community and followed through with building and creating the space. AARCS led the way to manageable growth in line with our strategic direction. We are now taking steps to ensure continued sustainable growth leading to the eventual formation of a large-scale sanctuary. This will serve as a pillar in our province wide animal welfare effort.

Longterm Strategic Direction

AARCS continues to increase the number of animals rescued through continuous recruitment of more volunteers, retention of current foster homes and development of a transfer program with other like-minded rescues and humane societies. Focus remains on assisting with the control of animal over-population through our Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP). The longterm plan for AARCS includes building the groundwork to open a large animal sanctuary in Alberta. The next step for AARCS will be developing a long-term strategic plan to secure land and developing a funding and operating plan for these purposes.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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GENERAL INFORMATION

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