

OUR FOUR-FOOTED

# Friends

Fall 2013

and how you help them

**Puppy Doe  
and Middleboro Puppies:  
Giving a Voice to Victims of Animal Cruelty**

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



*Helping animals since 1899.*



Herbie  
Adopted

# Our Mission

Founded in 1899, **The Animal Rescue League of Boston is dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from cruelty, abandonment, and neglect.** The ARL carries out its mission through the following programs:

- Emergency Rescue Team
- Anti-Cruelty Law Enforcement
- Humane Education
- Center for Shelter Dogs (Research & Assessment)
- Adoption Centers (Boston, Dedham, & Brewster)
- Veterinary Services
- Spay Waggin' (Low Cost Spay & Neutering)
- Pine Ridge Pet Cemetery

**We do not receive government funding. We rely solely on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need.**

## Stay connected with us!



[arlboston.org](http://arlboston.org)



[Facebook.com/AnimalRescueLeagueofBoston](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalRescueLeagueofBoston)



[@ARLBoston](https://twitter.com/ARLBoston)



[Instagram.com/arlboston](https://www.instagram.com/arlboston)



[Pinterest.com/ARLBoston](https://www.pinterest.com/ARLBoston)



### ON THE COVER:

Two of the 13 puppies recovered from a SWAT team raid on a home in Middleboro in early October.

**We are equipped to care for a variety of species of animals that most shelters cannot help.**

*Our Four-Footed Friends* is a publication of the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116. Please address all editorial and subscription correspondence to us at the address above, attention *Our Four-Footed Friends* Managing Editor.

---

## VOLUME 114

---

### Managing Editor:

Ami Bowen

### Contributing Writers:

Ami Bowen

Elizabeth Dobrska

Mary Nee

Marci Tyldesley

### Contributing Photographers:

Christine S. Barton

DKO Photography

Elizabeth Dobrska

Amelia Hughes

Marci Tyldesley

Maria L. Uribe

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



*Helping animals since 1899.*

# Contents



**2**

Message from the President

**3**

Going Above and Beyond:  
Michelle Gelnow, Board of Overseers

**4**

10 Minutes with  
Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore

**5**

Hope for Food Aggressive Dogs

**6**

A Season of Rescue

**8**

Dancing with Spheres Sculpture Debut

**9**

Over 1000 Lives Saved  
During Summer 2013

**10**

Fix-A-Feral Clinic: Humanely Helping  
Cats and Our Communities

**11**

One Lucky Dog: Alice's Story

**12**

Volunteer Spotlight

**14**

Puppy Doe: Stunning Cruelty  
that Shocked Us All

**15**

13 Puppies Seized in Middleboro:  
Recovering from Cruel Conditions

**16**

A Helping Hand from Alice T. Whitney

**Save a life. Donate today!**

 617.426.9170 x615

 [arlboston.org/donate](http://arlboston.org/donate)

 use enclosed envelope

**Red  
Adopted**

# Message from the President

## Our Call To Action

We had so many happy events this summer that demonstrated real progress in the work to save lives and protect animals in our communities.

### A few of the highlights:

- 1015 lives saved this summer through our adoption challenge
- The launch of a new and improved website, making it even easier to learn more about adoptable animals
- A published study that sheds new light on the adoptability of food aggressive dogs
- Amazing rescues of domestic animals and wildlife
- 200 feral cats treated through Fix-a-Feral clinics

Then came Puppy Doe and the Middleboro puppies — hard reminders that there is still much progress to be made in the way we care for and value animals in our society.

These high-profile cases raise important questions about our collective responsibility to protect animals like Puppy Doe and the Middleboro puppies.

In the aftermath of 9/11 we were taught, “If you see something — if you suspect something — say something.” We must begin to apply that lesson to animals and have the courage when we see or suspect animal abuse to report it to our local police.

We must also be advocates for responsible pet ownership. We must be a voice for animals with our family, friends, co-workers and neighbors.



Mary spending quality time with Jelly at our Boston adoption center.

Pet ownership is a big responsibility. Before people adopt an animal they must consider their housing situation; their finances and their lifestyle; do they have the time to care for pets?

We must be promoters for adoption through well-run shelters and rescue groups who invest in making matches of healthy animals with the right person or family. If someone must give up a pet, we urge them to reach out to those well-run shelters and rescue groups so that no animal is passed from person to person through the internet without consideration for its well-being.

Let each of us have our own personal call to action: To never remain silent in the face of animal cruelty, to be an advocate for responsible pet ownership, and to work for a just and humane society where both people and animals are cared for and loved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Nee".

Mary Nee  
President



## HISTORY OF THE RED BARN LOGO

The red barn in our logo reminds us of where we came from and stands as an important symbol of protection against the suffering so many animals still endure.

**The brutal treatment of horses, dogs and cats in Boston's neighborhoods first moved Anna Harris Smith to establish the Animal Rescue League and to open animal shelters throughout the state as a refuge in 1899.**

The nineteenth century has been called the golden age of the horse. In urban areas, horses were vital to transportation, commerce, and public safety — they pulled the fire engines after all! In spite of their importance, the standards of care for work horses varied widely.

Anna Harris Smith dedicated much time and resources to helping Boston's working horses. Many spent time in the red barn at our Dedham location, a haven from the poor, sometimes cruel treatment they too often suffered.

Horses may no longer roam the streets of Boston, but clearly animal cruelty and neglect still exist today.

Every Thursday is  
**#throwbackthursday!**

Visit [arlboston.org/news](http://arlboston.org/news) every Thursday for a photographic blast from the ARL's past.

# Going Above and Beyond

## Supporting innovative thinking at the ARL

Throughout her 13 years of service, Michelle Gelnow has initiated and embraced new ideas and approaches to animal care and welfare at the ARL.

Michelle's history with us started when her family adopted two cats from our Boston adoption center. Because her family's lifestyle made owning a dog challenging, she decided to volunteer at the ARL to walk dogs.

As she passed through the cat room to get her canine charges for the day, it struck her that the shelter's feline residents did not get the same opportunities to move and socialize as the dogs. Of course socializing cats is more difficult than dogs, but Michelle started talking with shelter staff about how to get cats out and interacting.

The staff's enthusiasm for the idea really impressed Michelle. "I love the ARL's willingness to try new things," she explained in our phone interview. "You see a problem, and the ARL is open to exploring solutions."

The cat playgroup came out of these discussions and continues to run on a weekly basis. The result: better adoption matches and fewer cats coming back to the shelter.

"Many people are looking for companion cats, and shelter staff couldn't tell them how a cat would do with other cats," said Michelle. "Once we started the playgroup, cats could stretch, play, and interact, while we'd gain a lot of knowledge about how they'd do with other cats and their personalities in general."

Michelle's interests in supporting innovation in animal welfare also extended beyond the adoption center's four walls.



Michelle Gelnow visiting with Washington in our feline suite where shelter cats can go to get some extra R&R.

### What Michelle loves most about the ARL:

- The **dedicated and inspiring people** she works alongside
- The **philosophy of kind and humane treatment** of animals and people
- The **ability to see the whole problem** and openness to exploring solutions

While working in the shelter, she was disheartened to see so many kittens coming in, the offspring of stray and feral cats. She started to think about what could be done to stop the problem before it started and learned shelter staff were exploring the possibility of running a feral trap-neuter-release program.

She jumped at the chance to help launch the ARL's Fix-A-Feral clinics, and continues to support the initiative as a donor, trapper, and volunteer. Read more about the program on page 10.

According to Michelle, "Fix-a-Feral addresses many issues at the same time — fewer kittens on the street and in the shelter, and better overall health for a feral colony."

Michelle also supports the ARL's efforts to help people with lower incomes maintain their pet's health. "Many people cannot afford preventative veterinary care or to spay/neuter their pets. They care for

their pets and don't want to give them up, but they can easily find themselves under water."

She cited Spay & Neuter Day in Boston during which the ARL and other organizations provide vaccines, flea treatments, and spay/neutering for reduced cost to low income city residents as an example of the ARL's ability to look at the whole problem.

"The ARL is big enough to have an impact, and small enough to have flexibility in the way they address a need in the community."

**We thank Michelle not only for her decade plus of service, but also for supporting a progressive response to emerging animal welfare issues in our communities.**



## 10 minutes with Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore on...

### National recommendations for the relocation of animals for adoption

**Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore, vice president of animal welfare at the ARL, gets a kiss from Scooby.**

The practice of transporting animals from a community with a surplus population to one where demand outstrips supply has exploded and shows no signs of waning in importance to many animal welfare advocates. The Northeast in particular has become a receiving region from animal shelters in the Southeast and for the large homeless dog population in Puerto Rico.

**Since the practice first began, however, many veterinarians have expressed concern about the health and safety of animals traveling on a transport, as well as controlling the spread and transmission of disease.**

We sat down with Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore to discuss the issue.

As the chair-elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)'s Animal Welfare Committee,

Dr. Smith offered special insights into the AVMA's just-released policy on the relocation of animals for adoption.

**OFFF: What are the major concerns surrounding the transport of animals for adoption?**

**Dr. Smith:** The biggest concern was for animal and public health — that animals with mostly unknown medical backgrounds and lacking much preventive care would spread large amounts of infectious disease from the place they were leaving to the place they were going.

In crafting a policy, the AVMA wanted to ensure organizations could pursue their passion for saving lives in a healthy and safe way for all animals, people, and communities concerned.

**OFFF: What are the key points in the AVMA's policy?**

**Dr. Smith:** Along with addressing health and safety concerns in a policy statement, the AVMA wants to ensure communities assess their local animal population first.

An assessment would reveal to what extent there's a real versus a perceived shortage of adoptable animals.

The major goal of the policy is to provide organizations with guidance on conducting transports in a safe and humane manner. It also offers the public a point of reference for the standards of care they should expect from any group transporting animals for local adoption.

**OFFF: The AVMA will also launch a public service campaign. Can you give us some details?**

**Dr. Smith:** The campaign talks about how relocating animals can improve welfare and save lives.

It also raises awareness for learning more about the shelter or rescue group you're adopting from to make sure the health and safety of animals and people are considered and addressed.

Good animal welfare practices should always be an important consideration for the public when deciding where to adopt a pet!

# Hope for Food Aggressive Dogs

## Center for Shelter Dogs study sheds new light

Historically, shelter dogs that displayed food aggressive behaviors such as stiffening their body, showing teeth, growling, snapping, or biting in the shelter environment did not have very bright futures.

“When I first started working with shelters, I learned that dogs who were food aggressive were regularly being put to sleep,” wrote Dr. Amy Marder in a recent blog post reporting on the findings of new research she contributed to from the ARL’s Center for Shelter Dogs (CSD).

The trend prompted researchers at CSD to wonder how consistent was the behavior they saw in the shelter with what a dog’s owner experienced at home.

The team also wanted to explore the owner’s perspectives on food aggression, specifically did it affect their feelings towards their dog?

Because all dogs entering the ARL’s adoption centers are evaluated using the CSD’s Match-Up II Shelter Dog Rehoming Program, researchers were able to select food aggressive and non-food aggressive dogs from the Boston shelter to include in the study. Researchers used either an online survey or telephone interview to follow up with adoptive families.

None of the dogs received a behavior modification program for food aggression while in the shelter, and all adoptive families of the food aggressive dogs received the recommendation that they avoid bothering the dog while eating.



Rosie  
Adopted

CSD researchers confirmed a relationship between behavior observed in the shelter and behavior in the home.

**Behavior in the shelter was not 100% predictive of behavior in the home, however. CSD discovered that food aggressive behavior faded for just about half of the dogs in the home.**

Interestingly, almost a quarter of the dogs that had not shown food aggression in their behavioral evaluation did show it in the home.

Of the dogs who did display food aggression:

- Almost all of the adopters did not consider the behavior a challenge to keeping their dog as a pet.
- Most of the adopters indicated that they would adopt the same dog again.
- Even when asked explicitly about food aggressive behaviors, owners who reported that their dog displayed these behaviors did not consider their dog food aggressive.

“It is just amazing how people who just said that their dog growls or even bites over food or delicious items still did not consider it to be food aggressive,” explained CSD research team member Anastasia Shabelansky. “We even added a food aggression definition into the survey question to make sure people understood what it means and they still answered ‘no.’”

She added that owners of food aggressive dogs rated food aggression in general as a less challenging problem than owners of non-food aggressive dogs. “This is another study that reflects how the dog-person relationship may impact the judgment or tolerance of a specific dog behavior.”

CSD hopes the study’s findings will help shelters more appropriately use the results of food testing as a warning, rather than an indication of whether a dog is suitable for adoption.

“We suggest that shelters consider each dog as an individual and look at all the factors about that dog,” said Seana Dowling, Interim Executive Director of CSD. “There are many adopters who, if the dog’s only issue is guarding food, are able to manage that.”

# A Season of Rescue

Domestic animals and wildlife can get trapped, displaced, injured, or otherwise distressed by an infinite number of causes. From high in trees, to the middle of quicksand mudflats, to spillways with surging currents, to under backyard sheds and in back alleys, the ARL is the only animal welfare organization in Massachusetts that has an entire department dedicated to rescuing animals from these situations and many more.

Our dedicated Rescue Services Team is trained to handle just about every possible rescue scenario,

including assisting law enforcement in cases of cruelty and neglect.

The team covered a good deal of ground this rescue season answering calls coming from local authorities, concerned community members, and pet owners. They helped dogs and cats; deer and squirrels; geese and pigeons; goats and swans, to name just a few species. As you can see in the photos from this season of rescue, this highly-skilled team made a difference in the lives of animals in our community.



**From June to September 2013,** the Rescue Services Team completed over 1300 rescue activities.



**This season's most intense rescue** occurred in Leicester when a raccoon got stuck under a building in a water way.



**Over 1300  
rescue activities  
this season!**





Athol Animal Control put in an emergency request to Rescue Services for help with **a stray cat they found under a porch with an illegal leghold trap clamped to one of its legs.** Our Rescue Team caught and transported the cat to Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, where veterinarians had to amputate the cat's leg due to the extent of its injuries. Now named Philbert, he continues to recover from his ordeal.



Just in time for July 4 festivities, **Rescue Services escorted a family of ducks across a footbridge on Storrow Drive** to the Esplanade and into the Charles.



The Rescue Team worked with two local fire departments and the Plymouth County Technical Rescue Team to extricate **a deer stuck in the mudflats in Marshfield.** For her work on the scene, the ARL's senior rescue technician Danielle Genter received a certificate of appreciation from the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts.

Though he was understandably wary of people, this poor Canada Goose desperately needed human assistance to **remove an arrow shot through its head.** Rescue Services was able to bring him in and take him to the New England Wildlife Center for rehabilitation. He recovered and was released a few weeks later.



**Perhaps the most famous goat in Massachusetts history,** this little lady roamed Billerica peering into office windows and prancing through backyards. She even had her own hashtag on Twitter. Her walkabout was cut short once Rescue Services got the call, and she spent the rest of her summer holiday at our Dedham shelter.

# Dancing with Spheres

Celebrating art and animals at the sculpture debut

Just after Memorial Day, the ARL unveiled “Dancing with Spheres,” a 12-foot tall stainless steel and bronze statue by David Phillips.

Brookline-resident Tony Lopes wanted to commission an artist who could recreate the sense of awe he feels when looking at an exceptional piece of public art. He also wanted to find someone who shared his deep love for animals. He brought the concept to Phillips, whose distinguished portfolio of public art includes the frogs at Boston Common’s Tadpole Playground.

“Dancing with Spheres is here at the dog play yard at the ARL’s Boston adoption center to remind us of the love and care animals add to our lives,” said Phillips of the piece.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, especially co-lead sponsors Boston Private Bank & Trust Co. and Kelly McKernan, Senior Vice President Investment Management & Trust and ARL Board Member, and DKO Photography for capturing the day.



ARL Board Chair Malcom McDonald (left); artist David Phillips; donor Tony Lopes; ARL President Mary Nee (right), pictured in front of Dancing with Spheres.

### BE A LIFESAVER - LEAD SPONSOR

Boston Private Bank & Trust Co.  
and Kelly McKernan

### GIVE A HOME

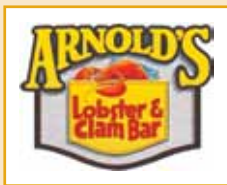
The Beal Companies  
Holly Burdon  
Malcolm McDonald and Susan Passoni  
Nancy Z. Bender Insurance Agency, Inc.

### LEND A PAW

Anonymous  
Da Vinci Ristorante  
Eaton Vance Management  
Edwards Wildman Palmer LLC  
International Poster Gallery  
Myers + Chang  
David O’Donahoe and Diane Pienta

### BE A FRIEND

Anonymous  
Beacon Services, Inc  
Gibson Sotheby’s International Realty  
Adriana Heintz  
Michael and Lee Ann Leahy  
Mintz Levin  
City Councilor Bill Linehan  
Mount Washington Bank  
Polka Dog Bakery  
Risk Strategies Company  
South End Formaggio



## Iconic Arnold’s Clam Bar Raises Almost \$4500 for ARL’s Brewster Shelter

We danced with spheres to start the summer, and ate onion rings to finish it off!

Eastham’s famous Arnold’s Clam bar generously donated all the proceeds from sales of food, ice cream, and mini-golf on the restaurant’s final weekend of the season to the ARL’s Brewster Shelter and Wild Care of Cape Cod.

Thank you to Arnold’s for a wonderful way to close out the summer!



## Over 1000 Lives Saved During Summer 2013

Participation in ASPCA Rachel Ray Challenge nets big increase in cat and dog adoptions

This summer, the ARL decided to participate in the 2013 ASPCA Rachel Ray Challenge, a nationwide competition among 50 shelters to increase pet adoptions from June 1 to August 31. The goal: 1200 in 12 weeks.

### An ambitious goal, but necessarily so.

According to Maryann Regan, the ARL's director of shelter operations, summertime is the busiest time of year for the ARL's adoption centers: "We have the most animals coming in during the spring and summer, so we've got our work cut out for us every year when it comes to finding them safe and

loving homes as quickly as possible to help as many animals as we can."

Through the generosity of media partners including the *Boston Herald*, the MBTA, IBEW, and Clear Channel Communications, the ARL raised awareness for saving lives by adopting a shelter pet and for the many animals in our care looking for homes. Each shelter also hosted several successful adoption events, including the Take Me Home Today Adoptathon over Labor Day weekend.

After three months of concerted community outreach, ARL's total stood at an impressive 1015 lives saved. Each shelter also saw increases in the number of adoptions from summer 2012:

- **Boston** saw a **5% increase** with 485 dog and cat adoptions during summer 2013 vs. 461 during summer 2012
- **Dedham** saw a **41% increase** with 209 during summer 2013 vs. 148 during summer 2012
- **Brewster** saw a **44% increase** with 203 during summer 2013 vs. 141 during summer 2012

The focus on adoptions this summer also provided the opportunity for more people to learn about what the ARL does all year-round to save domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment, and neglect.



Thanks to the tireless efforts of staff, volunteers, community partners, and the individuals and families who opened their hearts to an animal in need, more cats and dogs — significantly more — found forever homes.

## Those 1015 won big!

# Fix-A-Feral Clinic

## Humanely helping cats and our communities

While feral cats tend to avoid human contact, they often live in close proximity to people, especially in urban and suburban areas.

As a result, concerns about controlling their numbers, minimizing “nuisance” behaviors such as yowling and spraying related to breeding, and maintaining their health are very real concerns for animal welfare advocates and people living alongside feral colonies.

Calls to the ARL’s Rescue Services Team and adoption centers from people complaining about feral cats roaming their neighborhood or wondering what to do about a feral mom cat and her kittens are not an uncommon occurrence.

To provide a humane solution to community concerns, staff at the Boston adoption center began to explore trap-neuter-release (TNR) programs. At that time, TNRs had effectively helped stabilize the growth and improve the overall welfare of feral cat colonies worldwide.

Thanks to a generous donor, the ARL launched its own Fix-a-Feral TNR clinic, which now runs four times a year. Our goal is to treat 75 cats per clinic and, as of this writing, we have spayed/neutered over 275 in 2013.

Clinics are held on Sundays and are fully staffed by trained volunteers, including veterinarians that offer their services for free. Trappers who feed and help maintain feral cat colonies bring in cats early in the morning and the cats are evaluated. The cats are spayed/neutered and vaccinated, and receive additional medical attention if necessary.



Trappers bring feral cats like this one to the ARL’s Fix-a-Feral clinics to get spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

An important part of the TNR approach to managing the size of feral colonies is finding the “friendlies,” cats that are more likely strays than true ferals. At all the Fix-a-Feral clinics, staff and volunteers invest time in assessing each cat to find those with adoption potential.

Heinz57, a wonderful 6-year-old all white cat with beautiful green eyes, for instance, came in this past April. Staff at the clinic could tell from his demeanor that he could adapt to living inside with people. While at our Brewster adoption

center, he met a wonderful family that today he calls his own.

Meanwhile, the true ferals are returned back to their colonies where they can concentrate on day-to-day living instead of breeding, reproducing, and providing for offspring. They are truly happier and healthier cats!

**Learn more  
about Heinz57  
[arlboston.org/Heinz57](http://arlboston.org/Heinz57)**

**Thank you  
to Bertucci’s in Kenmore Square and Flour for feeding  
staff and volunteers at our 2013 Fix-A-Feral clinics.**

# One Lucky Dog

## Alice's New Lease on Life Thanks to Cape Cod Community

Alice, a 7-month mixed breed, got off to a very rough start in life.

Alice arrived on a transport from Louisiana to the ARL's Brewster shelter when she was just 7 months old. When he first examined her, ARL veterinarian Dr. Kyle Quigley immediately noticed she was having trouble with her back legs.

**"She had almost no muscle development in her hind limbs and was having trouble doing many activities," explained Dr. Quigley. Further x-rays revealed that Alice's hips were severely disabled and would require extensive and expensive surgeries as she grew older.**

In spite of her medical outlook, the Brewster shelter found a wonderful adoptive family in Rachel Dewees, fiancé David Thornton, and son, Daniel, of Sandwich, MA, for Alice. The family agreed to take Alice as a foster pet and to start her on physical therapy to build strength in her legs before surgery.

Therapists at Cape Animal Referral and Emergency (CARE) generously offered to do underwater treadmill sessions with Alice at no cost. Using the buoyancy of water to take stress off Alice's joints, therapists helped her exercise safely and build critical muscle tone and control in her hind legs.

The results of the underwater therapy were nothing short of amazing. When Alice went in for the scheduled surgery on her hips, her doctors determined she had built up her muscles and gained such significant

mobility, they no longer needed to operate.

According to Dr. Quigley, "Her recovery and the muscle mass that she developed were truly remarkable and a testament to the powerful benefits of physical therapy. Alice is one lucky dog to have found such a great family and to have received the care she desperately needed."

Alice's foster and now adoptive family has a slightly different spin. "Everyone keeps saying how lucky Alice

is to have had so many chances and so many champions, but we feel like we're the lucky ones," smiled Rachel Dewees. "She's a complete delight and has brought so much joy to our family in a short period of time. We love her to pieces."

With an excellent prognosis, Alice continues her water treadmill therapy twice weekly at CARE, and enjoys regular romps, walks and swims at Barnstable's Sandy Neck Beach with her family.



Alice doing one of her underwater treadmill sessions at CARE.



ARL veterinarian Dr. Kyle Quigley holding Alice.



Alice with her family, Rachel Dewees, fiancé David Thornton, and son Daniel.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## A love of animals in action

The animals in our care rely on the many special volunteers who pour their time and love into keeping them happy and healthy. Our volunteers help us understand, respect, and respond to the individual needs of each and every animal in our three adoption centers. We're shining the spotlight on some of the most dedicated and inspirational people with whom we have the distinct honor to work.

### Welcome back Dann Brown

Dann left a noticeable void at the ARL's Boston adoption center when he left to attend school in Missouri in 2012.



Dann Brown saying hello to Charlie.

When he began volunteering in 2009, the animals instantly took to him — and he to them. Many days, he could be found down on the floor playing with different cats in our care, and bringing even the shyest kitten out of her shell. Dogs barked and wagged their tails in happy recognition when he walked into the kennels, looking forward to their turn with Dann.

Now that he has returned from school, Dann is back at the Boston shelter for more! True to form, many days you will find him once again down on the floor or face to face with his many furry friends.



The Mod Squad from left to right: Amy Sutherland, Maria Uribe, Michele Smith, Kate Hanson, and Mal Malme.

### The Mod Squad

Amy Sutherland, Maria Uribe, Michele Smith, Kate Hanson, and Mal Malme comprise a group of elite volunteers known affectionately at the ARL as “the mod squad.” Each went above and beyond the average volunteer commitment, taking training classes and other courses suggested by the ARL in order to develop high-level dog care and training expertise.

Working together as a team, they provide essential support in the Boston adoption center for dogs with a variety of health and behavioral issues, making sure that, even at the busiest times, every dog gets the individual enrichment he or she needs. They also help with adoptions — taking pictures, helping with introductions, offering tips and advice to potential adopters, and more.

Every member of the Mod Squad has volunteered at the ARL for 4 years or more. This year, Maria Uribe celebrated a special milestone: 10 years volunteering with the ARL and counting!

### Alice Elliott

Sometimes, animals in need of some extra TLC will go to foster homes. Very young kittens or puppies who may not do well in the animal shelter

environment, an animal in need of a more lengthy recovery period from surgery, or a cat or dog who needs to do some training in a home environment before adoption are all examples.

For almost 10 years, Alice has continued a family tradition of welcoming dogs and cats of all ages into her home. She helps all of the ARL's shelters with animals that need long-term fostering as a result of medical treatment, and has taken on animals with challenging behavioral issues.

Alice and her mother first began fostering for the ARL in 2004. They bonded with their animals and Alice cherished the time spent pursuing their mutual love of animals together. Though her mother passed away in 2011, Alice believes the foster work she continues to do honors her mother's memory.

### Alice Elliott holding Lavender



# Thank you to our corporate team volunteers

*including:*



- The editors of The Patch newspapers! Not only did you share news about our summer adoption goal of “1200 in 12 weeks,” but you took time out to walk dogs in our Boston adoption center.



- TIF for canvassing the South End with flyers about our summer adoption goal!



- The Boston Company for spending a day doing a thorough fall clean up at our Boston adoption center — it looks great!

## You can help too!

Visit [arlboston.org/volunteer](http://arlboston.org/volunteer) to learn about volunteer opportunities

## Puppy Doe

### Stunning Cruelty That Shocked Us All

The same day so many lives were saved at the ARL's end-of-the-summer Take Me Home Adoptathon, Puppy Doe, a young adult dog found tortured, starved, and dumped near a quiet park in Quincy, Massachusetts, was humanely euthanized at an emergency veterinary clinic on the South Shore.

Concerned about the nature and extent of her injuries, as well as her emaciated condition, the treating veterinarian got in touch with the ARL's Center for Animal Protection to tap our veterinary forensic capabilities and law enforcement expertise.

Thanks to your support, we were able to answer the call to action on behalf of Puppy Doe and bring her case to the attention of the Norfolk County District Attorney.

#### What Is Happening in the Case?

In mid-September, the ARL, the Quincy Police Department, and the Norfolk County District Attorney together issued an appeal to the public for information about who owned and abused Puppy Doe.

The Quincy police assigned a three-person team of detectives to pursue the multiple leads that poured into the department.

On October 28, the police announced an arrest in the case and the suspect was charged with 11 counts of animal cruelty.

Our law enforcement team and Center for Animal Protection act as a resource to local authorities dealing with cruelty and neglect cases and issues. Our rescue services team, adoption centers, and network of foster volunteers also provide care, treatment, shelter, and aid in finding a home for animals recovering from cruel conditions.



Investigators continue to pursue justice for Puppy Doe, a young adult female dog that suffered a shocking level of abuse.



A week after the public appeal for information in the case, hundreds gathered at the Vigil for Puppy Doe to memorialize her and draw attention animal cruelty issues.

#### What Is the ARL Doing?

After bringing Puppy Doe's abuse to the attention of the DA, the ARL has continued to provide on-going support to the investigation.

Our initial forensic analysis proved crucial to establishing the extreme brutality of the abuse inflicted on Puppy Doe, and we will provide additional forensic consultation and testimony as required.

Our special police officer and director of the ARL's Center for Animal

Protection also contributed his experience and expertise to Quincy police.

**Only 1 in 5 cases of animal cruelty is ever even discovered. Last year alone, the ARL assisted in 1,500 cases of cruelty and neglect — most of which never made the headlines.**

**Thank you  
for keeping us  
ever-ready to  
answer the call  
for help!**



# 13 Puppies Seized in Middleboro

## Recovering from Cruel Conditions

During a drug and weapons raid on a home in Middleboro in early October, police found 13 pitbull puppies jammed into a small crate. Though four adult pitbulls were also found in the home in good condition, the puppies were all filthy, emaciated, and dehydrated.

The local veterinarian who provided urgent care to the puppies described them as “little bone racks,” and believed at least one of the puppies wouldn’t have made it through another night if authorities hadn’t found him.

Middleboro Animal Control contacted the ARL for help, and within 24 hours of their discovery all but one

of the rescued pups checked into the three ARL adoption centers in Boston, Dedham, and Brewster. The one puppy too sick to travel remained under the care of the local veterinarian until he could join his siblings a few days later.

As widely reported in the media, the puppies had clearly been living in cruel conditions.

Lt. Alan Borgal, director of the ARL’s Center for Animal Protection, suspected the dogs’ previous owner, now under arrest, had a side-business selling dogs: “I think this was a case of a ‘backyard breeder’ — an individual who’s not a professional breeder and

just trying to make a quick buck. They don’t put a lot of care into the animal.”

As of this writing, the puppies are all in foster homes receiving extra love and attention. The focus is on getting them healthy and ready for adoption. In spite of their rough start on life, these little guys and gals are snugly, playful, and sweet-as-can-be!

**Thanks to your support, the 13 Middleboro puppies have a brighter future in safe and loving homes!**



Two of the 13 puppies who all have a second chance, thanks to you.

# Helping Hand from Alice T. Whitney

Making sure those with limited economic means have access to veterinary care

It was the kind of situation confronting Candace Rivera earlier this year that inspired long-time ARL supporter Jane Whitney Marshall to first establish the Alice T. Whitney Helping Hand Fund five years ago.

On a Thursday morning that had started just like any other, Candace's beloved family dog Foxy was accidentally hit by a car. Though the petite 4-year-old Chihuahua had somehow managed to survive the impact, she needed emergency surgery, which Candace simply could not afford.

The family had fallen on hard times financially and they did not have the \$4,000 it would take to save Foxy. Humane euthanasia was the only other option, but was unthinkable to the distraught Candace.

Jane Whitney Marshall established the Alice T. Whitney Helping Hand Fund in memory of her grandmother

— a contemporary and friend of ARL founder Anna Harris Smith — to ensure limited economic means did not prevent caring owners like Candace from providing vital care for their pets in treatable medical emergencies.

**Thanks to you, more than 360 pets received critical veterinary care that their families could not afford without financial assistance.**

Luckily for Candace, a friend directed her to the ARL and she learned she qualified for assistance through the Fund. Foxy received the emergency care she needed and after several lengthy surgeries, countless days of medical treatment, and rehabilitation, she went home to her family.



Foxy, seen here after her life-saving surgery, is now home with her family.

The spirit and generosity of Alice T. Whitney, described in a board tribute as “always ready to extend a helping hand to those in need,” lives on through all the second chances provided by the fund that bears her name.

**Remember the ARL's Alice T. Whitney Fund this #GivingTuesday on December 3. Learn more at [arlboston.org/givingtuesday2013](http://arlboston.org/givingtuesday2013)**

## ARL's Young Professionals Group Continues to Grow



Not even a year old, the ARL's Young Professionals Group membership numbers have rapidly expanded as animal-lovers from all over greater Boston have enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to network with peers with similar interests and concerns about animal welfare.

This summer, ARL YP'ers enjoyed complimentary summer appetizers, cocktails, raffle prizes, and great conversations at two dog-friendly outdoor events at the Seaport Hotel in

Boston. Members also added to their fall wardrobe at an exclusive “Sip and Shop” event hosted by Beacon Hill's J. McLaughlin with 15% of sales going to the ARL.

Visit [arlboston.org/yp](http://arlboston.org/yp) for membership information.

**Special thanks to our generous hosts the Seaport Hotel and J. McLaughlin!**

**If you're between the ages of 21-35 and want to help animals, join our Young Professionals Group today!**

All members receive:

- Invitations to exclusive Young Professionals events.
- Special discounts to a number of participating pet supply businesses throughout Boston.
- Discount tickets to ARL events and more.
- Pet training tips and demonstrations.

Membership fee is an annual \$25 tax-deductible donation to help the animals in our care.

**Visit [arlboston.org/yp](http://arlboston.org/yp)**

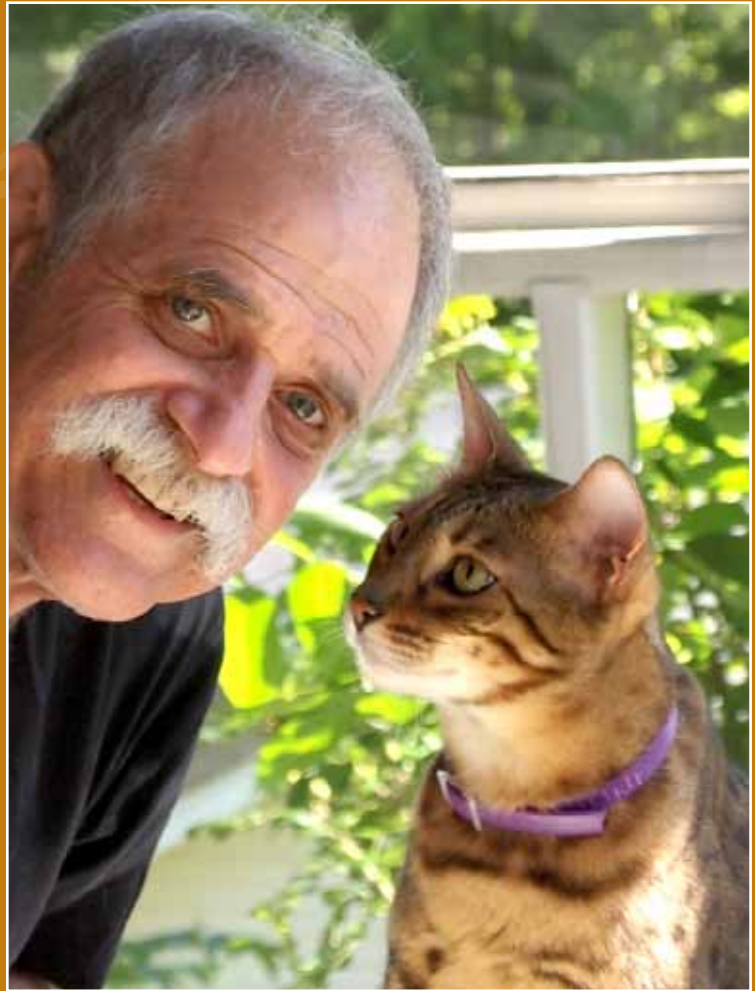
# Leave a Legacy

FOR A HUMANE SOCIETY

The Anna Harris Smith Legacy is comprised of caring individuals who have elected to help secure future animal care by providing a bequest to the Animal Rescue League of Boston in their estate plans.

For more information about how you can help support the ARL now and into the future, please contact Caitlin Oates at 617.226.5690 or [coates@arlboston.org](mailto:coates@arlboston.org).

Thank you!



**“I am choosing to leave a legacy with the ARL for many reasons, but the main one is that I know that the money I am giving to the ARL will go directly to save animals’ lives, as well as to bring joy to the families that adopt an animal into their home. The ARL is unlike any other non-profit.”**

**– Glenn Mekelburg**

# Which would **you** choose?

Pay your rent or get your beloved pet emergency veterinary care.

## How could you choose?

Give low-income families and their pets the special gift of love and time.

Donate to ARL's Alice T. Whitney Helping Hand Fund on GivingTuesday

SAVE THE DATE:  
December 3, 2013



[arlboston.org/givingtuesday2013](http://arlboston.org/givingtuesday2013)



## Spread the Word About Spay Waggin'!



Making monthly scheduled stops throughout the South Shore and Cape Cod on an appointment-only basis.

Find out when it's coming to a location near you.

 [spaywaggin@arlboston.org](mailto:spaywaggin@arlboston.org)

 [facebook.com/SpayWaggin](https://facebook.com/SpayWaggin)