



For Immediate Release June 27, 2013. Photos available for press use. [Video of rescue available](#)

Cat Caught in Illegal Trap Rescued by Animal Rescue League of Boston

Traps a threat to pet owners and wildlife; League seeks assistance with post-amputation care for cat

Boston, MA – A cat that was caught in an illegal leghold trap in Athol and rescued last Thursday by the Animal Rescue League of Boston is back at the League’s shelter recovering from an amputation. Thanks to the Rescue Team’s efforts and those of Athol Animal Control and the Foster Hospital for Small Animals at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, this traumatic tale will hopefully have a positive ending. Public support is requested to help cover the approximately \$2,000 needed for post-op care for the cat.

What happened: On the morning of Thursday, June 20, the League’s Rescue Services Team received an urgent call from Athol Animal Control requesting assistance with a stray cat they found under a porch that had an illegal leghold trap clamped to one of its legs. Rescue Services caught and transported the cat to Tufts, where veterinarians had to amputate the cat’s leg due to the extent of its injuries. The cat was transferred Tuesday to the League’s shelter in Boston where it will be housed and monitored during the required isolation period. Results are still pending to confirm whether this cat might have rabies or other infectious diseases, so human contact is being limited at this time.

“The surgery went smoothly and we expect that the cat will be able to do all the things it did before,” said Dr. Emily McCobb, D.V.M., a board certified veterinary anesthesiologist and director of the Shelter Medicine Program at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. “Animals are able to recover from amputations quickly and are able to resume normal activity, especially cats. While the cat was in our care, we were able to manage his pain and also get him neutered, which is an important aspect of care for free-roaming cats such as this one.”

Watch out for and report traps: The Animal Rescue League of Boston would like to remind the public to keep an eye on their outdoor pets during the summer, and to report any traps they might find. The trap in this case is known as a "leghold trap" which is intended to catch bobcats or fox. These types of traps are illegal in the Commonwealth. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 131 Section 80A reads:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a person shall not use, set, place, maintain, manufacture or possess any trap for the purpose of capturing furbearing mammals, except for common type mouse and rat traps, nets, and box or cage type traps, as otherwise permitted by law. A box or cage type trap is one that confines the whole animal without grasping any part of the animal, including Hancock or Bailey’s type live trap for beavers. Other than nets and common type mouse or rat traps, traps designed to capture and hold a furbearing mammal by gripping the mammal’s body, or body part are prohibited, including steel jaw leghold traps, padded leghold traps, and snares. “

Anyone who finds an empty trap is warned to not touch it, and asked to call your local police, animal control officer, or the Massachusetts Environmental Police at 800.632.8075 to report the trap. If you find a trap with an animal in it, contact the League’s Rescue Services Team at 617.426.9170. Anyone interested in donating to the League to support care for animals such as this and others is encouraged to do so at arlboston.org , 617.426.9170x615, or advancement@arlboston.org.

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Founded in 1899, the Animal Rescue League of Boston is dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment, and neglect. In addition to the organization's animal rescue, law enforcement, shelter, and veterinary headquarters in Boston, the League operates shelters in Dedham and Brewster, Massachusetts; the Pine Ridge Pet Cemetery in Dedham; a fleet of animal ambulances, and a mobile Spay Waggin'. We rely solely on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. We do not receive government support. Please support us online and learn more about us at home.arlboston.org.