Tailwaggers

Winter 2026



You're helping make more **spay/neuters happen**

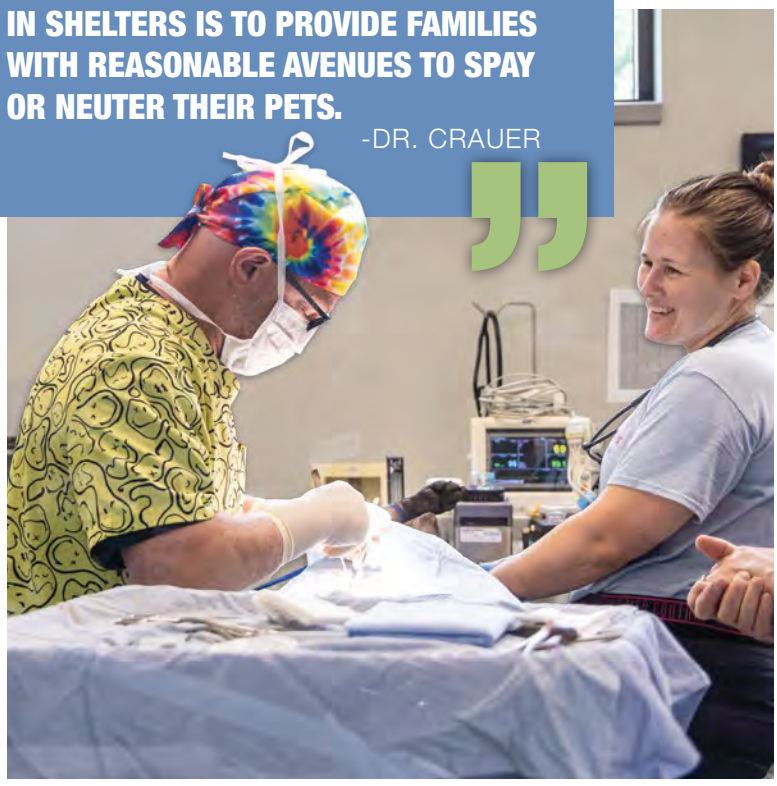
Changing lives isn't just about adopting pets and reuniting lost pets with their families, it's about keeping pets from entering the shelter in the first place. When a pet has someone who loves them, we want to preserve that bond and help keep the family together.

For many, access to affordable veterinary care can make all the difference. This summer, with demand for low-cost spay/neuter services skyrocketing and our wait list growing, we called upon a longtime friend of the ARL, Dr. Brad Crauer – an experienced shelter medicine veterinarian based in Seattle and with ties to the Des Moines area – to assist in the shelter for four weeks and focus almost entirely on community spay/neuter surgeries.

During his time here, Dr. Crauer performed more than 200 spay/neuters, helping more families keep their pets, while giving them peace of mind that they won't have unexpected litters. He also worked with our Miracle Medical Team here in the shelter, assisting and training in complex surgeries and strengthening our team's ability to help even more pets who arrive with serious medical needs.

When pet families need support, your generosity makes it possible to meet these challenges head-on and find compassionate solutions. Thank you for always being there for the pets and people in our community.

> **"THE BIGGEST THING WE'VE DONE TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN SHELTERS IS TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH REASONABLE AVENUES TO SPAY OR NEUTER THEIR PETS."**
>
> -DR. CRAUER







Transformation in progress

As we carried the 40 rescued beagles one by one into new kennels in our Rescue Intake & Rehabilitation Center, we were reminded how much your support matters.

It was a just few weeks after the kennels were installed as part of the major expansion of our rescue facilities that the call came. Large parts of the center remained unfinished, but the dogs couldn't wait. The rescue center would start serving its purpose before it was even completed.

Since then the facility has been a safe haven for dozens more animals – some rescued from situations of cruelty and neglect, and others displaced by natural disasters – even as construction continues.

Your generosity gave these pets immediate safety, but there's still so much to do to make the rescue center – one of only a few in the nation – fully functional as a dedicated space for housing and recovery.

Still ahead: outfitting the medical area so rescued pets can receive low-stress exams and treatment all in one spot, and construction of six Behavior Bungalows and two play yards so rescued dogs can work with our behavior team in a place designed just for them.

As the calls for assistance keep coming, your continued support can provide healing and hope. Every contribution — no matter the amount — brings our rescue facilities expansion closer to completion, which will make a lasting impact for generations.

To be part of Transforming the Future of Animal Rescue, please go to **ARL-Iowa.org/Transform.**

RANCH FOR RENT!

Need a place to host your next event? Look no further than ARL's Second Chance Ranch! Our newly renovated Ranch House has ideal spaces for everything from board meetings to birthday parties. Learn more at **ARL-Iowa.org/Rentals** and contact our team today.

(515) 473-9126 | events@arl-iowa.org











Friends at first sight

Diego arrived at our Second Chance Ranch as part of a rescue of 22 equines in June. He needed a lot of TLC and spent two months in our care healing before he was finally ready for a home. Soon after, an excited family made the two-hour drive to our ranch. Their daughter had been dreaming of a horse and had been saving up all her money so she could adopt. When she met Diego, he came right up to her and she fell in love, crying happy tears when she found out he was officially hers. Diego, now named Rio, has a ton of potential, and the girl plans on training him as her 4-H partner for pole bending and Western.



Rescued from disaster

When flooding from massive overnight rains forced dozens of Des Moines families from their apartments in early July, the ARL's team of trained disaster responders deployed to provide immediate, expert support. For families lucky enough to escape with their pets, we offered pet-housing assistance or needed pet supplies. When we finally received clearance to enter flooded buildings with emergency officials, we helped remove even more animals, arriving back at the shelter with them late in the evening. Thanks to you, 19 cats, dogs, and reptiles found safe shelter at the ARL while their families navigated the crisis.

MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU!



Reunited, far from home

When Macey arrived at the ARL as a stray in July, our Pet Help Center team did what we always do – check for a microchip. Thankfully, she had one, so we were able to contact her family immediately. Turns out Macey had been missing for an entire year after disappearing while in the care of a pet sitter, and her home was all the way in Michigan! Her family had searched for her for months with no luck, so when they heard Macey had somehow turned up in Iowa they were stunned – and overjoyed. Now, thanks to your support and a tiny microchip, Macey is back in the arms of the people who love her.

GIVING MADE SIMPLE

A donor advised fund (DAF) is like a charitable savings account, giving you the flexibility to recommend how much and how often gifts are made to the causes closest to your heart.

You can recommend a grant or recurring grants now to make an immediate impact, or use your fund as a tool for future charitable gifts. It's all up to you!

LEARN MORE AT ARL-IOWA.ORG/DAF



Forever starts here

helping foster dogs find families







BUCKY, ADOPTED AT A FOSTER TO FOREVER EVENT IN MAY

We're always looking for new ways to make great adoption matches, and this spring we launched monthly Foster to Forever adoption events to give pets in foster homes more opportunities to meet their future families.

Held in our spacious dog parks on our main campus, these relaxed events allow potential adopters to spend time with multiple adoptable dogs and puppies in one spot and talk one-on-one with the foster families who are caring for them, all without making an appointment.

We're happy to share that as of late August, 34 foster dogs have found homes through these events. We can't wait to see how many more families your support creates!

One year, thousands of lives changed

It's been almost a year since our Afford-A-Care clinics began providing affordable veterinary care to keep pets out of shelters and with the people who love them. Tommy is one of the thousands of lives changed so far.

When Tommy was having trouble urinating, his family brought him to ARL Afford-A-Care South for help. Our veterinarian performed an ultrasound and found Tommy was suffering from a blockage that could become fatal if not treated. We placed a urinary catheter and flushed out the blockage, and after several hours at the clinic, Tommy's family was able to take him home.

This new level of community support is only possible because of you. And our clinics are also here for you – we're accepting new clients! Learn more at **ARL-AffordACare.com.**



ARL
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA, INC

2026 BEST

2025 BEST OF DES MOINES BUSINESS RECORD RUNNER-UP

BBB ACCREDITED CHARITY

Platinum Transparency 2026 Candid.

2024 TOP-RATED

CHARITY NAVIGATOR Four Star Charity