

March 26, 2021 – 10:30AM

Dear KARES Supporters,

With great sadness and disappointment, I feel it is imperative to inform the Big Island community and our clients and followers that we have cancelled our partnership agreement with HRR. (Hawaii Rainbow Rangers)

Ethical differences and practices have arisen, and we can no longer turn a blind eye.

Since the management team of Nick and Gina arrived from the mainland organization of “Best Friends” KARES has given them 100% of our support, homing countless dogs and cats, donating supplies, volunteering, and spending thousands of dollars on medical bills in preparing for adoption.

1) Dogs and cats are now being given away “free” just to empty the shelter. (As we all know free does not have a value.)

More detrimentally is the fact these animals are not given prior heartworm, feline aids/leukemia tests and are leaving the shelter with an array of ailments including upper respiratory infections, eye infections, ring worm, cancerous tumors and some are NOT spay or neutered!!!

2) A dog named Ruffles was euthanized on March 21st at Aina Hou Clinic for behavior concerns. KARES and HRR agreed PRIOR to him losing his life, a complete blood panel and exam, paid for by KARES, was to be performed to rule out any physiological condition. As of today, HRR will still not provide the results of these tests or a bill as proof the pre-euthanization medical work was performed. (Note, another dog on the Hiloside was euthanized much to the dismay of volunteers who stated the dog was not dangerously aggressive.) Are we to begin a slippery slope back to killing?

3) Here is the “last straw” incident ...

A local resident and KARES dog owner, fell injured at a shopping center. She was rushed to the hospital and her emotional support dog, BooBoo was taken by the police to HRR. BooBoo was chipped by KARES in 2017 (Avid chip #600-050-570) and has lived as an emotional support dog with Vanata, his human, until her hospital stay in January 2021.

HRR failed to follow correct procedures by calling AVID the microchip company, who could have identified the dog as being registered to KARES. We would have immediately reunited Vanata with, as she calls Boo Boo, her soulmate and savior.

He has enabled her to get off the street homeless and now Vanata resides in a home with a full support team.

HRR mistakenly rehomed BooBoo and refuses to correct their mistake and this grave injustice. Vanata had called and still calls Nick and Gina every day to no avail. They refuse to speak with her! Vanata even called Gina on her cell phone and when Gina heard it was Vanata she put her on hold and never returned.

I personally have tried to get Gina and Nick to do the right thing and return her dog, but they are back peddling, trying to slap a \$400.00 fine on us, quoting county statues/ laws instead of owning up to their blunder and returning the dog!!!!

Since January Vanata has been trying to find BooBoo on social media and through HRR channels. She even saw him on HRR's website, but they denied it was him knowing full well it was, in fact, BooBoo.

Well, there you have it folks. If our mainland friends, "Best Friends" decide to embrace our aloha spirit and return Vanata's soulmate I will let you know.

If not we may need your help encouraging them.

Stay tuned.

Debbie Cravatta
KARES
Founder, President
[#dotherightthing](#)
[#bestfriendsanimalsociety](#)
[#karesrescue](#)

March 27, 2021 – 8:30am

Aloha & Good Morning!

I asked you to stay tuned. After 16,196 views and 94 comments, I have yet to hear one peep out of Gina, Nick, Best Friends.

For those of you who asked, BooBoo is a tan dachshund. Here is the picture that Vanata posted of BooBoo on Craigslist in February, after her numerous attempts to retrieve him from HRR failed.

On another note, we have strong suspicions that the agreed upon bloodwork, that could have possibly saved Ruffle's life, was not performed and therefore cannot be produced.

Lastly, I would thank you for your constant support and financial assistance if needed.

Debbie

Email from:

Gina Burrows

Sat 3/27/2021 12:16 AM

To: Staff_Waimea; Staff_Keaau; Staff_Kona; +2 others

Hey Team,

As many of you have already seen there were some recent allegations leveled against us by KARES regarding an adoption and euthanasia decisions. For those previously unaware of the situation, please rest assured that these events were taken out of context and purposely delivered to the public in a manner and forum designed to undercut the incredible work that we are doing and the strides that we've made since entering interim services back in August.

Nick, Mary Rose, and I are working together to draft a formal statement regarding these claims and in the meantime, we are asking that staff not respond to any Facebook posts or comments regarding HRR. Even under your personal accounts you are still representing the Rangers and we must be exceedingly cautious and prudent in how we choose to move forward.

I know that many of you may have questions or concerns of your own, so I want to take a moment to reassure you that the leadership team is here to answer your questions and hear those concerns, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you want to talk.

Know that grumblings from the public and the accusations of a single person do not in any way detract from the work that you put in each day or the innumerable ways in which you've helped change animal control and sheltering on the Big Island, and for that you should all be proud.

I can wholeheartedly say on behalf of the entire leadership team that you are valued and appreciated more than you know, so please don't let a few incidents take away from the pride you can take in your work.

Please exercise appropriate caution when answering any questions that may come your way from members of the public. Simply express that while events were taken out of context, you understand their concerns and complaints and will pass them on to management to respond to.

Again, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like clarification on any of the above.

Thank you for all you do.

Gina Burrows

Deputy Director of Operations

Hawaii Rainbow Rangers

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March 28, 2021 - 10:28am

Really Gina and HHR Management Team,

You are going to waste precious time, you should be using on shelter responsibilities, to craft a nifty response to these allegations. Why not just do the right things???

1. Give Vanetta her dog, BooBoo, back. Vanetta is a wonderful person who would most likely allow the unsuspecting adoptive family visitation time.
2. Admit and apologize to the community for taking Ruffles' life without performing the pre-medical procedures agreed upon and paid for by KARES or produce the results from Aina Hou Veterinary Clinic. There are some excellent trainers on our island that could have helped Ruffles take the turn and possibly be rehabilitated. Why didn't you reach out to them?
3. If medical bills such as pre-adoption spay and neuter surgery, screenings for contagious infections, etc. are burdening you financially why not reach out to us, "YOUR COMMUNITY TEAM, who when given the chance, could rally by donating funds, help with fundraisers, volunteering to transport animals, all ways to lighten your financial burden.

Please don't spin this to be a "them against us" scenario. We are all supposed to be on the same team. We are the force behind the No Kill movement on our Island.

Debbie
KARES