

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



*****PHOTO ATTACHED*****

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 7, 2017

ARL Rehabbing Obese Potbellied Pig
Former Owner Charged with Animal Cruelty

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is in the early stages of a lengthy and costly process to help a morbidly obese potbellied pig return to being a normal, healthy animal.

One-year-old Maybelle was brought to ARL's Dedham Animal Care & Adoption Center about six weeks ago, and when she arrived she weighed in at 196 pounds, which is approximately 80 pounds heavier than she should be.

Because of her size, Maybelle was immobile, was suffering from pressure sores, and in extreme discomfort from over-grown hooves. She also cannot currently see because a roll of fat is covering her eyes.

While allegedly being only fed dog food in her former situation, ARL's veterinary staff devised a 12-hour feeding schedule where Maybelle is given six small meals every two hours. Maybelle's caloric intake has been drastically reduced, and staff is already recording results, as she is now able to stand and walk in small increments. It's estimated that it will take 9-12 months for Maybelle to return to a normal weight, and to regain her strength, and the short-term goal for her is to be able to get outside this summer to be able to do some of the normal things pigs do.

Billerica Police have charged the former owner with animal cruelty, and any questions regarding the law enforcement investigation can be directed to the Billerica Police Department.

"Whereas denying an animal food to the point of starvation is an act of cruelty, overfeeding an animal to the point where they are unhealthy and suffering is also an act of cruelty," said Michael

DeFina, ARL's Media Relations Officer. "Responsible pet ownership is paramount. You have to provide proper nutrition for your animal to be happy and healthy, and in the eyes of the Animal Rescue League of Boston, Maybelle's situation is certainly an act of animal cruelty."

As of right now, Maybelle's condition is trending in the right direction and she is also receiving plenty of attention and love from ARL staff and volunteers. ARL veterinarians are hopeful that when Maybelle regains her strength and loses the weight that she will be put up for adoption and find a loving new home.

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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