

2024 Impact Report

Published January 2025



Look at the Lives You Changed!

NEW HAPPY HOMES



8,606

adoptions – with records for cats and horses!

RESCUED FROM CRUELTY



414

animals who got second chances

REUNITING PETS & PEOPLE



1,881

lost pets reunited with owners, an 11% increase!

DEAR FRIEND,

2024 was another challenging yet impactful year for the Animal Rescue League! With statewide calls for rescue assistance, a continued high dog population within our shelter, ongoing economic challenges for pet families, and higher costs to provide for the animals in our care, we are more thankful than ever for your unwavering support.

Because of you, we've kicked off an expansion of our rescue program and facilities to transform rescue efforts statewide, greatly expanded our capacity to offer low-cost Wellness Clinics and spay/neuter surgeries through partnerships with veterinary professionals in the community, and developed a forward-thinking strategic plan, paving the way for us to help even more animals across the state in the years to come.

This past year was a busy one, and we anticipate 2025 will be equally, if not more, exciting as we continue to change the lives of animals with you by our side.

We're deeply grateful for your dedication to animals and look forward to sharing more about the growth and accomplishments you will make possible this year.

For the animals,
Tom Colvin, ARL Chief Executive Officer
Carol J. Griglione, ARL Board President



THE NEXT CHAPTER

The ARL has an impactful past and an even brighter future. We invite you to take a look at our vision for 2025 and beyond at [ARL-iowa.org/StrategicPlan](https://www.arl-iowa.org/StrategicPlan).

Help Us Transform the Future of Animal Rescue

In 2024, the ARL took an important step forward in our Animal Welfare & Response operations with the launch of a two-phase capital campaign to expand our rescue facilities. We ended the year with Phase 1 underway and our horses and barn animals moving to a new 21-acre Second Chance Ranch near the ARL's main campus. With your help, renovations to the new ranch will continue in 2025, and we'll kick off Phase 2 of the project, transforming the previous ranch into a Rescue Intake & Rehabilitation Center dedicated to helping animals from large-scale rescues recover.



PHASE 1: RANCH RELOCATION

- Renovate core equine housing
- Renovate indoor arena
- Construct outdoor paddock areas
- Move horses and barn pets to new ranch
- Install new fencing in pasture areas
- Renovate Welcome Center
- Build Rescue Roost
- Build Goat Hut
- Build Pig Pen
- Renovate outdoor arena

Learn more about the project and how you can be part of these important changes at [ARL-iowa.org/Transform](https://www.arl-iowa.org/Transform).

You Provided 400+ Second Chances

Calls for animal rescues continued to pour in from across the state in 2024, and our rescue teams assisted authorities with cases from puppy mills to hoarding situations to other illegal and inhumane activities. A total of 414 animals were rescued from cruelty, and our veterinary team also dealt with a host of challenging medical cases, giving even more pets second chances. Here are some of the lives you changed.



YOU WERE PART OF THE NORWALK RESCUE

The ARL's Animal Welfare & Response team responded to an urgent call from Norwalk Police, removing 57 dogs and 3 cats from horrible conditions. The dogs spent weeks in the care of our Miracle Medical Team, where they received treatment for painful skin conditions, as well as dental and orthopedic surgeries. It took weeks for many to recover and find homes.



YOU ARE THE HERO OF BRUCE'S STORY

Bruce, a draft horse, was shockingly thin and being forced to pull a carriage in Des Moines in 90-degree heat when ARL Animal Services officers arrived. An equine vet determined he was at least 500 pounds underweight. Bruce spent weeks at our Second Chance Ranch gaining weight and is now in a loving home. His owner was charged with neglect.



BUG FOUND HIS QUILLS THANKS TO YOU

Bug the hedgehog arrived missing almost all of his quills. Tests showed he was suffering from a severe mite infestation. After starting treatment, we placed him in an experienced foster home, where he received medicated baths, a special diet to promote healing, and a habitat that catered to his needs. His quills slowly grew back, and after 6 months in our care he was healthy enough to be adopted. He now has a new family.



YOU PROVIDED HEALING AND SAFETY

The ARL assisted Mason City Police in rescuing nearly 30 cats trapped in a van in extreme heat in August. The cats were living in toxic conditions and had no access to food and water. Some were suffering from serious injuries and illnesses, including respiratory and eye infections. Some of the cats were in our care for months recovering, and most have now been adopted. The cats' owner pleaded guilty to animal neglect.

YOUR 2024 IMPACT

IN THE SHELTER

ADOPTIONS

5,026	Cats
2,993	Dogs
417	Small Animals
170	Barn Animals
8,606	Total

FOSTERS & VOLUNTEERS

804	Foster homes
2,563	Pets in foster homes
791	Volunteers
1,373	TheraPets visits

MEDICAL PROCEDURES

70,434	Medical treatments given
5,912	Spay/neuter surgeries for ARL animals
2,723	Dental procedures
257	Other surgeries

BEHAVIOR

313	Dogs receiving behavior help
432	Cats receiving behavior help
60	Horses receiving behavior help

IN THE COMMUNITY

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES (DES MOINES)

16,060	Animal Services Officer staff hours
585	Citations issued
1,321	Animal cruelty/neglect responses
1,881	Lost pets returned to owners

CRUELTY INTERVENTION (OUTSIDE OF DES MOINES)

414	Animals rescued from cruelty
779	Cases/investigations

COMMUNITY-OWNED PETS

487	Spay/neuter surgeries through low-cost spay/neuter programs
363	Pets receiving veterinary assistance
930	Pets vaccinated through clinics
829	Pets microchipped
31	Pets in Crisis Care foster program
700	TNR cats returned to community

PET BEHAVIOR SERVICES

67	Dog training classes
461	Owned dogs receiving behavior help
482	Owned cats receiving behavior help

JANUARY 2024 - DECEMBER 2024
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA

	DOG	CAT	SMALL ANIMAL	BARN ANIMAL	TOTAL ³	2024 INTAKES¹
STRAY/IMPOUND	3,118	4,372	120	66	7,676	
OWNER SURRENDER	1,965	2,566	355	89	4,975	
TRANSFERS IN	96	184	27	5	312	
OTHER	43	96	46	6	191	
TOTAL INTAKES	5,222	7,218	548	166	13,154	

	DOG	CAT	SMALL ANIMAL	BARN ANIMAL	TOTAL ³	2024 OUTCOMES¹
ADOPTIONS	2,993	5,026	417	170	8,606	
TRANSFERS OUT	133	69	42	1	245	
RETURN TO OWNER	1,594	264	16	7	1,881	
RETURN TO HABITAT	0	700	0	0	700	
EUTHANIZED ²	509	1,004	34	27	1,574	
DIED IN CARE	12	79	14	0	105	
TOTAL OUTCOMES	5,241	7,142	523	205	13,111	
LIVE RELEASE RATE	90%	85%	91%	87%	87%	

The last several years have been challenging with a continued high dog population in our shelter. Despite this, in 2024 we were still able to achieve a 90% live release rate for dogs. 2024 was also a challenging year for cats, with large numbers of kittens arriving with panleukopenia (feline distemper), a terrible disease with a high mortality rate. Sadly, despite our best efforts, many of these extremely ill kittens did not survive. We also took in large numbers of cats from severe hoarding environments that were sadly not survivable.

Reasons for 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.

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. The difference represents a net increase or decrease in the number of animals in our care at the beginning of the period and at the end.



Shelter Successes

- **January:** Moved into new ARL Animal Services location that includes an adoption center and medical suite
- **June:** Launched our Kitten Nursery, which provided specialized care to nearly 600 of our most fragile kittens
- **August:** Spayed our 3,000th community cat as part of Operation CatSnip, our trap-neuter-return (TNR) program
- **December:** Celebrated a big year of adoptions, with a record 5,026 cats and a record 62 horses finding homes



Keeping Families Together

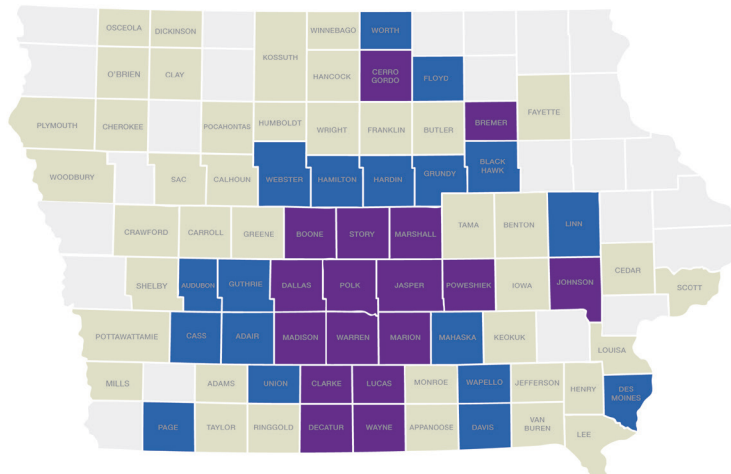
Thanks to you, we expanded our low-cost community Wellness Clinics beyond vaccines and microchipping to provide even more services to help keep pets with the families who love them. We also formed new veterinarian partnerships to more than double our spay/neuter surgeries for owned pets. In 2024:

- 930 Pets received lifesaving vaccines
- 829 Pets were microchipped
- 487 Pets were spayed/neutered
- 363 Pets received veterinary assistance
- 31 Pets were fostered in our Crisis Care program



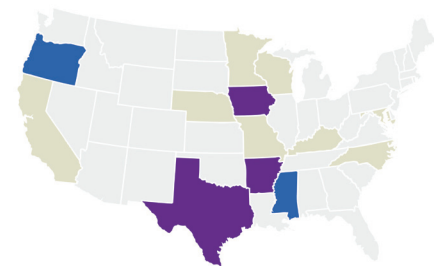
1,881
Lost pets reunited with owners

2024 INTAKES BY COUNTY



1-10 INTAKES 11-30 INTAKES 31+ INTAKES

2024 INTAKES BY STATE



ARKANSAS
CALIFORNIA
IOWA
KENTUCKY
MARYLAND
MINNESOTA
MISSOURI

MISSISSIPPI
NORTH CAROLINA
NEBRASKA
OREGON
TEXAS
WISCONSIN

FIND AN EXPANDED REPORT AT
ARL-IOWA.ORG/IMPACTREPORT



Percent change references throughout this publication are comparing January-December 2024 to that same time period in 2023.

