

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Animal Rescue League of Boston Hosts Lecture Series for Animal Control Officers

More than 100 Officers Taught How to Integrate “Tethering Laws”

This past week the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) held a series of law enforcement workshops to discuss how to better utilize the state’s “Tethering Laws” (MGL 140 Sec. 174E and 174F), which were amended and became law in November 2016. More than 100 animal control officers from throughout the Commonwealth attended.

The three sessions were held at ARL’s Animal Care & Adoption Centers in Boston and Dedham, as well as the Dennis Police Department on Cape Cod. ARL’s Law Enforcement Department was thrilled with the turnout.

“It was a significant turnout,” said Darleen Wood, ARL’s Associate Director of Law Enforcement. “Lectures like these give ARL the chance to work closely with municipalities from throughout the state, to ensure that everyone is on the same page, and that the ACO’s from those cities and towns know that ARL is always ready to assist their agency when animals are in need.”

MGL 140 Sec. 174E allows law enforcement and animal control officers the ability to cite a dog owner for:

- Excessive tethering or chaining
- Inadequate shelter
- Dogs being left out in dangerous weather
- Living conditions that may cause an animal physical or emotional harm

MGL 140 Sec. 174F, dubbed “Too Hot for Spot”, allows law enforcement, animal control officers and firefighters the legal ability to remove any animal left in a vehicle where conditions may impact the animal’s health. The law also allows the public to intervene, however only after specific procedures have been followed.

As the temperatures rise, utilizing these statutes will be vital to protecting the health and safety of dogs across the state.

“Both of these statutes allow for the animal welfare professionals to step in before an animal experiences unnecessary suffering or even death,” Wood said. “The legislation supports animal welfare so animals can find protection from cruel or abusive situations and those inflicting such behavior can be held accountable for their actions.”

Officers may write warnings and citations for violations, with fines ranging from \$50 for a first offense to \$500 for subsequent offenses. Penalties may also include impoundment or loss of ownership of the dog.

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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