

# Newsletter Animal Shelter Bonaire

March 2008, volume 8, issue 1

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## Personal Animal Shelter:

- Marlies Tiepel (manager)
- Monique Degenaar
- Kenneth Piar

## Board:

- Paul Wichers  
 President of the board
- Babs Domburg
- Jan Kerklaan
- Hans Wennink

## New manager: Marlies Tiepel



Anyone who knows the animal shelter Bonaire, knows Marlies. She has been working there since September 2005. Marlies came with her friend Annemieke to Bonaire to extend their bungalow renting business. But renting bungalows is a bit drab according to Marlies. Once she told her predecessor Michelle that her job at the shelter really was the only job she wanted to do. That's why Michelle gave her a tip when she choose another job.

In the mean time she got used to the ins and outs of the animal shelter, and the board found Marlies a good follow up candidate for Jurrie Mellema. Naturally she chose her own way, because that's the nature of man. But Marlies is not working on her own. She runs the shelter **together** with all volunteers, Kenneth and (especially) Monique. Marlies is the boss, although she doesn't like to use that word.

She prefers to work in a companiable way based on equivalence. That works well.

She doesn't like to talk about herself: "nothing special". Fortunately her parents come by, though Marlies tells them – smiling – not to tell anything compromising, otherwise they can forget a next visit to Bonaire. So there are only general remarks. Marlies is 42 years old and the eldest of three girls. At home there was always a dog. She studied cultural antropology (ethnology), run together with Annemieke a furniture shop, and worked several years at the Ministry of Economical Business.

About the animal shelter and the work she tells the more. Her goal is to make a good running business from the shelter, that can finance itself. Everything has to look excellent and all the people on Bonaire have to know that the animal shelter and the sterilization fund exist.

The main goal of the shelter is to help people take better care of their pets. Marlies underlines that this goes for all nationalities. It is often said that only Antillians take bad care for their pets, but that is definitely not true. It is true that an Antillian lives in another way with his pets, but also Dutch and American people bring their pet just as easily to the shelter if they cannot use them anymore.

The most pleasure Marlies takes in trying to socialize very difficult dogs, in which nobody has confidence.

**Continuation: New manager**

It succeeds far from always, but any success gives a big satisfaction. The most disappointing are the people that at cleaning their houses for the holidays, not only take away their mess, but also their animals. Further more she was confronted with a boy, that brought a nest of puppies for the hundredth time. She advised him to get the mother-dog sterilized, but the boys answer was: "I won't do that, I bring the pups to you". No need to say that Marlies denied him the access to the shelter.



*The shop*

One of her wishes, to start a little shop at the shelter, has come true. All the things that can be bought, are donated. Of course the proceeds are for the animal shelter. Another wish of Marlies is to make the sterilization fund so well known, that the number of street dogs and cats, with often a miserable life, will be diminished.

**President: satisfied, but improvement is always possible**

As president of the board from the Animal Shelter Bonaire I look back satisfied on the past year. Even during the past year there were more cruise boats visiting Bonaire and the animal shelter scores well on the markets that are organized for the cruise passengers. Of course the people of Bonaire wish the animal shelter well, but foreign money is not only good for the shelter, but also for Bonaire. It means extra, "new" money.

I am also glad that the board was able to appoint a new manager. A new wind brings always new and different things. Of course we still have wishes; improvement is always possible. The board would like to make a **real** difference with sterilizations. Our biggest dream is to sterilize about 500 dogs with one action. We think we can realize that with a working method we choose several years ago. It is true that the number of sterilizations was smaller then, but when we tackle it in a bigger way, it must be possible. We achieved the execution of the action with the willingness of several veterinarians from Holland, America and Bonaire itself. Of course it requires sponsoring and subsidizing, but with that it must be possible to make our dream come true. The board is very busy with it.

Furthermore it would be great if we could improve dog-catching. It has to be more effective. That needs not directly a lot of money but rather many hands. I ask everyone, who reads this newsletter, to come with ideas that end the big wild-dog problem by catching them.

Though the animal shelter is known on the island, it can be better. It takes a promotion video to show on markets and schools. Right now we use the video from Curacao, but of course that is not Bonaire. Is there anyone, who reads this newsletter, who can make such a promotion video, or who knows somebody who is willing to do that for the animal shelter?

The board likes also in 2008 to count on your support. Your support really makes the difference for the animal shelter

Paul Wichers  
President of the Board  
Animal Shelter Bonaire

**Statistics**

	Dogs		Cats		Total	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Present at the shelter on Jan. 1	33	34	15	12	48	46
New entrances	334	487	72	97	406	584
Outplacements	96	134	40	52	136	186
Fallen asleep	237	361	35	46	272	407
Present at the shelter on Dec. 31	34	26	12	11	46	37

**Activities calender**

February 17 f	Volunteer meeting
April 30	Booth on Dia di Rincon
July/august	Meeting volunteers
October 4	Animal day/dog wash
October	Regatta
Monthly	Flee market Parke
(1st saturday)	Publico Bonairiano
Cruise season	Cruise market

Volunteers of the Animal Shelter Bonaire:

- Akkie Boonstra
- Marijke van de Brink
- Mevrouw J. van Brussel-Asmoredjo
- Mr. M. van Brussel
- Ans Donker
- Marjolijn Eilebrecht
- Edith Foks
- Amandy Gaston
- Kyl Gaston
- Ellen Hacken
- Joyce Hacken
- Melody Hamilton
- Jacqueline Hettinga
- Amber Jasperse
- Carla Jimenez
- Amina Kromodimedjo
- Dabney Lassiter
- Jane Madden
- Jim Madden
- Barbara van Olphen
- Don Ricks
- Mrs. R. Sanders
- Mary di Sanza
- Helma Schreuder
- Mrs. G. Tjauw-Foe
- Mrs. M. Watt
- Nora de Windt



From: The Bonaire Reporter September 28 – October 12 2007

**Doggy myths**

One of the first things people mention when they talk about Bonaire is its tranquillity. I am also one of those people who like the peace and quiet of this island. But that serenity is often being brutally disturbed. Just when I want to have a nice and well-deserved lie-in, the neighbour's dog starts howling and barking at 5 o'clock Sunday morning. If one dog starts, the others in the neighbourhood will soon follow the pack, and before you know it your calm island is covered in an avalanche of noise. I have come to think that this is a result of a belief in a number of myths about dogs.

**Myth 1: When I chain my dog it will become a good watch-dog**

Tying up a dog will only make the dog frustrated and mentally unsound (like my neighbour's dog). The need to roam is in the dog's nature. Keeping a dog on a short chain will only accomplish that is will start barking at nothing and keep going for hours on end. It will not be a watch-dog because who will check if something is wrong if it is always barking? Also, a frustrated dog is a potentially dangerous dog. What happens if that chain should break? You may be big enough for it to only bite you in your calf, but I shudder at the thought of what it can do to a two year old.

You can get a watch-dog with a lot of attention and training. A dog wants to belong to a pack. If you make your family its pack, it will defend it till the end of time... without chain.

**Myth 2: Dogs bark; there is nothing I can do about that**

Indeed, they will bark. But you can train them to shut up. If you can train your dog to listen to its name, you can certainly train your dog to stop barking when you want it to. All it takes is a little effort and time. The best tools you can use while training your dog are your voice and posture. If you say, "You horrible, smelly, excuse of a dog" in a sweet, melodious and high-pitched voice, your dog will come wagging its tail. It does not understand what you are saying, but it will understand the tone of your voice. Dogs have an instinct to follow a leader. If you stand like a leader, it will follow you to the end of the world... without barking.

**Myth 3: You need to chain a newly-brought puppy, otherwise it will run away**

Dogs are one of most easily bribed mammals of this planet. All it takes is a little affection and food. You will find that you have just made friends for life. If you want to leave and your yard is not fenced, it will be wise to keep the puppy in a secure area for a short while. Your new friend will try to follow you when you leave. If you are the hand that feeds it and if you praise your dog when it does what you want, it will stay put... without a chain.

**Myth 4: My dog digs holes in the yard out of pure spite**

Dogs are mostly binary creatures. They either do or don't. And when they do, it is not because they want to get back at you. While they are pulling your laundry off the line, you will not find one vengeful thought in their minds. Jealousy, vengeance, spite, and envy are merely human emotions.

If your dog is destroying your property it is because it is bored out of its mind. Dogs need exercise. You need to walk your dog every day for at least one and a half hours so it can spend its energy. A nice bonus is that you also will get your own daily exercise... without holes in the yard.

Dogs which are well-cared for and well trained will make Bonaire an even more peaceful island. A well-trained dog will be one of the most joyful and faithful animals you can find on this earth. When you are considering getting a dog, but you find that all that care and training is too tedious and time-consuming, remember that NOT getting a dog is also one of the options. It will ensure that you can sleep without disturbance... and your neighbours as well.

Mary Ann Koops (the author is a dog owner and a biology teacher at the SGB)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Art Auction

The date is 7 December 2007. This day gets the sign of fundraising for the Animal Shelter Bonaire. The night starts with an Indonesian dinner for which people could have bought a dish. As it is close to Christmas the night has gotten a Christmas atmosphere. All eating sponsors wear red Christmas ribbons and they are singing Christmas songs, commanded by Kreater, the recently started pop choir.

At eight thirty the auction is starting. Sunrise restaurant at Sand Dollar is flocked with people. On the last moment there is a bit stress numbering all lots. There are many beautiful things delivered to sell. Not only artists gave their masterpieces, but also Bonairean business-people have contributed. Clearly many people wish the animal shelter well.

Auctioneer René Essink, accompanied by assistant Anniek, starts with the first lot. The tension is rising. The bidding is still laborious, alas the opening bid is not increased, but Teachers example from Janice Huckaby gets sold!

The audience is running warm and waving generously with their signs.

The man next to me wants all three pictures from Bert Poyck and succeeds. Another three lots are sold!

And that's the way it goes on. There is a lot of enthusiasm for the three certificates pop choir Kreater is offering: 30 minutes your own private choir.

The prices for the roundtrip with Kontika di Amor get raised by offering two beach towels from Carribean Homes. The jewels from Stefan are very well received. So are the books from Dos and Bertie Winkel. They autograph their new book at December 13 and promise the Animal Shelter to donate Naf. 10,- for every sold book.

At a certain moment auctioneer René Essink makes it extra exciting by bidding himself too. The lot with the highest bid is the beautiful painting Smile of Freedom from Christel Cosijn, but also the proceeds for the windgong from Germaine Nijdam and Hummingbird Feeding are special. Whether the proceeds are high or not, they are all very appreciated. The total auction proceeds are more than Naf. 15.500,-.

René Essink from Carribean Homes liked it a lot to be auctioneer. He approves as being part of the Bonairean community to contribute to that community and next to that it is fun to meet people.

Richard Duijn, one of the most fanatic bidders of the evening, leaves with a painted plate from Ady Figaroa, the Dolphin from Teri Jones, a voucher for an animal portrait by Sign Studio and all the other things he has bought. His reason to be on this special night? "I adore dogs, have four myself. How much I spent? No idea, and I don't want to know either!"

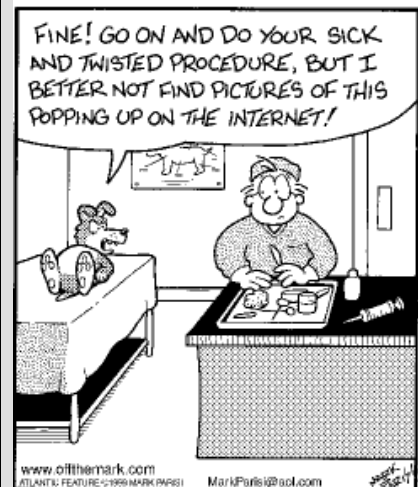
## Why???

... is an animal taken to the Animal Shelter?

Owner is allergic	1%
Animal runs away/jumps over the fence	2%
Animal is too wild	2%
Animal troubles neighbours	2%
Animal bites/is aggressive	3%
Animal is a fighter	4%
Animal is dumped on te shelter's grounds	6%
Owner is moving/emigrating	7%
Animal is sick/wounded	7%
Different	7%
Animal from the street	14%
Found	20%
Owner has to many animals	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**What does this make clear??**

**Sterilize!!**



**Jan Kerklaan: new board member**

Jan Kerklaan has recently lined up as new board member, in function as secretary. To get insight in Jan's motives we put several questions to him.

*What is the profile from the ideal board member of an animal shelter?*

Being interested in animal welfare in general, offering an active and worthwhile contribution to the board.

*Why are you in the board of the animal shelter?*

To create together with the board good conditions to improve the animal welfare,

*What is animal suffering?*

You can split that in deliberate animal assault and animal neglect. Animal assault is among others inflicting injury intentionally to animals. Animal neglect can be letting a pet live on your grounds or even worse, on a (short) chain without water or any shelter against the sun.

*Does that occur on Bonaire?*

As in every country there is animal assault on Bonaire. The cases between assault and neglect, as chaining on the grounds near the house, sometimes without water and shelter against the sun, you still find here, unfortunately. Also the problem of loose and ignored dogs is on Bonaire comprehensive.

*What is animal joy?*

If a pet/animal is well taken care of and the circumstances of living from animals in the wild are taken into.

*What is the part of the animal shelter in it?*

The animal shelter plays an important part in it. As a habitant of Bonaire it is impossible to have a reason to dump your pet or leave it behind. You can always bring animals, pups etc. to the shelter. The animal shelter has a sterilization program so that everybody, also the people with less financial capacity, can have sterilized their pet.

Another important part is giving education and information about the animal shelter, as well as by stimulating the concern of the youth with open days, volunteering, dog wash etc.

The pension function of the animal shelter is also important. On the one site to generate income and on the other site to provide the need of giving pets shelter and care during vacations or other circumstances.

*Which improvements do you like to see in the working method of the animal shelter?*

I find that the present manager runs the shelter excellent with her co-operator and volunteers. We, the board, must provide the facilities, so that they can keep up that excellent work.

*Do you have a personal goal in it?*

Together with the other board members provide that the animal shelter can give good shelter and good care. The provisions must be in such a way that the personnel, including the volunteers, can keep doing their work for the animal with pleasure.

**Cruise market**

For every cruise ship visiting Bonaire a market is organized. There are many cruise ships who know to visit Bonaire. Amina and Mandy, volunteers from the animal shelter took the initiative to be at the market with a booth for the animal shelter. The booth is filled with T-shirts, old license plates, and several other things. Centered on the front table is a donation box for the sterilization fund.

Amina and Mandy are very successful in selling the articles and stimulating the cruise passengers into donating money for the sterilization fund. Maybe it is because they always bring their dogs. And who can resist anything, when he is looking a dog in his beautiful brown eyes?



*Smile, Bonaire ta dushi!!*

**Wanted**

Co-operator for the animal shelter for 10 hours per week Interested? Contact Marlies, phone 717 4989.

## Did you know that....?

...there are people coming to the animal shelter to get a watch-dog? A watch-dog? Yes, and it has to be a real mean one! Now, the animal shelter doesn't have those. All dogs at the animal shelter are sweet and are brought up with that goal. Of course there are dogs that bark and thus can give the alarm, but biting, no, therefore the animal shelter is the wrong address!



... that the permanent co-operator of the animal shelter, Kenneth Piar, is celebrating his 15th anniversary at the shelter this year? In the next issue of the newsletter we let Kenneth tell about his experiences.

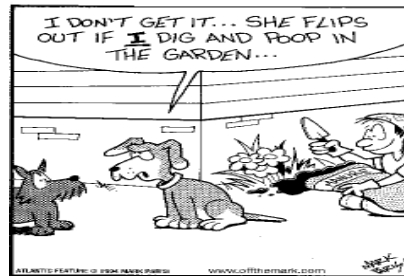
...the animal shelter does much for schools in combination with Stinapa? The schools are told what the animal shelter can do for the well-being of animals and the students are allowed to take a close look of the dogs and cats and hug them.

...the animal shelter is more occupied than before? We have a boarding-kennel! Every cat or dog, that is vaccinated, flea- and tick-free and doesn't attack, is welcome. Although it is much work for the co-operators, they are happy to pamper your pets, because it brings money to the animal shelter. This year the pension will be tidied up, so it will become a better "hotel" for your pets.

... the shelter has a booth on the monthly flea-market at the Parke Publico Bonairiano, to sell used items, but mainly books and clothes? Everyone who has books and/or clothes (or other items) that he or she is not using anymore, can donate these to the shelter to be sold to obtain money for the shelter.

... the animal shelter can really use your financial support? Call our treasurer: 717 3207, or fax 717 3257 or email [asecom@bonairenet.com](mailto:asecom@bonairenet.com)

...the animal shelter was crowded around Christmas with all the puppies, kittens, and mature animals, that were not welcome for Christmas and so the people brought them to the shelter? Fortunately we have found a new home for most of the animals.



## Animal day

Thursday the 4th October 2007 it was another animal day. A perfect opportunity for the animal shelter to come with a special action. Former years gave evidence of the success of a dog wash, because that a way to enjoy your pet.



Brian and Phyllis are very fond of their three dogs and found that they deserved a little extra attention and so they went to the animal shelter.

Especially Dylan couldn't get enough of his washing-turn. And although Brian thought the dogs have more than enough toys, Phyllis thought that the dogs couldn't be pampered enough. So she bought another pair of toys for the dogs.

The animal shelter is very glad with all the support everybody showed on animal day and thanks everybody very much.

