

ANIMAL WORLD

The Annual Magazine of *The Animals' Welfare and Protection Association*

December 2022 – Vol 48

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The Animals' Welfare and Protection Association (Sri Lanka) Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 54th Annual General Meeting of the above Association will be held at the **CR&FC Hall, 28 Malalasekera Mawatha, Colombo 7** on Saturday, 03rd December at 10.00am

Agenda:

1. To read the notice convening the meeting.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting.
3. To adopt the Report of the Honorary Secretary for the year 2019/2020.
4. To adopt the Audited Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31.12.2019 and 31.12.2020
5. Election of Office Bearers: President and Vice President in accordance with article 14 (V) of the Articles of Association. Committee members: Ainthe Rajapaksa, Lathika Padmaperuma, Neelika Tillekeratne, Asoka Weerasekera, and Denesh Silva resign in accordance of 14 (VI) of the Articles of Association and offer themselves for re- election.
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. President's Address
8. Any other business of which 10 days' notice has been given
9. Vote of Thanks

By order of the Management

Shiona Weerasekera – Hon. Secretary



Please confirm attendance -
Email: info.awpa@gmail.com
Whatsapp: 077 885 7778
Post to: Shiona Weerasekera,
No .28, Dr. E.A. Cooray Mw,
Colombo 6

I shall/shall not attend the AWPA AGM 2021

.....
Name of member

.....
Signature

Rescues

The number of rescues continue to increase year on year. Most are street accident victims and suffer paralysis in their hind legs. Injured animals have to be boarded over a long period of time at the vet's boarding facilities and medicated until they are in a suitable state to be kept at the shelter. Once at the shelter they need special medication and treatment, often for life. We are grateful to the donations made by our loyal members and animal lovers that have helped us to find the courage not to turn our faces away from a helpless animal. Every rupee you donate counts, whether it's Rs. 100 or Rs. 1,000 or more.



Sammie (above) was a senior street dog who was referred to us by a caller after a horrific accident that ripped off his front paw. We didn't think he had much of a chance, but called up Best Care for emergency treatment, hospitalisation and intensive treatment. 3 weeks later, he surprised us with a magical recovery and was admitted to the Dehiwela shelter. Sammie's will to live and love has inspired many kind volunteers who now reward him with cuddles and kisses every time they visit the shelter.

Lala (pictured below) was around 4 months when she was dumped over our Dehiwela Shelter walls (not an unusual occurrence- animals are regularly put over our walls, left tied to our gates, abandoned inboxes at our entrance). We found her whimpering in pain; and in fear of the surrounding hostile resident doggies (but they did her no harm).

There were 2 fractures in her front leg due to the fall. Despite all this, Lala had total faith in us as we picked her up - she knew we were there to help.

With the help of our volunteers we took her immediately to Bestcare (yes - she did throw up in the car). She was kindly examined by Dr Shyama who wanted to try to heal with a splint first. This worked, and Lala settled in well in the Shelter, her sweetness was magic and she slowly snuck into Jeevani's (Resident Caretaker) house to live.

While we posted for adoption, we were not hopeful due to the complications from her injury. By this time, Lala was over 5 months old, and most people want little pups.

And then Priya came along, looking for a pup. She had adopted a boy (Zumba) from us 9 months back, and wanted a girl for company. Priya too, was looking for a little pup, and we had plenty - gorgeous, fluffy & healthy. While checking these out, Lala came out to the puppy section and looked at Priya, walked up to her and put her paw on her arm. The rest is history - Lala was blessed to have found a loving forever home. Zumba was delighted with this new friend and is her shadow.



Adopt a Puppy!!!

AND SAVE A LIFE

The AWPA has an endless stream of puppies that get dumped at their gates, or get guilt tripped into accepting. Adopting these puppies will literally save their lives. Dogs make wonderful companions, are proven to cure depression and anxiety and boost confidence and immunity. In addition, cross bred dogs are very easy maintenance, rarely get ill and are excellent watch dogs. The only thing better in life than owning a dog, is owning two! So please consider taking in two puppies, unless you already have one. It is glorious to watch dogs interact with each other, and two pups are much less work than one, as they look after each other and tire each other out.

Please call Iromi on 077 656 5181 or Shiona on 077 345 0031 if you would like to adopt these adorable puppies. The pups will be sterilised at the Association's cost when they reach six months of age.



The Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association held at 10 am on Saturday 7th December 2019, at the Dutch Burger Union, 114, Reid Avenue, Colombo 14

Present: President Mrs. Hemantha Jayatilake in Chair and 42 members who marked their attendance. There were 21 apologies for absence.

The welcome address was delivered by President Mrs. Hemantha Jayathilaka, followed by the Secretary reading the Minutes of 52nd AGM which were proposed by NT and seconded by DS. The Secretary's Report was proposed by AW and seconded by MJ. Both were circulated in the newsletter vol 47.

The Treasurer Gamini Wimalasuriya presented the audited accounts FYE December 2018 (also circulated in the newsletter vol 47). The main expenses were shelter staff salaries and costs to maintain the two shelters, along with the feeding and vet costs. Apart from this, it was noted sterilizations and rescues expenses were very high. In 2019, over Rs. 2 million was spent on rescue bills on dogs and cats that were found in horrifying conditions on the streets. The Treasurer stated the AWPA was concerned about the lack of sufficient funds coming in to support the activities of the AWPA, and that it was difficult to manage the finances. This is despite donations increasing, as costs and the demand for help are increasing at a faster rate! He thanked Asst. Treasurer Ainthe Rajapaksa and Committee Member Sadhana Vikrantha for doing the detailed accounting work. The audited accounts were proposed by Ashvi Ratnam and seconded by Anne Seneviratne.

Election of office bearers:

President Hemantha Jayathillake resigned in accordance with article 14 (V) of Articles of Association and was reelected, proposed by Asoka Weerasekera and seconded by Ainthe Rajapaksa.

Committee members –Lalanthi Wijewardena, Manel Jayasekera and Sadhana Vikrantha resigned in accordance with article 14 (vi) of the Articles of Association and were reelected, proposed by Padma Herath and seconded by Gwen Edema. The auditors M/S Tudor V. Perera & Co, were reappointed; proposed by Iromi Salgado and seconded by Christine Dayananda.

President's report:

Mrs. Jayathilake stated that she has completed seven terms as President and this would be her eighth. Our current outstanding rescue bills stand at over Rs.400,000. Mrs. Sylvia Hyatt has very kindly given a substantial donation to help settle these rescue bills. These costs have been a worry. She requested the help and support of members to donate funds for our rescues, and to assist with monitoring their progress. Helping and caring for rescues is very costly, and its difficult as we run two shelters as well.

Required maintenance was done at both Shelters, and the same staff remain, thankfully. Supervision is carried out on a regularly basis by the committee.

Mrs. Jayathilake requested for coordinators who can join hands with the AWPA, to facilitate the sterilisation of dogs and cats in their neighbourhoods .

Anne Seneviratne from the St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia Kennel Club requested support from the AWPA to do more sterilisations out of Colombo. She said the Uva Province needs support as there is no Government support in this area. Ashvi Thiyagaratnam recommended getting temples and Grama Sevakas of an area to be alerted on reports of animal cruelty.

IS delivered the Vote of Thanks, acknowledging the work of the Committee, especially Hemantha and staff at the shelters, and the invaluable support of our members, donors and supporters. Recognition was given to the volunteers who have played such a special role at the shelters – uplifting the wellbeing of our lovable residents, helping with their care.

A presentation of the AWPA activities was shared, the AGM was concluded and the floor was opened for refreshments and fellowship.

Will you change a life this Christmas?

Together, we can shape the future of animal welfare for dogs and cats in Sri Lanka.

It's been a tough year for everyone, including our four-legged friends. In many places worldwide, food has been scarce, diseases have been rampant and help has been just out of reach.

No matter what you choose to give, or even if you choose to adopt just one dog or cat, you will make a lasting difference for animals who have no one else to turn to.



Sterilisations

YEAR	DOG/FEMALE	DOG/MALE	CAT/FEMALE	CAT/MALE	TOTAL
2019	788	65	796	90	1,739
2020	810	102	657	75	1,644
2021	823	45	998	79	1,945



2019

Cat sterilizations were conducted monthly at the Dehiwala shelter with the exception of a few dogs due to lack of space. These programs were sponsored by Ms Tashiya Captain. Our total was 126 less than 2018.



2020

The year began with two campaigns which were sponsored. We were able to have our monthly cat sterilization programme in January and February but had to cancel the programme in March due to the pandemic. But we continued with our referrals. As soon as the lock down was lifted we conducted campaigns in Moneragala, Maharagama, Mt. Lavinia, Kalutara, the KDU and Hanwella. The demand was overwhelming and costly to the AWPA. We had to stop our outstation campaigns due to lack of funds and re-started our monthly programme in Mt. Lavinia. We thank Mrs Nelum Perera for opening her house to the AWPA to conduct these programmes.



2021

The AWPA has done many surgeries through our referral vets and we wish to thank all of them for helping us to give a solution to all unwanted litters of dogs and cats. We wish to especially thank all the vets who have appreciated the service given by us, many of who have not increased their rates.

Sterilisations are crucial to reduce the stray population in the country, to reduce the incidence of Rabies and to prevent horrific injuries of street animals. Please support our sterilisation initiatives. If you would like to donate towards sterilisations or sponsor a campaign, please contact Iromi on 077 656 5181.

Suranganie De Silva

Suranganie served as the Vice President of the AWPA and a committee member for over 25 years, and sadly passed away in February 2022.

She organized the dana programme for us for decades, patiently explaining to people about how it works, determining the supplies we need, and diligently maintaining the calendar for us. She meticulously arranged for food supplies to be delivered to the shelters weekly, scouring the markets for deals on supplies and visited the shelters armed with Marie Biscuits that she painstakingly broke up for the doggies whilst on the long drives. She considered our shelter dogs and cats her extended family. Many of you would have spoken with her and met her, to arrange your Danas.

Though it has been almost one year since she left us, we still feel her warm and loving presence at the shelters, her careful eye when preparing our documents, and her wise advice when planning our operations. We have no doubt that she has graced the heavens and is watching over us, with Hetty* on her lap, Policie* curled up by her feet, Maya* licking her face and Trinco* bothering her for another biscuit.

**Hetty, Policie, Maya and Trinco are some of the darling shelter pooches who have left us too.*



Report of the Hony. Secretary for the year ended 2020/21

Executive Summary

The year 2020 and 2021 were tough ones for many including the AWPA. The global pandemic and lockdowns that took place in the Western Province had an impact on the association. Given below are a few challenges we faced and how we managed it.

- The lockdowns meant the two shelters had to be stocked with adequate food to feed the animals for weeks at a time. The committee acted quickly and made sure enough dry rations were delivered to keep the animals fed.
- We couldn't do many sterilization campaigns during the lockdown period but caught up for lost time over the latter part of the year and sterilized 1,644 animals in 2020 and 1,945 in 2021.
- Less vehicles on the roads meant lesser amount of accident victims and injured animals.
- Funding and feeding of street animals were a priority and this was led by Ms. Iromi Salgado who worked with the forces and other animal welfare people to do the needful.
- Our fundraising events were cancelled, and donations were low which impacted our finances.

Given the tough times we managed to make it and continue to the best of our abilities.

A major blessing was the legacy of the Late Professor D A and Anne Ranasinghe, a donation of Rs.12.5 mn which really carried us through this very difficult period. Rs.5 mn was placed in a fixed deposit for quarterly interest to fund the AWPA activities. The balance funds were utilised as per an agreed proposal for feeding and other shelter needs, rescues, sterilisation and building works. The generous support of the Ranasinghe family to the AWPA is greatly appreciated.

The generous donations of i). Canage & Chrisanthi Nagendra - The Kanagasabai & Saraswathi Nagendra Fund of Rs.1,000,000, ii) Mrs. Mano Sellamuttu - The Umesha Sellamuttu Memorial Fund of Rs.2,500,000 and iii) Chitra & Gamini Kinigama Fund of Rs.500,000 are noted with grateful thanks. These are placed in deposits and interest is used to meet operational costs.

The AWPA committee are all volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to look after as many of our voiceless friends as possible amidst their personal and career commitments.

The committee members are:

Mrs. Hemantha Jayatilaka (Hon President)
Ms. Shiona Weerasekera (Hon Secretary)
Mrs. Neelika Tillekeratne (Hon Assistant Secretary)
Mr. Gamini Wimalasuriya (Hon Treasurer)
Mrs. Ainthe Rajapaksa (Hon Assistant Treasurer)
Mr. Ranjit Samarasinghe
Ms. Iromi Salgado
Mrs. Lalanthi Wijewardena
Mrs. Manel Jayasekera
Mrs. Lathika Padmaperuma
Mrs. Sadhana Vikrantha
Mr. Denesh Silva
Mr. Asoka Weerasekera
Mrs. Samantha De Silva
Mr. Sahan Wiratunga

Shelters:

We run 2 shelters in Dehiwala and Kahathuduwa. These shelters house over 500 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. Our cattery in Dehiwala has approximately 75 cats and kittens. The running and monitoring of the

shelters take up a lot of time, effort and resources. Regular shelter

visitors from the AWPA Committee include Hemantha, Iromi, Shiona, Sadhana, Samantha and Sahan.

These shelters house special needs animals who are rescues. These include accident victims, blind dogs and cats, abandoned animals and those who are paralyzed. We are blessed to have Tillekeratne and Jeevani who continue as caretakers, of Kahathuduwa and Dehiwala respectively.

Apart from the human resources, the running costs of the shelters is high. In 2020 and 2021 the running cost of the shelters were at Rs. 10.5 mn and Rs.10.3 mn respectively. This includes the medication and immunization of the animals, staff salaries, utilities like water and electricity etc. The maintenance of both shelters takes up a lot of our funds. The daily feeding cost was at Rs. 9,000 for both shelters during the years in review, amounting to Rs. 3.3 million for the year.

Both shelters needed some urgent repairs. At our Dehiwala shelter the wall on the right side which has collapsed was re-built at LKR. 381,000. Urgent repairs are required to build the left wall of the cattery in the Dehiwala shelter which might collapse due to pressure from the neighboring wall. The collapse can endanger the lives of the cats and the rest will escape due to the trauma. The cost is estimated at LKR. 800,000 and we need to raise the funds. A row of 10 kennels were constructed in Dehiwala amidst the lockdowns and pandemic with the Anne Ranasinghe Legacy Funds.

At the Kahathuduwa Shelter pipes were laid and connected to the mains. The main water will be used for drinking and cooking only. However, for washing the well water will be used. The cost is estimated at LKR. 58,000 for this purpose. The main gate and two small gates leading to the corridors have been repaired in Kahathuduwa. A row of 4 kennels were built on the right side as well with the Anne Ranasinghe Legacy Funds.

Dr. Wijsekera is the Shelter Vet and is called on to attend upon the sick animals and carries out the shelter sterilisation surgeries, and annual and other vaccinations. Additionally, Best Care Animal Hospital visits for treatment and acute cases are hospitalised. Dr. Kumari also visits and treats the shelters animals.

Committee members:

Mrs. Shri Sriskandharaja resigned from the committee in 2019. Mrs. Samantha De Silva and Mr. Sahan Wiratunga joined the committee in 2020. Both have volunteered for the AWPA for over a year and been actively involved in visiting our shelters and the fundraising events.

The Animal Welfare Bill:

This bill remains pending in parliament. We appeal to our members to put pressure on any political contacts you know to get this bill passed in Parliament.

Fund raisers:

Due to the current covid-19 pandemic our fund raising has been minimal. We were able to raise small amounts by selling pre-loved clothes, books and household items donated by our members and well-wishers online on our social media pages. We hope to get your support in the coming years when we are able to have a sale again. Please new or used keep clothes, books and household items in good condition and donate them to us for our March and November sales. You can contact us on our email if you have any items you wish to donate for these sales.

Sterilisations and Rescues are referred to in detail on pages 6 & 2 respectively.

Dana Programme

Our feeding costs, which stood at a manageable Rs.9,000 per day just one year ago, has now shot up to Rs.20,000 due to the price increases of all of our essential commodities - rice, chicken, fish, milk and gas. We are struggling with firewood cooking and a temporary hiatus on purchasing non-essential items such as curd and tick treatments.

We understand that this is the norm for all households, orphanages, shelters and hospitals alike. However, if there is anyone among you who would be able to sponsor a dana for a day or a week, be it in memory of a loved one who has left you, to celebrate a friend or family member's birthday or just to feed our hungry mouths, please call or message 077 885 7778. We could really use the support.

Our Bank Details:

Bank of Ceylon code - 034 Kollupitiya Branch
Account name: The Animals' Welfare & Protection Association
Current Account No: 0001629496

Please call or WhatsApp 077 885 7778, or email info.awpa@gmail.com if you make a deposit to our account, so that we can trace it and acknowledge the donation



If undelivered, please return to:
No. 28, Dr. E. A. Cooray Mawatha
Colombo 6

Please email info.awpa@gmail.com if you wish to receive the newsletter electronically

Volunteer

The AWPA has been blessed with a fabulous team of volunteers who donate their Saturday mornings to come to the shelters and bathe and brush the dogs, medicate and dress the wounds of the sick and disabled dogs, and shower both the dogs and cats with love and affection. Many help us to clean up the shelters and attend to the work that our staff are just unable to do due to cleaning, feeding and daily medication duties. We are incredibly thankful to this team of dedicated individuals (and some duos and teams too!) to take the time to come to the shelters and get their hands dirty. The shelters are a better place thanks to your time, efforts and love.

