

Interview Report
Hundtöntarns Förening
Intro-Nonprofit Leader & Mgmt
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I got the chance to interview Barbro Streling, cashier and board member of *Hundtöntarnas Förening* or “*Hundtöntarna*” as they call it. Barbro has a lot of experience and is very engaged in everything that the organization does so she was able to answer all of my questions and more. Hundtöntarna is a Swedish non-profit organization thereof the Swedish name of the organization, if I were to translate the name to English, it would be something like “The Organization of the Dog Jerks”, in this report I will stick to call them “Hundtöntarna”. I choose to arrange an interview with Hundtöntarna since it’s a small local non-profit organization in the city where I’m from. We have talked a lot about bigger non-profits in class and I thought it would be interesting to find out more about a smaller one.

Hundtöntarna started around 8 years ago when dog owners in Kungsbacka city started to regularly plan through Facebook to meet up and take a walk with their dogs together. A year later the Idea had developed into a nonprofit organization. They realized that more people were interested in socializing with other dog owners and also let their dog socialize with other dogs.

The ground concept is still the same today. They have expanded their media from just Facebook to now even Instagram, and their own webpage. This is for people to be able to connect and find out more about the organization. Every Saturday a collective dog walk is arranged by the board and members that are mainly from the city can meet up and join. One gets to try the first two times for free and after that, you have to be a member to be allowed to participate. Anyone can be a member, it doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, you don't even need to have a dog to be a member of the organization. Barbro herself decided to join the organization 3 years ago because of the reason that she got a dog and felt that her dog had the need to meet with other dogs to learn how to act. Barbro also saw this as an opportunity for her to connect with other dog owners. There are also members that join the walks because their

either afraid of dogs and want to overcome their fear or the opposite, they love dogs and want to see and connect with them. There have been those who have been curious about dogs and thought about getting their own, that have joined the organization just to learn from dog owners. The reasons are many and there are no rules about who gets to join the walks except from one, “You can’t hate dogs”- Barbro. The same thing applies to the dogs, any dog that’s 6 months or older can join with their owner, no matter size or breed.

The organization is overall a fun place for dogs and people to connect. But they have a few goals that they are trying to accomplish. The schedule they are working with is an arranged dog walk in Kungsbacka every Saturday, the last Saturday of the month is a so-called Nature Walk. Here is when they meet up at a new place somewhere not too close to the city and enjoy a walk in nature together. They arrange different types of events every now and then. These are typically events where they have someone professional come and speak, answer questions, and interact with those who have a common interest in dogs. Something that they’re working toward and hope to see more of in the future is to place more enclosed dog areas in Kungsbacka City.

The goal is to have a board of 10 people, as of right now they are looking for two new volunteer workers to take over the positions of two that are leaving. Barbro implies how hard it is to find volunteers that have the time to put that amount of effort into a non-paid job. Many say that they would be very interested in a board position if they had the time over to do it. Barbro herself knows exactly how finding time is a problem for people, it was when she retired from her job as an economics teacher that she had time over and could take the job as a cashier. Even though the organization love when people show their interest in joining the board, they still have to be a little conscious about who is in what role. Barbro was for instance a great fit into the role as a cashier with her previous experience and knowledge of economics and accounting. They

once had a volunteer that wanted to join the board without any previous experience so she wasn't qualified for any position, but she was more than welcome to watch and learn without being given responsibility. Other volunteers that only want to work in one or a few sessions are also welcome. As long as they offer any kind of help, they can join. Examples of tasks that those who volunteer at Hundtöntarna can do are to arrange/help arrange walks, connect with members during the walks, teach dog owners things that can be helpful (if experienced). As mentioned, there are no specific rules of one can and can not do. As long as people are willing to help, the organization is going to be welcoming and grateful.

Board roles other than cashier are chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, member manager, sponsor manager, IT manager, and three commissioners. These are on the board for one year before they can decide to leave. The reason why they choose to put one in the role for one year is to not create a feeling that someone was being forced to stay in the organization if they choose to join the board. The chairman's job is to have an agenda for a monthly meeting. A criterion for decisions making is that at least 5 people from the board have to be involved before coming to a conclusion that is presented to the organization. Bigger questions are brought up at the annual meeting together with the members, where the members also get to vote and have a saying on the ideas.

A non-profit organization can't make a profit from what they are doing. My question to Barbro was how they fund the organization and where they get their money from. The members pay \$10 yearly to be a part of the organization. Kungsbacka county donates to every non-profit organization about \$500-\$600 every year to support what they're doing. Last year, due to COVID-19, the county decided to support the organization with \$1000 extra donations because of the decline in participation among the members in the organization. The problem for

Hundtöntarna now is to find out what to use the money for. They don't have any costs that they need the money for, so the plan is to arrange events and have guest speakers available, as well as invest in more enclosed dog areas in the city.