



2017 IMPACT REPORT



THOUSANDS
OF LIVES

changed

Changing Lives for People and Pets



The Animal Rescue League of Iowa, Inc. (ARL) has invested in training and rescue equipment over the years so when disasters arise, we can be there to respond - and 2017 was a year that put that planning and preparation into action.

At the beginning of the year we saw human-created disasters with rabbits and horses needing to be rescued from owners who were not properly caring for them. We also were called upon by authorities at a horrific scene in Sandyville where a self-described “no-kill” rescue group had more than 20 dogs who were near death or had already died.

The ARL was there to help.

Later on in the year as hurricanes Harvey and Irma ravaged the southern coasts, the already overburdened shelters needed a place for their animals to go in order to make room for the hurricane animal victims to arrive. National groups needed help with water rescues for animal victims who were still trapped and also workers to help at their temporary shelter.

The ARL was there to help.

Throughout the year hundreds of homeless animals arrived needing lifesaving medical treatment with nowhere else to turn. Hundreds more families contacted us for resources to keep their pets in their homes. In total, over 10,000 pets arrived at the ARL in 2017.

Each and every time, the ARL was there to help.

As long as there are animals in need, the ARL will continue to be there for years to come, just like we were in 2017.

For the animals,

Tom Colvin, Executive Director

2017

a year of
CHANGED LIVES

The Animal Rescue League of Iowa saw a drastic increase in large-scale animal abuse situations during 2017. We never want to see animals suffering, so we are grateful that we are able to step in and help change the lives of so many animals, thanks to people like you who support our mission.

233
cases &
investigations

47
trained volunteers
for emergency
response

199
animals rescued
from abuse

Sierra and her daughter Willows Dream. Sierra was rescued along with 13 other severely emaciated horses. Once we found out Sierra was pregnant, she was put on a customized plan to safely gain weight. Willows Dream was born healthy and was closely monitored by veterinarians.

CRUELTY INTERVENTION CASES

SANDYVILLE

STRYDER TITAN TUCKER INSPECTOR GADGET ALFREDO

GUS BALOO BENTLY BIJOU MANGO ENZO GATSBY MAZY

In February we assisted in one of the most disturbing animal neglect cases we've seen: the rescue of 19 living dogs and recovery of three deceased dogs in Warren County. Beyond the malnutrition and injuries, many of the dogs were suffering. The person charged in the case was the director of a "no-kill" group described online as being dedicated to rescuing homeless dogs, including "those in danger of abuse or neglect."

One dog was near death when we arrived to assist deputies and was rushed to the nearest veterinarian. She was suffering from shock due to bite wounds and hypothermia. The other 18 dogs were brought to the ARL for immediate care. Our staff worked into the night to begin medical treatment and make the dogs comfortable. Many were underweight, with sores and urine- and feces-stained fur. One dog could barely walk, and it took us four hours to remove 4.5 pounds of matted fur from another. Late into the evening, we carefully documented the dogs' conditions for the eventual court case.

The person responsible was arrested on multiple counts of animal torture, animal neglect and other charges. After a disposition hearing that included testimony from ARL veterinarians and our animal welfare intervention coordinator, a judge ruled the 19 dogs would not be returned to her. Warren County signed them over to our care.

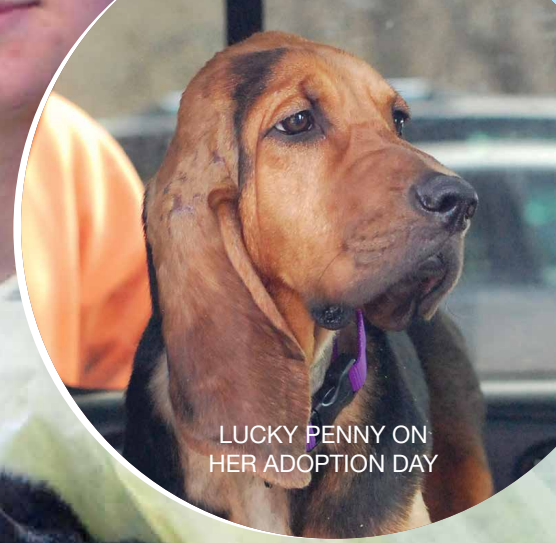
Our staff had been working with the dogs to help them heal emotionally and physically. While some were ready for adoption within days of the ruling, others needed months of rehabilitation. By September, all had new homes.

One of the most heartwarming adoptions was of the dog that was near death at the time of her rescue. Lucky Penny spent weeks in critical care at IVRC, and veterinarians were forced to amputate her left ear. She now has a home with the Warren County Sheriff, one of her rescuers.

In July, the person responsible pleaded guilty to 22 counts of animal neglect. She received more than four years in prison, with all but 30 days suspended, and two years of probation where she is prohibited from owning or possessing pets.

HAPPY JUBILEE LUCKY PENNY MURPHY PANDORA SCARLET

**READ THE FULL STORY:
ARL-IOWA.ORG/SANDYVILLE**



19
dogs rescued
alive

3
dogs found
deceased



CRUELTY INTERVENTION

Horse Rescue

This spring, the ARL assisted in back-to-back rescues of 14 horses in Warren County. Within the span of just five days, we helped remove 10 horses from a property in New Virginia and four more from a property in Indianola. All of the horses were starving and ranged in body conditions from “emaciated” to “very thin.” One of the emaciated mares, Sierra, was also found to be pregnant.

All the horses were placed on a careful feeding schedule and received veterinary care at our Kruidenier Second Chance Ranch. They got daily one-on-one care from our staff and volunteers and slowly began regaining weight and returning to good health. Sierra’s pregnancy was considered high-risk because of her extreme malnutrition, so she spent a couple of weeks with Iowa State University veterinarians before giving birth. Thankfully, there were no complications, and she delivered a healthy filly named Willows Dream.

The owners of both groups of horses voluntarily signed them over to the ARL, so we began working on individualized plans to get them ready for adoption. Many spent time in foster care while they gained weight, and others got extra behavioral help from our staff and volunteers. All of the horses are now happy, healthy and enjoying life. As of press time, six of the horses have been adopted!

The person responsible for the 10 horses from New Virginia entered 1 guilty plea to livestock neglect and the other 10 charges were dismissed. She received a \$65 fine, and no other action.

The person responsible for the four horses from Indianola entered 1 guilty plea to animal neglect – death or serious injury, received a \$315 fine, a 180-day suspended jail sentence, and 1 year probation.

**READ THE FULL STORY:
ARL-IOWA.ORG/HORSERESCUE**

CRUELTY INTERVENTION

Chicken Rescue

The ARL is a safe haven for all animals in need, and in July we assisted Des Moines police in removing 85 chickens and roosters from a suspected cockfighting operation. The birds were brought to the ARL's Kruidenier Second Chance Ranch, where they were examined for evidence in the case and cared for by our rescue ranch team. After ownership of the birds was turned over to the ARL, each bird was individually evaluated for adoption, so we could match them with the right families as pets. The first weekend they were available, more than 30 of the birds found new homes. Eventually all the available birds were placed with new families.

As of press time, sentencing has been scheduled for this case.

READ THE FULL STORY:
ARL-IOWA.ORG/CHICKENRESCUE



CRUELTY INTERVENTION

Rabbit Rescue

In January, ARL Animal Control officers responded to a tip and were horrified to find eight living and one deceased pet rabbits in filthy wire hutches in a Des Moines home. The rabbits had no water or food, and there was an overwhelming amount of urine and feces in their enclosures.

Animal control officers impounded the living rabbits, and the deceased rabbit was sent for a necropsy, where it was determined that it had died of starvation. ARL veterinarians found that four of the living rabbits were "very underweight" or "emaciated." The others were of good weight, but had ear mites and overgrown nails. All the rabbits received the care they needed at the ARL, and within a few months all were adopted.

The person responsible was charged with 5 counts of neglect and entered a guilty plea on all 5. He received a \$610 fine.

READ THE FULL STORY:
ARL-IOWA.ORG/RABBITRESCUE



HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

2017 brought multiple natural disasters in quick succession, and while Iowa was not directly affected, we helped hundreds of these animal victims both on-location and back here at home.

READ THE FULL STORY:
ARL-IOWA.ORG/HURRICANE

3

DEPLOYMENTS

10

**ARL STAFF AND
VOLUNTEERS DEPLOYED**

8,000+

MILES TRAVELED

73

**PETS TRANSFERRED
TO ARL FROM
IMPACTED AREAS**





DEPLOYMENT #1

Hurricane Harvey Texas

After the massive flooding in Texas, the ARL was asked by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to deploy staff trained in water rescues to assist with door-to-door rescues. Two ARL staff members transported our rescue boat to the hurricane-hit areas. Once there, they helped local shelters prepare animals for transport to shelters in Georgia. They also traveled to devastated Rockport, Texas, to assist with stray pets and helped a local shelter with horses in need. The team returned with 17 dogs that were in a Texas shelter prior to the hurricane.

DEPLOYMENT #2

Hurricane Irma Florida

The ARL deployed two members of the mobile rescue team to assist the ASPCA with animal rescues following Hurricane Irma. The team helped with multiple rescues that saved more than 100 pets, and one rescue happened at a house with 60 dogs, cats and exotic birds trapped inside. The animals were transported to safety on a floating dock, and were then relocated to a local church where they were greeted by another team ready to make them comfortable.



DEPLOYMENT #3

Hurricane Irma South Carolina

The ASPCA asked the ARL to assist at a 40,000-square-foot emergency shelter set up in Duncan, South Carolina. The ARL deployed three staff members and three volunteers, and they spent seven days caring for over 600 animals at the shelter. The pets, who were already in the shelter system, had been transported out of Florida and surrounding states before Irma made landfall. The team returned to Iowa with 35 dogs that were placed in our adoption program to find forever homes.



Two fluffy tabby kittens with white chests and paws are sitting on a light-colored, textured carpet. They are looking towards the camera with large, green eyes. In the background, a wire cage is visible, suggesting they are in a shelter or kennel.

Cats. Cats. Cats.

There's a reason we named
2017 the Year of the Cat.

**Cats are the most at-risk
animal in any animal shelter.
The ARL has taken multiple
steps this year to help
improve the lives of cats in
our care for years to come.**



4,062
CATS ADOPTED
IN 2017



Cat apartments on the second floor of the Clowder House.

Since cage size contributes to a shelter cat's stress, we doubled the size of every cat condo in our main building. Where the cats used to have everything they needed in one room, they now have two rooms! One room of each condo now houses the cat's bed, toys, food and water bowls, and scratching post while the other room houses their litter box. This additional space provides comfort for each kitten and cat during their stay at the ARL by reducing stress and stress-related illness.

Doubling the indoor condos meant we needed more condos to still be able to care for the same number of cats as we had prior to the condo expansion. That's where plans to build the Clowder House came to life. Now just 200 yards from our main animal care center you will now see a new building just for cats, named the Clowder House. A "clowder" is a grouping or cluster of cats.

On the first floor of the new Clowder House, cats and kittens who have just arrived are evaluated by our veterinary team to determine what medical care they need to prepare them for adoption. Then, our cat behavior team gets to know each cat's personality so we can find the perfect family.

As we go upstairs, there is a welcoming environment for those cats who have behavior issues and need more space, cats arriving from cruelty seizures such as hoarding cases, and bonded cats who need the extra space. The upstairs cat apartments give the cats more of a real-life living quarters where we can rehabilitate them to become ready for adoption. With specialized air flow and natural sunlight on all four walls, cats can now bask in the sun and experience some comforts of



a home life. In the warmer months, the cats are also able to enjoy fresh air through the windows. The design helps lessen the cats' stress and allows our staff and volunteers to help build trust and continue to interact with and evaluate each one on an individual basis.

Once the cats are ready for adoption, they move from the Clowder House to our Main building or one of our multiple partner and satellite adoption locations to meet their new family and begin a new life.

You can see why we named 2017 the Year of the Cat, but our work doesn't end now that we're in a new year. We will continue to create new and improved experiences for the cats – and all animals in our care – until they are in a home of their own.



1,497
**OWNED PETS
 SPAYED/NEUTERED THROUGH
 FREE & LOW-COST PROGRAMS**

1,823
**PETS RECEIVED
 FOOD ASSISTANCE**

86
**PETS RECEIVED
 CRISIS FOSTER SERVICES**

4,227

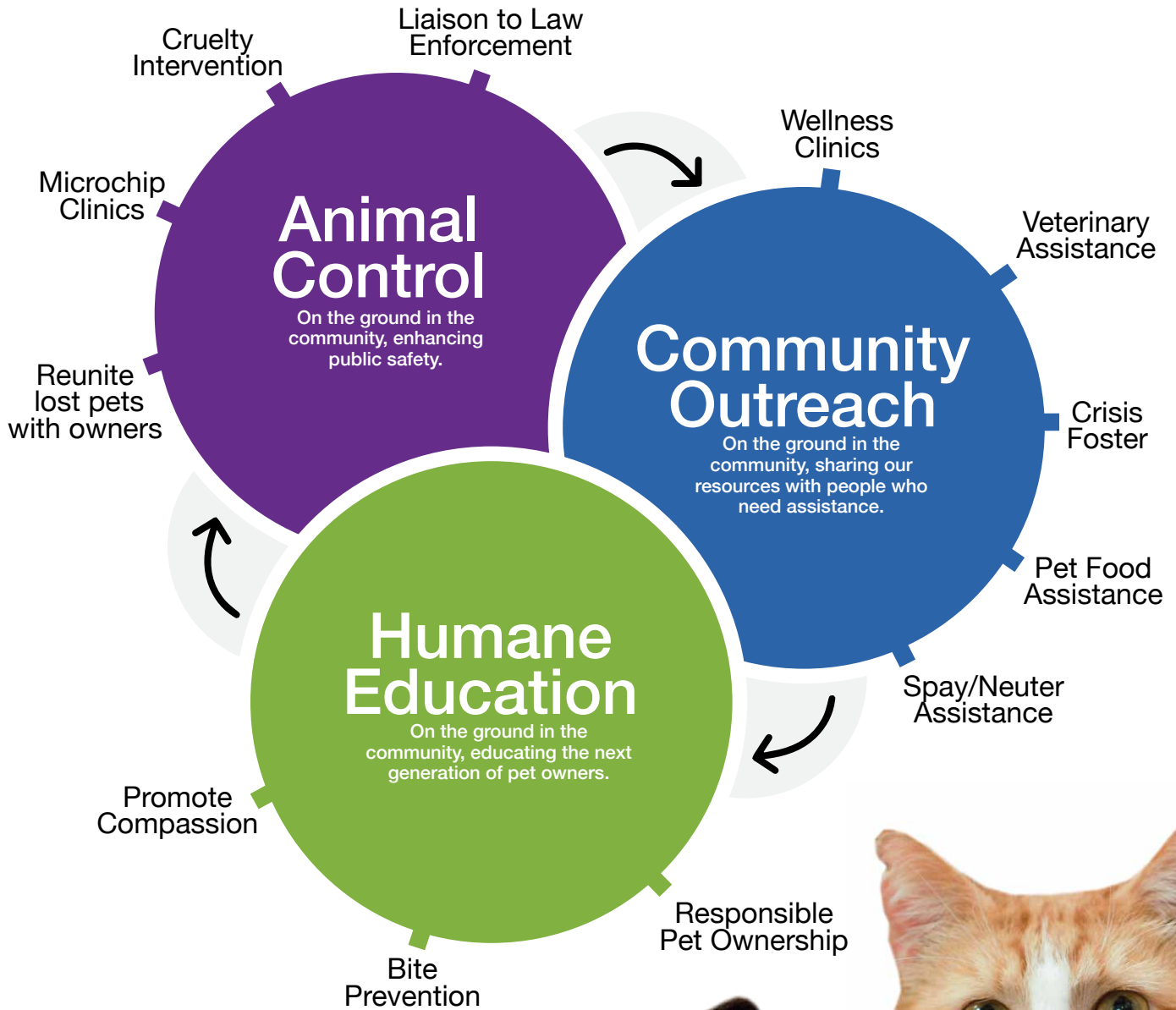
owned pets received
 direct assistance through
 community outreach

When people are faced with difficult circumstances, those problems affect their pets as well. The ARL is often their first point of contact because pets are family, and people prioritize their pets' needs over their own. We have expanded our partnerships with a variety of human-focused social service organizations to provide a holistic approach to supporting both sides of the human-animal bond.



Community Outreach

Our Approach to a **Safe and Humane Community**



People helping people helping pets.

THE ARL HAS RELATIONSHIPS WITH TWO STATE PRISONS THAT SHARE ONE GOAL - TO HELP PEOPLE AND PETS.

The ARL developed a new program this year as part of our partnership with the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville. Community Support Services (CSS) allows offenders who are nearing the ends of their sentences to work alongside ARL staff seven days a week to help care for the animals. We've seen inmates who have been at their lowest find pride in their work and see hope for their future. The animals have benefited too, as they are surrounded daily with people who care for them.



42
CSS workers

6
hired as staff upon release



WHISKERS Mitchellville

Our Whiskers program – a partnership with the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville – has been changing lives for homeless cats since its launch in May. The program matches behaviorally challenged cats with offenders who work one-on-one with them inside the prison to rehabilitate them and prepare them for adoption into forever homes. **Approximately 20 caretakers have helped 41 cats/kittens, and the program has resulted in 14 adoptions so far.**

PAWS Mitchellville

As of this fall, our dogs are also benefitting from our partnership with the Mitchellville facility. In the PAWS program, dogs work with offenders inside the prison to learn basic manners and get a great start on training before they're adopted into new homes. **So far 22 dogs have been trained in the program.**

PAWS Clarinda

The Clarinda Correctional Facility has acted as a location for a 7-week training course for ARL dogs, in which they were assigned to a handler and given guidelines for training. When the dogs graduated from this 7-week program, ARL staff would match the dog with a veteran as a companion animal through our Pets for Vets program. This facility also acts as a long-term foster facility for the ARL's Crisis Foster program. In 2017, **42 dogs graduated from the 7-week Clarinda training program.**

PAWS, MITCHELLVILLE



WHISKERS, MITCHELLVILLE



PAWS, CLARINDA



PAWS, CLARINDA



PAWS, MITCHELLVILLE



ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA

INTAKES ¹	DOG	CAT	SMALL	BARN	TOTAL ³
Stray/Impound	2,440	3,184	92	47	5,763
Owner Surrender	1,334	2,627	544	165	4,670
Transfers In	120	42	0	1	163
Other	45	87	54	1	187
Total	3,939	5,940	690	214	10,783

OUTCOMES ¹	DOG	CAT	SMALL	BARN	TOTAL ³
Adoptions	2,090	4,062	647	141	6,940
Transfers Out	69	324	33	43	469
Return to Owner	1,398	275	9	9	1,691
Euthanized ²	314	921	20	6	1,261
Died in Care	28	346	41	5	420
Total	3,899	5,928	750	204	10,781

Euthanasia

The ARL looks at every animal as an individual and not a number and determines a treatment or rehabilitation plan. We only euthanize animals that are dangerous or suffering, and only after we have exhausted all other humane and responsible options. We do not euthanize for space and there are no time limits on the animals in our care.

Panleukopenia

2017 was a challenging year with cats arriving with the extremely fatal disease called panleukopenia (aka feline distemper). Unfortunately, panleukopenia is incredibly hard to treat since cats may show very few or no symptoms prior to sudden death, especially in the immune suppressed and very young cats. The ARL worked very hard to contain this illness from infecting other cats in the shelter with routine cleaning protocols under the guidance of our chief veterinarian. Sadly, there were many cats that did not survive this terrible disease, which contributed to our higher than usual “died in care” numbers this year.

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) & Community Cats

The ARL supports the practice of TNR for community cats. TNR means trapping, neutering, and returning cats to their community. Concerned citizens often bring community cats to the ARL with the intention of helping, but often times these cats are not suitable for adoption and living in a home. Plus, if community cats are removed from their “home”, then other animals will move in. By bringing TNR to Des Moines and keeping feral cats in their current communities, we will be able to drastically reduce our cat euthanasia numbers.

Please support our efforts in 2018 to bring TNR to Des Moines by joining the ARL’s Humane Action Network at www.arl-iowa.org/HAN.

Note: We have attempted to make this report as easy to understand as possible, but if you have any questions, please contact arl@arl-iowa.org.

¹ Does not include wildlife; we partner with several wildlife rehabilitation organizations to care for wild animals brought to us.

² Does not include owner-requested euthanasia.

³ The number of intakes will not necessarily equal the number of outcomes over the course of a year. In 2017 we ended the year with a net increase of two more animals in our care than we had at the beginning of the year.

Statistics

ADOPTIONS

4,062	Cats
2,090	Dogs
647	Small Pets
141	Barn Pets
6,940	Total

OFF-SITE ADOPTIONS

647	Total number of pets adopted
37	Total number of off-site adoption events

SECOND CHANCE RANCH

141	Total number of barn pets adopted
22	Total number of horses adopted
110	Total number of barn pets cared for from cruelty situations

COMMUNITY-OWNED PETS

1,691	Pets returned to owners
1,497	Spay/neuter surgeries through free & low-cost spay/neuter programs
104	Pets microchipped
821	Pets that received veterinary assistance
1,161	Dogs that have received behavior help (phone calls and consultations)

FOSTER

711	Total foster homes
1,740	Total number of pets in foster homes
65,735	Total foster volunteer hours

VOLUNTEER

46,330	Total number of hours
2,710	Total number of volunteers

PETS TRANSFERRED

469	Pets transferred out
163	Pets transferred in

47,248

medical treatments

includes vaccines, deworming, flea treatment, ear mite treatment, and fecal testing

MEDICAL

5,456	Spay/neuter surgeries for ARL animals
1,690	Dental procedures
283	Laboratory tests
47,248	Medical treatments given
282	Other surgeries (mass removal, eye/ear surgery, etc.)

ANIMAL CONTROL

14,295	Dispatched trips in Des Moines
--------	--------------------------------

CRUELTY INTERVENTION

199	Animals rescued from abuse
233	Cases/investigations
47	Trained volunteers for emergency response

IN THE COMMUNITY

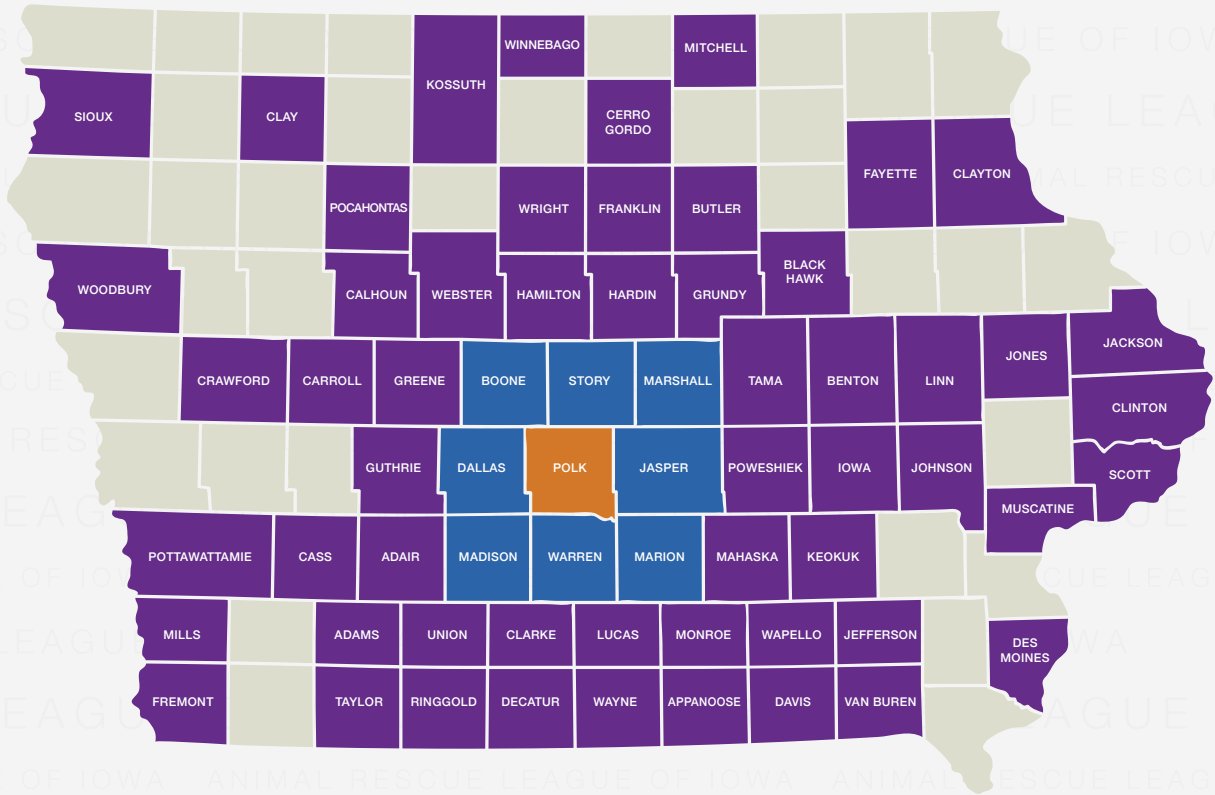
1,142	TheraPets visits
71	TheraPets teams
58	Facilities hosting TheraPets visits
5,435	Humane Education experiences

DOG TRAINING

549	Total number of dogs in classes
128	Total number of classes

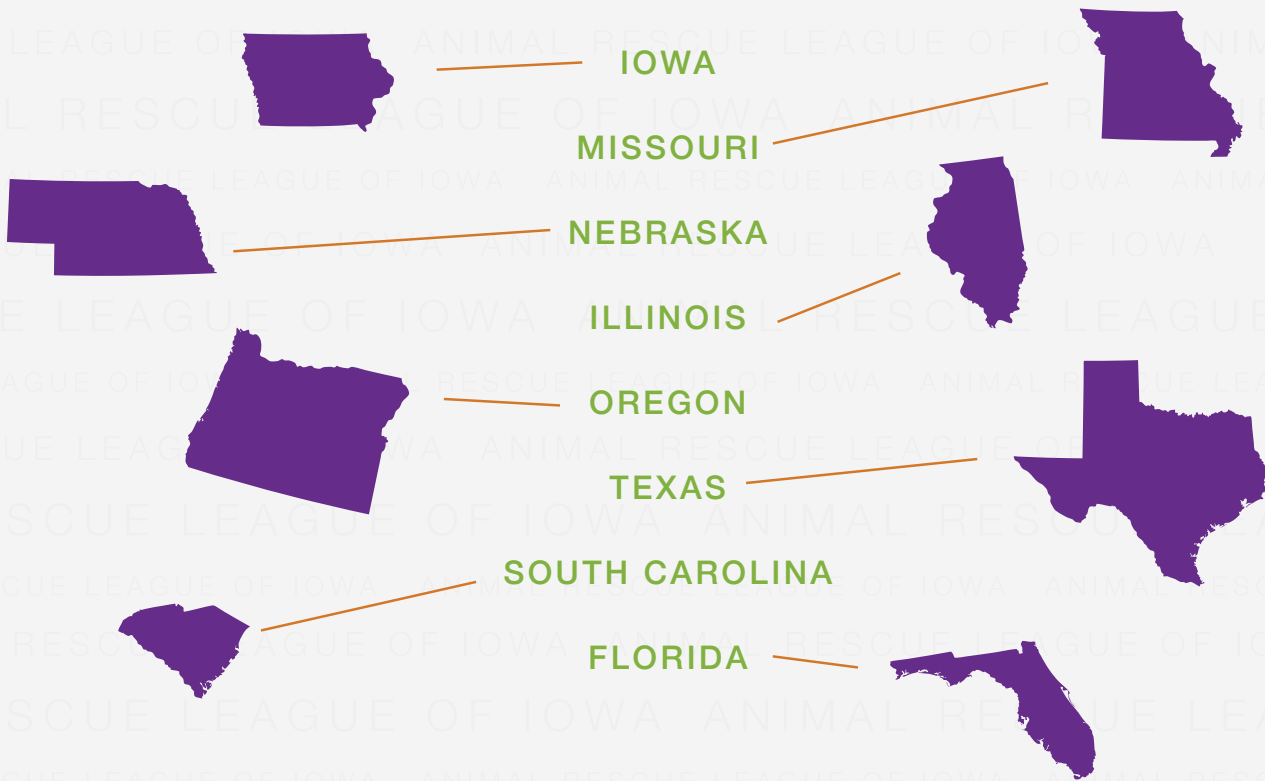


COUNTIES SERVED IN 2017



SERVICE AREAS
■ PRIMARY ■ SECONDARY ■ MODERATE

STATES SERVED IN 2017





#changinglives

5452 NE 22ND STREET | DES MOINES, IA 50313

ARL-IOWA.ORG

