



Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

Photo courtesy of Karl Backus

Monthly News & Updates

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June 2022 Newsletter



*A lost or abandoned dog found on Waika'alulu Rd.
(Credit: Dianne Higgins)*

Lost, Abandoned, Abused Animals

A Crisis for our Hāmākua Communities.

Ruth Bennett,
.PMKCA VP

A frightened young female dog, growling and unapproachable, sought shelter under Francis and Dianne Higgins' house a few weeks ago. Unable to keep the dog, Dianne asked me to send an email notice to the PMKCA mailing list.

Reading the email, another resident of Pa'auilo Mauka, Val Kim, contacted Dianne with a similar experience. Val had just discovered a starving dog with two puppies on her property. The two women shared their experiences with me. What these two compassionate residents of the Pa'auilo Mauka and Kalōpā communities found – and didn't find – prompted this article.

Most of us don't know what to do about a lost, abandoned, abused, dangerous or feral animal until the crisis has come to live on our road or under our lanai. We could take an animal in, but what if we can't? Where do we go for help – to give the animal a chance at survival?

We encounter animals in need and at risk all the time. Dogs and cats abandoned on rural roads, kittens trying to find food at transfer stations, starving horses in bare pastures, milk cows left in the wake of a closed dairy, feral goats and donkeys in the rough lands along the high road, and chickens everywhere.

Household pets and livestock have increasingly been at risk in recent years. The 2018 volcanic eruption scattered Puna families and their animals throughout the less affected areas of the Island of Hawai'i. The COVID 19 pandemic stressed families economically and disrupted normal household patterns to the point that animals suffered along with our 'ohana.

During these recent years, non-profit organizations and county agencies with missions to help the island's animals were also financially stressed and inundated with animals needing care.

When Dianne and Val went searching for help, they didn't find the owners; instead, they encountered a maze of confusing and inconsistent organizations and policies, from a police division with a mission to control animal-related "problems," to animal sanctuaries with commitments to lifelong animal well-being.

Each organization was struggling to take on some part of the fulfillment of the bargain that humans have made with domesticated animals. We humans say, "Give me something I need – companionship, security, a product I value, an experience that is meaningful – and I will CARE for you and keep you safe." When we don't fulfill that bargain, animals suffer.

As Dianne searched for an alternative someone who might help collect the frightened dog under her lanai, she was eventually guided to Mary Rose Krijgsman, the founder of Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary (rainbowfriends.org).

Mary Rose was out somewhere trying to round up a collection of ducks from another property but promised to come over as soon as the ducks were corralled. It became a bit of hilarity amid misfortune that one of the most central people in animal welfare on the Island of Hawai'i was hampered for several days in rescuing Dianne's "found" dog by a flock of unruly ducks!



Mary Rose, her rescued akita, Maka Maka Fenrir, and volunteers Dayna and Cynthia, at the RFAS Waimea Shelter (Credit: Ruth Bennett)

Mary Rose is unforgettable. Originally from the Netherlands, she has made it her mission to advocate for an effective network of services for abandoned and abused animals on the Island of Hawai'i. She is a forceful campaigner for animal rights and has found herself in some of the controversies that recently have been swirling around our island's animal welfare activities.

Dianne and I visited Mary Rose on a recent Sunday morning at the reopened Waimea shelter, now operated by Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary (RFAS). As we talked under a tree, with a host of happy, barking dogs playing in the background, Mary Rose outlined her philosophy and her mission on behalf of our island's animals. "Caring for an animal begins and ends with each of us, in our communities," Mary Rose said.

She stressed that it is our kuleana, our personal responsibility, to do our best to give our pet or our farmed animal the life that it is suited for and contented with. When an animal is rescued and brought to a shelter, she says, it should only be because a human has been truly unable to fulfill a promise for care.

Mary Rose supports community-based animal welfare education and actions that solve problems before an animal is discarded, mistreated, or becomes a risk to others. When an animal cannot be kept by a family or farm and is given over to "institutional" care, Mary Rose advocates for clear and consistent policies around animal protection and welfare, non-competitive and mutually supportive organizations implementing those policies, and adequate funding, both from government (taxpayer) money and from our own donations, to make these organizations effective over the long term.

There are three prongs to animal welfare currently practiced on the Island of Hawai'i:

Animal “Control”: Since July 2021, the Hawaii County Police, Animal Control Services division (hawaiipolice.com, look under “Services”) has been charged with getting animals off the roads or out of risky situations. Residents searching the website for assistance with an animal concern won’t find it easy to get help. You must first determine the kind and severity of the problem and then choose from different phone numbers to call.

Animals picked up are taken to holding facilities located on the east and west sides of the island. An animal stays there until either an owner finds it, or it is selected by a shelter to be moved into longer term conditions. If an animal isn’t found or selected, ... well, it will likely be disposed of. Killed. A lucky animal that makes it through this gate has a chance of survival.

Besides via Animal Control, animals can be rescued in other ways.

Campaigns to rescue animals have been initiated by individuals concerned about feral animals and highway safety. Several members of our communities are providing homes for donkeys and goats that were brought in from the rough lands along the high road. And a local campaign on the Hāmākua Coast rescued at least some of the O’okala dairy’s forsaken Holstein milk cows.



Holstein cows rescued after the closing of the dairy in O’okala. (Credit: Dianne Higgins)

Animal Shelters and Long-term Care Sanctuaries: There are some non-profit organizations on the Island of Hawai’i that provide temporary or long-term homes with relatively natural living conditions to abandoned or surrendered animals. They generally operate on a “no-kill” basis, providing life-long living situations for animals that come into, or pass through, their facilities.

Here’s a list of some of these organizations and their services. They all appreciate volunteers and donations, and many will offer you a new companion as well!

Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary (rainbowfriends.org) – lifelong care and adoption for dogs and cats, and a few other small species. Spay/neuter clinics are ongoing. The Kurtistown facility is currently not accepting dogs out of courtesy to neighbors, and the Waimea shelter asks that you consult before placement.

Aloha ‘Īlio Rescue (alohailiorescue.com) – a dog fostering and adoption network.

KARES (kareshawaii.org) – No-Kill coordination in fostering, adoption and other services for dogs and cats.

Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS.org) – Receives cats & dogs and facilitates fostering, adoption, and long-term care, but only when space is available in their facilities. Spay/neuter and “end of life” services are available.

Magical Creatures (magicalcreaturessanctuary.org) – The only sanctuary for abandoned, injured, or abused large animals I know of. They provide education, training in animal care, and advocacy for farmed animals. Their facility is in Laupahoehoe.

Animal Health Providers: Some of these same organizations help to provide health services. Local vets volunteer medical services. All facilities advocate for spaying and neutering, and some provide those services, either free or for a reduced rate.

Spaying and neutering our pets give them a chance at a better life and improves conditions for all creatures on our island. Unwanted animals die of neglect every day while others become threats to humans and other creatures. Overpopulation of dogs and cats and heartless budget considerations can force terrible life-ending decisions on some island organizations while others struggle with their mission to allow every animal a natural lifespan.



Mary Rose and Rainbow Friends recently opened the old Humane Society Waimea location, and she is beginning to transform the aged structure and small dark kennels into an animal-supportive facility. She is onsite every day, all day long. While the facility is being renovated, only dogs are being housed, and new animals are only accepted after a discussion with Mary Rose. She welcomes volunteers who assist with walking and socializing the dogs, cleaning, and feeding.

Vivian, a volunteer at the RFAS Waimea Shelter, and Bao Bao (Credit: Ruth Bennett)

The nearly 35 dogs spend their days in open areas, interacting and socializing – and barking! Mary Rose's energy seems as boundless as the dogs' exuberance.

Mary Rose will tell you, forcefully and directly, that the key responsibility for animal welfare belongs with ourselves.

So, what can YOU do, in your home, on your property, and in your community?

- Take an animal into your care with a commitment to give it a fulfilling natural life.
- Spay or neuter your dog or cat to give it a longer, healthier life and to save our island from starving abandoned animals on our roads and at our transfer stations.
- Get to know your neighbor's animals to look out for each other's pets and share animal welfare information. Consider your animals in wildfire or other disaster preparedness.
- Make use of community organizations and message boards for animal issues in your community. Don't wait for Animal Control if a message or phone tree would help.
- Help build an integrated, cohesive, and consistent network of animal services that is funded adequately and that results in an increase in animal lives saved and a reduction in animals born to life at risk.

If you have an animal concern, Mary Rose offers a dedicated phone number **(808 494-8700)** - text or voicemail messages are preferred, calls are not always heard. She can help direct you to the best resolution for you and the animal involved.

Coming PMKCA Meetings

***Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, July 14, 2022, 7pm, Location TBD***

Members are welcome to attend or bring a concern to any Board Member.

We continue to work at the Board and committee level on behalf of our communities. If you have any interests or concerns, we encourage you to email any Board member.

***PMKCA Annual Picnic Meeting in Kalōpā Park
Large Pavilion
Saturday, July 30, 2022, 11am***

After cancelling this happy event for the last two years, we are pleased to say that we will meet in the big pavilion in Kalōpā Park this year! There will be guest speakers, legendary potluck dishes, our ***thrilling BINGO game*** with an extravaganza of donated prizes - and the chance for many of us to see each other for the first time in a LONG time.

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***Seeking a Water, Health & Utilities  
Committee Chairperson***

The chair of this important committee is currently vacant. We are seeking someone who will pay particular attention to our community's needs for ***clean water, effective sanitation, and reliable utilities***. You would keep in touch community residents and county agencies and relay information to the Board for action.

***Oh, and by the way,  
Join PMKCA or Renew Your Membership for 2022!!***

***Dues are only \$20 per year and help support so many great community activities.***

***Click the "Visit our website" link below and choose Membership/Dues. We offer a PayPal option, or mail a check made out to PMKCA to PO Box 408, Pa'auilo, HI 96776. Easy-peasy - and important!***

Visit our website



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