Tailwaggers

Winter 2025



ARL
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA, INC.





Thinking outside the shelter:
More matches made, thanks to you

The shelter isn't the only place to make adoption matches! For years the ARL has partnered with businesses to hold adoption events and help pets reach adopters in different areas of our community. This year, with your support, we've expanded the program to help even more pets! Not only are animals in the shelter attending these events, ARL foster families are now bringing their adoptable dogs, making it possible for adopters to meet them without an appointment and hear about how great they are directly from the people they're staying with. As of late August, more than 50 foster dogs have found new families at community adoption events. In addition, thanks to a crew of dedicated volunteers, we've been able to take more dogs from the shelter to each event, giving them that important extra visibility. As of late August, nearly 150 pets have found loving homes at our community adoption events in 2025 – a nearly 50% increase from this time last year. We can't wait to see how many more new families your support and these partnerships create!

FRIENDS,

The Animal Rescue League makes a difference because of you – it's that simple. You are the reason we can continue to rise to meet the many challenges facing pets and people in our community and across Iowa. Whether tackling pet overpopulation in our community or thinking big to expand our rescue operations so victims of animal cruelty have a dedicated space to overcome their traumas, you are the reason all these things are possible. Read on to see how your generosity is making a difference for pets!



Tom Colvin,
ARL Chief Executive Officer



You're helping fight pet overpopulation

In recent years, shelters nationwide have been coping with a troubling increase in the number of unaltered cats and dogs arriving at their doors. As vet care costs continue to rise, your support has helped us expand our low-cost spay/neuter programs to help families in our community get their pets the spay/neuter surgeries they need, prevent pet overpopulation, and keep pets with the families who love them. With your help, as of late August we have performed nearly 800 spay/neuter surgeries for owned pets in 2025 – more than double the number completed this time last year! Surgeries are performed multiple days each week by both ARL veterinarians and veterinarians in our community who have volunteered their skills and time to serve pets in need. We're excited to continue expanding our services for pets in our community with you by our side!

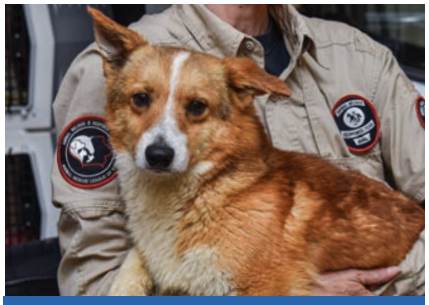
You're bringing pet care to those who need it

While our community Wellness Clinics held at the ARL ensure hundreds of owned pets are current on their vaccinations each year, we know many people who love their pets and need these services face barriers that prevent them from attending. With your help, we decided to bring the clinics to them! Our new Community Paws Clinics, which kicked off this summer, are held at apartment complexes and other locations across the Des Moines metro that are more accessible to communities of pet families facing financial hardship along with mobility issues, lack of transportation, or other challenging circumstances. By helping bring this lifesaving preventative care directly where it's needed, you're ensuring more pets stay healthy, out of the shelter and at home with their loving families. P.S.: We'll be announcing more exciting news about our Wellness Clinics soon, so stay tuned!



You're changing the future of rescues

Our Transforming the Future of Animal Rescue campaign is moving forward, thanks to you! The pasture fencing at our Second Chance Ranch is done, and our horses are loving the large spaces for grazing. Next up are more ranch updates, as well as work on a Rescue Intake & Rehabilitation Center to accommodate our continued deployments to rescues across Iowa, **including these three over just two weeks in June.**



32 DOGS

Less than two years after removing 30 dogs from an unlicensed breeder in Cedar County, our rescue team was back on the same property to help authorities remove 32 MORE dogs. Our medical and behavior teams spent weeks rehabilitating the dogs, and we're happy to report that thanks to you, all are now with new loving families.



36 CATS

The ARL assisted in rescuing 36 cats from a tough situation in Franklin County after their owner became unable to care for them. Sadly, many of the kittens were in poor shape, but those that were able to be rehabilitated now have loving families. The adults arrived undersocialized but thrived in our Camp Purr working cat program and many are already adopted.



17 DOGS

Less than 48 hours after rescuing the last cat from Franklin County, our team deployed to assist the Decatur County sheriff with 17 dogs – 14 living in a filthy trailer and three crammed in a crate nearby, one stuck and at risk of injury. After weeks of medical and behavioral care made possible by you, all of them are now enjoying life with new families.

SHAPING A NEW GENERATION OF ANIMAL LOVERS



Introducing vet care to kids, one book at a time

ARL veterinarian Dr. Kacey Korver believes no concept is too difficult to understand, even complex topics like veterinary medicine. Inspired by her young children's love of learning through picture books, Dr. Korver decided to create a book series to help kids understand common reasons animals visit the veterinarian, like diabetes and upper respiratory infections. The books use adorable illustrations and simple language to teach readers, child and adult alike, all about common pet ailments. Dr. Korver hopes her books will help families better understand their pets and spark kids' interest in veterinary medicine. Interested in the books? The seven-book series is available at our Animal House store on the ARL's main campus and in our online store at ARL-Iowa.org/Shop.

Kids camp back by popular demand

Our popular kids camp returned this summer with a new name: Camp Kindness! Spots filled up fast, and over the course of a week, young animal lovers learned all about shelter life and how to show compassion to animals. The camp included activities like listening to a dog's heartbeat with a shelter vet, making bandanas for adoptable dogs, and learning how to interact with unfamiliar animals. Thanks to your support, we have plans to continue Camp Kindness with sessions during school breaks – all to help kids learn compassion and build a passion for animal rescue. Interested in future camps? Email arl@arl-iowa.org.

but wait
THERE'S MORE!





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