

In This Issue

Coordinator's
Message
page 1

A Dog's Tale
page 2

Membership
page 3

Upcoming Events
page 3

Flea Market Info
page 4

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St. Croix AWC.

Please mail your
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contribution
envelope.
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your support!*

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Visit
our website
StCroixAWC.org
Find out how you
can help the
animals today!

The facts and fiction of St. Croix AWC

The St. Croix Animal Welfare Center (AWC) has been in existence for more than 35 years and we are the only full service animal rescue organization on St. Croix. Long time residents on St. Croix have witnessed our works first hand in the decreased number of roaming dogs and cats. However, a number of misconceptions exist about our work. I'd like to address some of the myths and facts regarding the St. Croix Animal Welfare Center.

Fact: We are both a nonprofit and a government contractor. AWC provides the essential public health and public safety service of animal control.

Myth: The government contract fully funds this work---the VI government pays only \$45,000 or less than 10 percent of what it costs our organization to do the job. Why does it cost so much?

Fact: We handle more animals per capita than the municipal shelters of New York City and Los Angeles. The surrender rate in St. Croix is 10 times higher than in these cities. The majority of the animals surrendered to the Center are owned, not stray. The majority of these animals suffers from neglect and quite possibly has never seen a vet.

Myth: There is a fee for pet drop off. There is NO fee for surrendering any animal and we accept animals in any health condition.

Fact: Animals are dumped on the road sides and in our landfills and trash sites. Since there is no fresh water source on St. Croix, it makes it very difficult for an animal to survive.

Fact: Dumping is illegal---so is allowing your dog to roam off leash, denying your dog vet care and failing to license your dog.

Myth: Animal control staff are animal cops. We do collaborate with VIPD in crimes that involve animals and any crime scenes where animals are found, but we are not cops and have no enforcement authority.

Fact: The AWC Humane Education department visits public and private schools on island to teach kindness, safety, respect and deliver character education and to make a difference in the lives of our youth.

Fact: Every day our staff of a dozen people handle hundreds of animals: everyday, 7 days per week. Every day we educate, we clean, feed, and medicate, every day we find homes, Every day we fight abuse, Every day we promote spay/neuter. Everyday we accept ANY animal. And Everyday, Every minute of the day we LOVE.

Gretchen Sherrill, Shelter Coordinator

DOGS TALES and the SEA TURTLES

My name is Moises, “The Dog Man”. I am here to tell you special tales and one with a salty twist.

Dogs come into the shelter rescued from many situations and they tell me of the journey that brought them to us.

Birdy, a black lab, was abandoned by her owners. She looked and looked for them, but could not find them. One day while she was searching, she could hear other dogs barking. She walked towards the sounds of the other dogs. An employee of the Center found her (thin, ribs showing) by the road and brought her inside. Birdy has a safe haven where she is fed gets exercise, but she’s still seeking a forever home with people who won’t let her down.

Frankie is a little spunky golden puppy. He was rescued from a busy highway. No bigger than a sack of sugar and not visible to many of the cars that raced by, Frankie, froze in terror. A kind lady did see him, though, and he found a temporary home with me and the rest of the Animal Welfare Center staff. But, Frankie was, indeed, a lucky dog. He found a forever home and went from a dangerous life on the road to a warm bed and a loving family.

Some of our animals swam to us—yes—really! Jack fell into an old swimming pool and swam all night before neighbors found him; I was called, and rescued him. Waldo splashed around in a mostly empty cistern for nearly a week before I was called to help him.

And Sonya was lost at the beach before she came to us. She was frightened to come down from the rocks to me and she told me so. She growled at me “Go Away,”

I smiled and told her, “It was so difficult to get to you. I walked a mile down this sandy beach, I navigated past the rocky waters, but I love animals so much that I’ve brought help and food and water to you.”

Sonya cocked her black and golden head and looked at me with her big brown eyes and said “Well your good friends told me there are people on land who care. I guess they were right. ”

“Good friends?” I asked in surprise. She told me that while she was living at the beach she slept in a shallow cave, and many creatures were coming by to talk to her. Shiny fish jumped out of the water to say hi, crabs walked into the cave to check on her, and a sea turtle swam by to offer comfort.

Sonya went on: “The turtle said for me not to worry. She said when she was little, she and fifty of her brothers and sisters were thrown in a bucket by a man who wanted to use them as live bait. While they were in the bucket, they heard children’s voices shouting ‘Hey mister! You can’t do that. Why are you using them as bait? We are going to call the animal place and the police to arrest you!’ Then they left. The man kept reaching in and taking her siblings for bait. Finally they heard a commotion-it was the kids! They had called a man who protects animals and he tried to convince the fisherman to give the turtles up. When the man tried to walk away, the kids grabbed the bucket from him, and said ‘See? I told you, here they are!’”

I was shocked. I remembered getting the call about those turtles about eleven years ago. We brought them back to the shelter and called someone to release them back into the water. Some of them survived!

Sonya said: “The turtle, she wanted me to thank you on behalf of her siblings for saving them that day. She also told me that if I ever run into a tall man with beads and a cross around his neck, to go with him because he is a good person. He likes dogs and can take me to a place with other dogs and nice people. I guess there really are people out there who care about ALL animals!”

The dogs’ stories are true, and illustrates that the AWC doesn’t just rescue dogs and cats. Your contributions allow us to continue to do the right thing for animals of all sizes and shapes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 7th • Adoptions and Shop for the Shelter at Cost U Less

November 22nd • Art d' Animal at Top Hat—champagne buffet plus expo of art by featured artists and art painted by our pets

November 27th & 28th • Black Friday Cats 5th Ave Sale—AWC Flea Market

February 13th • Fur Ball—*Save the Date*

Have a couple of hours to spare? Volunteer for one of our events! Contact info@stcroixawc.org or call 778-1650

Local Merchants Specials Support AWC

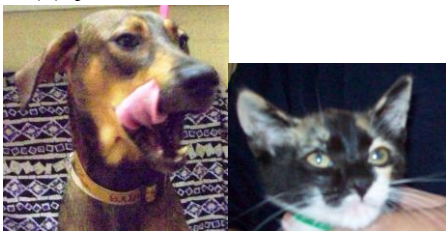
The Bubble Bistro

Fifteen percent of each bar of natural pet soap sold online or in store by The Bubble Bistro in downtown Christiansted will be donated to St. Croix AWC. Place a wholesale order of natural pet soap and 10 percent of the order is donated to our animals. Pricing is available for bulk and retail opportunities w/ Free Local Delivery. Call 201-7865 for more info.

Dive Experience

On third Sat of every month bring in three cans of dog or cat food and get 20% off all dive gear at the Dive Experience store that day. Skeeter is hosting this monthly food drive to help his friends at AWC. For more info call 773-3307.

Happy Tails!



Congrats to Razor (dog) and What's It Not (cat) on their adoptions. Both pets had been at AWC since April 2009 and both were adopted in September.

Become A Member Today!

St. Croix AWC works diligently to be the voice of hungry, hurt, homeless cats and dogs of St. Croix, but we need your support. Consider becoming a member today.

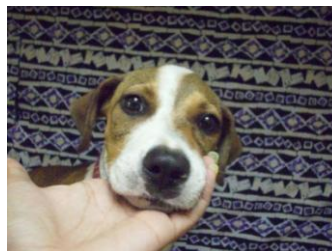
- **Individual-\$35, Corporate-\$100**
- Membership benefits include newsletter, bumper sticker, and election vote at our annual meeting
- Join online via Pay Pal at www.StCroixAWC.org
- Mail membership to RR2 Kingshill, VI 00850

Join us to support our mission as a haven for the animals of St. Croix.

ADOPT ME!

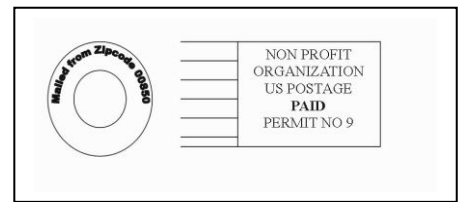
Hi, I'm Shabby.
I've got lovely blue eyes
and lovely personality to
match. Come see me
during adoption hours.

Adoption Hours:
12:30 to 5 p.m.
Monday-thru-
Saturday



My name is Cane. I am a
spunky, short-legged pup just
waiting for someone to make
me a part of their family.
Come meet me today!

**St. Croix
ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER
RR2 #32 Clifton Hill
Kingshill, VI 00850**

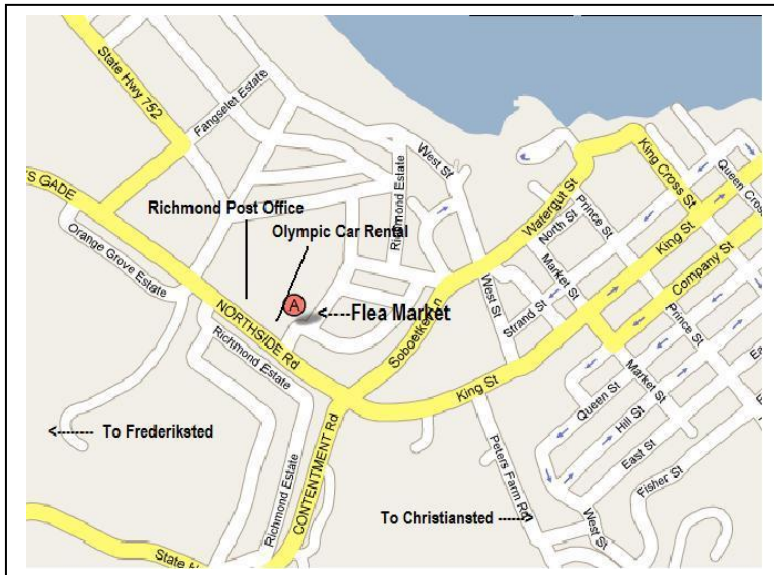


www.StCroixAWC.org

Our mission is to provide and promote the humane treatment of animals through humane education, animal protection and community service.



Paws and Ponder is sponsored by A Better Copy, Inc. 52 Company St. Christiansted, VI



Flea Market – The AWC’s flea market has a new location, close to downtown Christiansted.

To get there:

Driving in the direction of Christiansted, take the first left past The Richmond Post Office and Olympic Car Rental. You will see a pink colored building with garage bay doors (just behind Arch and The Village). The flea market is right inside.

Donations may be dropped off at the store, please call for pick-up of large items.

10am - 4pm

Tues-Sat

Phone # 692-5355

AWC Board of Directors

Jennie Parrish, president
Donna Gay, vice president
Bernadette Szajna, treasurer
Karen Poates, secretary
Mike Evans
John Merlo
Emily Shoup
John Schuster

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Socialize dogs or cats, help with special events, put up posters, and much more

Contact

info@stcroixawc.org

AWC Hours:

8:30am-5:00pm
Mon-Sat

Adoptions:

12:30-5:00pm
Mon-Sat