

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

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Animal Rescue League of Boston Leading the Charge Combatting Animal Cruelty Throughout Massachusetts

April 17-21 marks Animal Cruelty Awareness Week, and while fighting animal cruelty is a daily, on-going task for the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) Law Enforcement Department, in the last year the organization has had a tremendous impact across the Commonwealth.

In the past year, ARL's Law Enforcement Department:

- Inspected **2,295** farms, kennels and pet shops
- Brought **301** animals into ARL's care
- Transferred **84** animals to other animal support facilities
- Handled **151** local police and state agency assists
- Assisted in **68** prosecuted cases which led to **34** counts of animal cruelty resulting in guilty or probation findings from assisted cases

Additionally, this past July, ARL was paramount during the Northeast's largest case of farm animal abuse in Westport, MA. More than **1,400** animals were rescued from the 70-acre property, **124** of which were brought into ARL's care. In March 2017, **27** people were indicted on **151** counts of animal cruelty, which can be directly attributed to ARL's efforts during the investigation.

Along with Westport, other active cases involving ARL's Law Enforcement Department include:

- Annie's Clean Critters, Whitman, MA. Maximus, a nine-year-old German Shepard died while being boarded at the Whitman kennel. ARL assisted Whitman police in the ensuing investigation, and the owners were indicted on animal cruelty charges on April 11, 2017.

- Greyhound Friends, Hopkinton, MA. In conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), a series of inspections led to one count of animal cruelty against the kennel's former director, Louise Coleman. The kennel was issued a cease and desist order from the state, and also had its kennel license suspended by the Town of Hopkinton.

For 118 years, ARL has worked tirelessly to combat animal cruelty and to protect animals who have suffered inhumane treatment and abuse. This an on-going battle, and ARL encourages anyone who witnesses cruelty to report it to local authorities, or ARL's Law Enforcement Department at (617) 226-5610 or via email at cruelty@arlboston.org.

ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes. Founded in 1899, ARL provides high quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2016, ARL served more than 17,800 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive no government funding and rely solely on the generosity of individuals to support programs and services that help animals in need.

For more information please visit us online at www.arlboston.org; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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