

Tailwaggers



You're helping keep families together through tough times

A new ARL partnership is making it possible to help more families in crisis keep their beloved pets.

Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS) reached out to us late last year, asking for help making certain rooms in their shelter pet-friendly. We agreed, and in January we began providing wellness exams and required vaccinations to pets entering CISS with their people, ensuring the pets' well-being and preserving the strong bond between them and their people during a very difficult time.

"Abby" and her dog "Lily" are just one family this partnership has helped preserve. Abby has had Lily since she

was a tiny puppy who needed bottle-feeding. Since then Lily has been her rock. When Abby was finally able to escape from a domestic violence situation with Lily, she was terrified she'd have to give up her beloved dog. When she learned Lily could stay with her at CISS, a weight was lifted. We got Lily up to date on her vaccinations, allowing the two to be safe together.

Your support not only provided the care Lily needed to stay with her mom, it saved Abby from the heartbreak of having to give up her pet in an already challenging time. We look forward to continuing this partnership and changing even more lives with you by our side.



'LILY' IS MY BEST FRIEND, AND AT TIMES SHE'S BEEN MY ONLY FRIEND ... IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO HAVE HER HERE WITH ME.

FRIENDS,

The ARL has always had a strong focus on community, and we've worked throughout our history to preserve the strong bond between pets and their families. I'm excited to share that a recent change by the Des Moines City Council, recommended by the ARL, continues that work. As of this spring, residents reclaiming lost pets for the first time within a 24-month period no longer have to pay city reclaim fees to take their pets home! Now reunions can happen faster - opening kennel space for animals that truly need it - and fewer family pets will be surrendered because of fees. We love this type of progress! This is just a small example of the work the ARL does as part of our partnership with local officials - and your support makes it all happen. We look forward to more reunifications and more positive changes for the animals in the future!

Tom Colvin,
ARL Chief Executive Officer



25 years of foster heroes

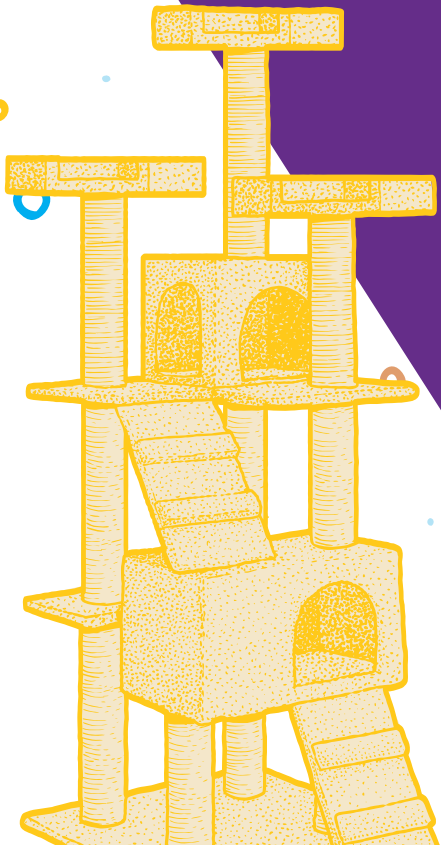
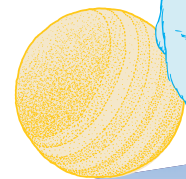
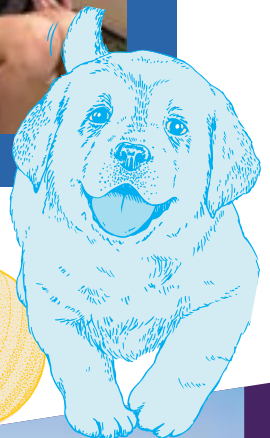
Thank you for opening your homes and hearts

As we celebrate 100 years of changing lives together, we're also honoring another milestone you made possible: 25 years of our TLC Foster program!

Since its official launch in 2001 to provide kittens and puppies with love, care and a home during their critical early weeks of growth, our foster program has expanded to include all species and ages of animals. From our Shelter Cat Getaway program that gives adoptable adult cats a "vacation" from the shelter to our Golden Paw Hospice program that offers senior pets the gift of a family as they near the end of their journey to our Crisis Care program that provides temporary care for owned pets whose families are experiencing a crisis, you have opened your hearts and homes to our community's most vulnerable animals.

Last year was a record year for our foster programs, with nearly 3,000 pets receiving foster care in more than 850 ARL foster homes.

Thank you for being the heart of this work and being heroes for even more pets!





The history we made together

You were there for animals through a century of change

When a small group of women founded the Animal Rescue League 100 years ago, they wanted to do something simple and powerful: rescue animals from the streets of Des Moines. Thanks to supporters like you, that dream grew and evolved, ultimately changing the lives of more than 1 million animals over the course of a century and shaping the ARL you know today.

From the very beginning, the ARL was guided by clear values, advocating for better treatment of pets, rescuing animals in need, and providing humane education to the community. The year after its founding, the ARL assisted in its first large-scale rescue: 100 dogs found in a Des Moines home. As early as the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the ARL embraced forward-thinking ideas, discouraging the sale of baby chicks and rabbits as holiday gifts, advocating for education over enforcement, and introducing positive dog training methods long before they became the standard.

As community needs evolved, so did your impact. In 1989, you helped open a 13,000-square-foot shelter to serve more animals. And beginning in the 1990s, your generosity powered an era of unprecedented expansion and growth, as the ARL's vision grew beyond basic cruelty prevention to include modern sheltering and adoption, legislative advocacy, and community-based services that keep pets and people together.

Because of your voice and investment, ARL advocacy efforts helped push through laws critical to the welfare of Iowa's pets, from stronger animal cruelty laws in 1994 and 2020 to expanded oversight of breeding facilities in 2010. Your support also made it possible to open the modern 43,000-square-foot main shelter you know today,

and expand the ARL's rescue program to be a lifeline for vulnerable animals across Iowa and even provide disaster relief beyond our state.

Today, your impact is stronger than ever. In 2025, a record 9,244 animals found homes and a record 931 were rescued from cruelty. You also helped expand access to affordable veterinary care, and you're fueling a major expansion of our rescue programs, including renovation of our new Second Chance Ranch location and the creation of a dedicated rescue center where victims of animal cruelty can overcome their past traumas, creating new opportunities for animals to heal and thrive.

A hundred years later, animals still need us — **and they still need you.** Thank you for being part of this remarkable legacy and helping shape the future of animal welfare for the next century.

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS WITH US

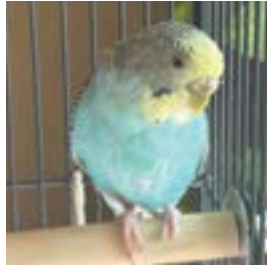
- See a detailed timeline of the ARL's history. [ARL-iowa.org/History](https://www.arl-iowa.org/History)
- Find commemorative apparel and more. [ARL-iowa.org/Shop](https://www.arl-iowa.org/Shop)
- Watch for info on our 100-year celebration. [ARL-iowa.org/Events](https://www.arl-iowa.org/Events)



SHOWING UP FOR ANIMALS BIG AND SMALL

Your generosity makes all the difference for pets like Bud and Bindi

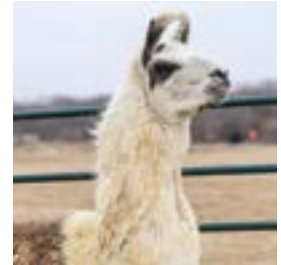
When ARL Animal Services officers responded to a call about animals in poor condition at a pet store, they found 15 animals suffering, including little Bud. The parakeet was missing the tips of her toes on one foot and was reluctant to perch.



X-rays at an avian veterinary clinic revealed an even worse injury: a broken leg. Avian vets put a tiny splint on Bud's leg to keep it stable, and we placed her in a foster home where she could receive pain medication and care while she healed. As the weeks went by, Bud began testing out the higher perches in her enclosure, and after six weeks, another vet visit determined her leg had healed enough for her splint to be removed.

As of early April, Bud is finishing up her recovery in her foster home, often sitting on her highest perch and singing to her foster family! Your support made it possible for her to receive the specialized care she needed, and we hope she will soon be ready to spread her wings and find a new home.

Bindi, a senior llama, arrived at our Second Chance Ranch after her owner passed away. She had been through a lot of change in a short amount of time and was extremely stressed. When she arrived, she would not eat.



Thanks to you, we were able to give Bindi all the time and expert medical care she needed. We brought in a large-animal veterinarian to run tests to make sure she wasn't suffering from a physical problem, and when nothing was apparent created a plan that included IVs and tube-feeding to help her through this transition. You also made it possible for Bindi to receive significant dental care to help her eat more comfortably, and farrier care to make her more comfortable walking.

Several weeks and many vet visits later, Bindi is eating on her own! As of early April, she loves having outdoor exercise time at the ranch and has formed sweet bonds with her caregivers as we continue to monitor her progress.



join the
JOURNEY

ARL-IOWA.ORG/TRANSFORM



ARL
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA, INC.

