



Animal Rescue[®] Organisation

RELIEVING CARING EDUCATING



CAPE TOWN • SOUTH AFRICA • NEWSLETTER OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANISATION • MAY 2026

ARO HOSPITAL

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International Deposits: ABSA ZA JJ

PayFast: Visit www.payfast.co.za click on 'Buyers', then 'Giving Back', then follow the instructions for the list of charities to appear. Find the Animal Rescue Organisation logo, click on it and follow the instructions on how to donate.



Snap here to donate



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we celebrate 40 years of ARO, we do so with immense gratitude, pride, and excitement for what lies ahead. Our Ruby Anniversary feels especially meaningful because the ruby symbolises passion, and there could not be a more fitting reflection of the heart and dedication driving ARO today.

For four decades, ARO has stood beside pets and the people who love them, ensuring that access to veterinary care is not determined by financial circumstance. From humble beginnings to the organisation, we are today, one thing has remained constant: our commitment to care and compassion by relieving the suffering of animals.

This year, our theme “40 Years of Care and Compassion and We’re Just Getting Started” is more than a slogan. It reflects the energy and determination we feel across our entire team. Every day, we see the impact that accessible veterinary care and the education of pet care has on animals, families, and communities, and it motivates us to keep growing stronger. The launch of our new Mobile Clinic marks an exciting new chapter for ARO. It allows us to reach even more underserved communities, bringing essential veterinary care directly to the people and pets who need it most. Alongside this growth, we continue to expand our services, strengthen our partnerships, and look for new ways to create lasting impact.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of you, our donors, volunteers, members, sponsors, staff, and supporters who have walked this journey with us over the past 40 years. You are part of every life changed and every animal helped.

While anniversaries are often a time to reflect on the past, at ARO they also inspire us to look forward. The passion within our team has never been stronger, and our vision for the future has never been clearer. There are still so many animals to reach, communities to support, and opportunities to create meaningful impact and lasting change. Thank you for being part of our story so far. After 40 years of care and compassion, we truly believe we are only just getting started.



Teagan Schwerin
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS



9 October
World Animal Day Breakfast
Kelvin Grove, Claremont



29 October
Golf Day
Westlake Golf Club, Westlake



THE LAUNCH OF MOBILE CLINIC 3

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, including individuals and Trusts, we're thrilled to report significant progress in our fundraising campaign for the new Mobile Clinic.

We've raised enough to purchase the vehicle! But our work isn't done yet. The vehicle still needs to be fully converted into a working clinic, and we need funds to cover ongoing costs such as medication, petrol, vehicle insurance, and other operational needs for the year ahead.

This Mobile Clinic will be a lifeline to animals whose owners have no access to veterinary care.

In many of the under-resourced communities we serve, there are simply no nearby vet facilities, and no means to travel to one. By taking our services directly to these areas, we'll ensure that pets get the treatment they desperately need: from vaccinations and parasite control to wound care and emergency support.

We're calling on animal lovers to help us go the distance. Monthly donations, even just R50 a month, can make a lasting impact and help us bring compassionate, affordable care to the animals who need it most.



Please consider becoming a monthly donor and joining the compassionate community making Mobile 3 a reality.

A DEFINING MOMENT FOR OUR TEAM

During one of ARO's Mass Animal Sterilisation Project days in Ravensmead last year, our team noticed something they could not ignore. Just beyond the area we were working in, in Freedom Farm near the airport, large numbers of dogs were suffering from severe mange. Some were in heartbreaking condition.

What followed became a defining moment for our team. Instead of walking away, ARO stepped in with patience, compassion, and a commitment to building trust within the community. The dogs - Bones, Chips, Tessa, Cymos, Meisie, and King - were all suffering from severe mange, with some in such painful condition that their recovery felt uncertain. Treating them was not easy. In fact, four ARO staff members contracted scabies themselves while caring for the dogs, a stark reminder of just how severe the infections were. Yet the team continued, determined not to give up on them.

Through ongoing treatment, education, and support, the transformation of both the dogs and their owners has been remarkable. We have continued checking in on the animals regularly, and seeing them healthy, comfortable, and thriving today has been incredibly rewarding for our team. Families who were once fearful of animal welfare organisations are now working alongside us, and more residents in the area have begun reaching out for help with their pets.

These dogs reminded us why accessible veterinary care matters so deeply, and they inspired our team to become more involved in the area long-term. As a result, Freedom Farm has now been added to ARO's Mobile Clinic schedule, alongside several other new communities identified as needing greater support.

With the launch of Mobile 3, ARO is now able to expand its reach further than ever before. Having three Mobile Clinics on the road means we can respond to more communities, provide more follow-up care, and continue building lasting relationships with the people and animals who need us most. This is what sustainable animal welfare looks like. And this is what ARO stands for.



40TH BIRTHDAY RAFFLE

CELEBRATING
40 Years

40 years of compassion, care, and community – and we're just getting started

WIN R40,000
MORE INCREDIBLE PRIZES

- R40,000 CASH PRIZE
- 2 NIGHT MIDWEEK STAY LAVENDER FARM BOUTIQUE GUEST HOUSE, FRANSCHHOEK (VALUED AT R12,000)
- DIAMOND EARRINGS (VALUED AT R12,000)

YOUR TICKET PROVIDES VITAL CARE FOR ANIMALS

As ARO celebrates 40 Years of Care and Compassion, we invite you to join our 40th Birthday Fundraising Raffle and help us continue making a difference for animals in need.

For four decades, ARO has provided accessible veterinary care to pets in under-resourced communities across Cape Town. Now, as we grow our impact and expand our outreach, every raffle ticket sold helps us continue this vital work.

By entering, you not only stand a chance to win incredible prizes, but you also become part of the next chapter of ARO's story.

Celebrate our Ruby Anniversary with us, because after 40 years of care and compassion, we're just getting started.

Get your tickets here:





HOW LAUREN SUPPORTS ANIMALS BEYOND CASH DONATIONS

How did you first become involved in donating items to ARO's charity shops?

I first started donating to the ARO shops about 5 years ago, after learning about the free collection service at the second-hand goods market in Rondebosch.

What made you decide to donate second-hand goods rather than dispose of them another way?

When I learned that the goods would be collected free of charge, at my convenience, it was a no-brainer! Not only would I easily be able to clear out unwanted goods, but the bonus was that I would be helping an amazing organization!

What does donating to a charity shop mean to you personally?

On a personal level, I absolutely adore my three rescue kitties — they bring me so much love and joy, and I want all animals to have the chance to live happy, healthy lives. Supporting ARO in this way gives me a real sense of satisfaction. I also love the idea of thrifting and the saying that one person's trash is another person's treasure. Knowing my items will be reused and appreciated, rather than ending up in landfill, makes donating feel even more meaningful.

What do you enjoy most about supporting ARO through item donations?

Donating to ARO's charity shops brings me joy because I know that the goods will be sold for cash, and the funds realised will be used for the benefit of all the animals in the poorest communities who really rely on charitable assistance. So the thought that my donation of goods is hugely impactful makes me so very happy.

What would you say to someone considering donating to ARO's charity shops for the first time?

If you are thinking about donating to ARO and have not done so before, I can assure you that your granny's old Tupperware sitting in the back of your cupboard might only sell for R20, but imagine all the twenty Rands; they all add up, and before you know it, you've got enough money to cover one sterilisation. Consider this: one female dog and her offspring can potentially lead to over 67000 puppies in just 6 years. Plus, collection is free and can be arranged at a time that suits you. Now that's a win/win.

CALLING ALL 1986 BABIES

AND ANYONE CELEBRATING A BIG BIRTHDAY MILESTONE!

This year, as ARO celebrates 40 Years of Care and Compassion, why not turn your 40th birthday into a celebration that changes lives?

Instead of traditional gifts, ask friends and family to contribute towards sterilisations for pets in need, one of the most powerful ways to create long-term impact for animals and communities. Guests can also bring dog or cat food, or donate good-quality second-hand goods for resale in our charity shops.

Your birthday could help prevent suffering, reduce unwanted litters, and support accessible veterinary care for families who love their pets but need a helping hand.

Want to make your birthday fundraiser a success? We would love to help with ideas, collection tins, social media support, and guidance.

Contact Head of Fundraising, Lindsey Concer, at lindsey@animalrescue.org.za to get started.

Now that's a birthday worth celebrating.

