

Tailwaggers

Winter 2024

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YOU GAVE 151 DOGS THEIR FREEDOM

Time after time, your support makes it possible for the ARL to answer the call to help pets in need. For 46 dogs and puppies rescued in Boone County in July, your kindness meant freedom from the cycle of breeding. And we're happy to say with their rescue, the puppy mill they'd spent their entire lives in was officially shut down.

The July rescue was not the first time we'd been to the property. Months earlier our Animal Welfare & Response Team had worked with authorities, removing dozens of dogs from the same commercial breeder. In total, 151 dogs finally got the opportunity to live the lives they had always deserved, thanks to you.



As is typical with dogs from puppy mills, these dogs didn't just need to be rescued, they needed help recovering. In the days and weeks after they arrived, we shaved their painful mats, gave them much-needed medical and dental surgeries, and helped them learn to trust people and start to navigate what for them was a very new and unfamiliar world. Several of the most undersocialized dogs were placed in foster homes for extra confidence-building and TLC – some for many weeks before they were ready to find new families.

As of early September, we're excited to report that nearly all of these dogs have been adopted and are enjoying lives filled with walks, toys, and cuddles – things they never could have imagined just a few months ago! A few more remain in our care, including mama Glory and her eight puppies (pictured). Every time we see their wagging tails, we are so grateful for you for making their rescue and recovery possible.

SUPPORT LIFESAVING RESCUES

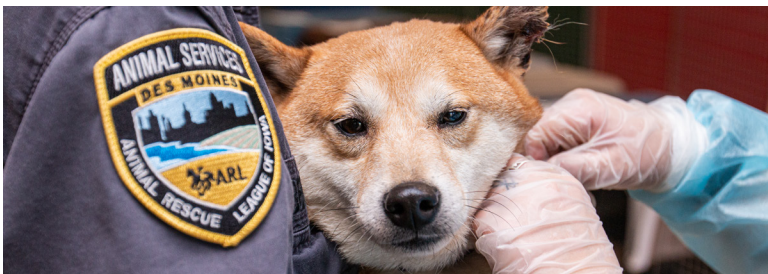
The commitment of our Loyal Friends is what allows us to continue to answer the call to help pets in need. Learn more about monthly giving at [ARL-IOWA.ORG/LOYALFRIENDS](https://www.arl-iowa.org/loyalfriends).

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF ANIMAL RESCUE

The ARL is the only animal sheltering organization in the state positioned to lead large-scale rescue operations across Iowa's 99 counties. Each year, we assist law enforcement in saving hundreds of vulnerable animals from hoarding situations, puppy mills, roadside zoos, and other illegal or inhumane circumstances, as well as natural disasters. As the calls for help continue to grow, the facilities where the animal victims can recover at must grow too. **Iowa's animals urgently need a dedicated space to help victims of cruelty and neglect overcome their past traumas – all in one spot!**



PHASE 1: Our Second Chance Ranch has served as a safe haven for horses and other barn animals, caring for as many as 60 horses at a time, but we have outgrown the space. Thanks to donations made to the ARL Foundation, we were able to purchase a property just a mile down the road from our Main campus to relocate our ranch. In addition to providing even more safe, comfortable housing and grazing spaces for rescued barn animals, the new location, once renovated, will include a dedicated training center for horses to help them quickly heal and begin their new lives.



PHASE 2: Relocating our Second Chance Ranch will allow us to transform our current barn into Iowa's only Rescue Intake & Rehabilitation Center. This dedicated space for housing and recovery will allow animals from large-scale rescues to decompress, receive low-stress medical care, and work with our behavior teams to overcome past traumas - in an environment designed just for them!

We have lots of work ahead of us. Now we need your help to make these important changes possible. Please join us as we take this step forward to save even more lives. [Go to **ARL-Iowa.org/Transform**](https://www.arl-iowa.org/Transform).

While serving animals at the ARL over many years, we are constantly inspired by the unwavering support of animal lovers like you. Your generosity has allowed the ARL to grow and evolve over the years to meet the needs of animals and our community. You've been with us every step of the way, saving countless lives.

Challenges abound in animal rescue, but, as we know, with every challenge comes opportunity.

As the ARL tackles our latest challenge – the need for dedicated space for animals saved in large-scale rescue operations – we're excited to share that the ARL is launching a capital campaign that we have named "Transforming the Future of Animal Rescue." We hope that you will join us by making a donation to this campaign so every animal who has been the victim of cruelty and neglect will have a safe place to begin their journey toward a new and better life.

With you by our side, we can continue to ensure that every animal receives the best possible care from the moment they arrive. Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting vulnerable animals. Together, we can transform the future of animal rescue.

For the animals,



Carol J. Grigione,
ARL Board President



Tom Colvin, ARL Chief
Executive Officer

LAUNCHING A LIFESAVING KITTEN NURSERY

Last year the ARL took in more than 1,300 kittens ages 5 weeks and younger. Kittens this young require intensive care to survive, including feedings every two hours and help regulating their body temperature. These neonates are some of the most fragile lives we care for.

With even more young kittens expected this year, it was time to take the next step in our effort to save more lives. We're happy to report that our first-ever Kitten Nursery officially opened in June!

The quiet nursery on the ARL's main campus is equipped with incubators and other lifesaving supplies to help kittens who arrive very young or very sick. It also includes comfortable kennels to house older kittens and mamas with litters until they can be placed in foster homes.

Our staff and a large group of specially trained volunteers keep the nursery running smoothly, providing daily care and medical care to give each kitten the best chance of survival.

Your support saves kitten lives every day, and with the new Kitten Nursery there are even more ways to help. Volunteer in the nursery, donate needed items or foster a litter of kittens! **You can find more information on all of these opportunities at ARL-iowa.org.**



WELCOME TO THE PURRADISE SUITES



Kittens weren't the only ones who got new digs this year! After a summer of construction, the second floor of our Clowder House has been remodeled to create a more ideal environment for cats who need long-term care or have specific behavior needs. Upgraded condo-style living spaces called Purradise Suites named in memory of Ronnie Lee Maifeld, and a new room layout, give cats access to exterior windows and promote mental well-being. Extra-large condos in the center of the room provide space for cats who need more room to run and play.



CHANGING LIVES

LOU'S STORY

At the ARL, we measure success by looking at every animal as an individual and determining what they need to change their life ... and then we do that. For some pets, it's extra enrichment in the shelter, for others it's training time or one-on-one socialization, and for others – like Lou – it's getting them out of the shelter entirely while they wait for a new family.

Our foster team is in constant collaboration with our behavior, medical, and adoption teams to determine which pets need time in a home environment. So when our behavior team alerted them that Lou was struggling with high stress levels in the shelter, they immediately put out an emergency call to our 500+ foster families.

Within days, Lou was in a foster home, and within hours of arriving he was a completely different, relaxed dog. He cuddled, chewed on bones, went happily on walks in the neighborhood, and spent time with his foster family's resident dog. His foster family described him as a gentle dog with joyful energy.

Lou's foster family loved having him in their home, but after their foster commitment was coming to an end, and knowing Lou's struggles in the shelter, coming back to the shelter was not a good option for him. Our team again reached out, this time to you, to help spread the word to find Lou a foster or adoptive home before he would have to come back to the shelter. We asked, and you delivered! Our Facebook followers shared Lou's

BECOME A FOSTER HOME

Learn more about providing temporary care for pets in need at [ARL-IOWA.ORG/FOSTER](https://www.arl-iowa.org/foster).

post over 200 times, and just two days later, Lou was *adopted!* He is now at home and loving life with his new family.

Animal rescue is a team effort, and as always you are part of this team. Thank you for all the ways you make a difference for pets!



A NEW NAME & A NEW ERA FOR ARL RESCUE TEAMS

The ARL has long been a leader in animal rescue across Iowa. As calls continue to come in from all four corners of the state, we've given our ever-expanding rescue program a new name to better reflect the breadth of services we provide. The program, now known as our Animal Welfare & Response Team, will continue to:

- Work alongside law enforcement across Iowa to rescue animals that have been abused or neglected.
- Provide expert disaster response to aid animals across the state and beyond when situations escalate beyond the capabilities of local resources.
- Conduct trainings to equip law enforcement with knowledge and resources to handle animal cases.
- Provide support and training to other shelters and rescues so they have the tools to tackle these needs in their communities and strengthen animal welfare across Iowa.

With an experienced rescue team, a core team of trained disaster responders, and tools necessary to provide assistance over a wide spectrum of emergencies, the Animal Welfare & Response Team stands ready to help when animals are in need.

Thank you for helping us continue to expand this program to be there for animals in crisis in Iowa and beyond.



MAKE AN IMPACT

Sponsor a rescued pet each month by becoming a Loyal Friend at [ARL-IOWA.ORG/LOYALFRIENDS](https://www.arl-iowa.org/loyalfriends).

