

NEWS RELEASE/PHOTO OP

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A Public Plea for Proper Pet Surrender

Quincy Animal Control to Join ARL for Important Safety and Legal Reminder

On Tuesday, September 18, Animal Rescue League of Boston Law Enforcement and Quincy Animal Control will come together to issue an urgent public reminder about proper and responsible pet surrender – including possible alternatives should the local shelter be closed.

Members of the media are invited and encouraged to attend as this is an issue that is plaguing animal organizations across the Commonwealth. Four animals recently abandoned on the Quincy Animal Shelter property will be on-hand as well.

Where: ARL Dedham Animal Care and Adoption Center – 55 Anna's Place, Dedham When: Tuesday, September 18 @ 11:30 Who: ARL Law Enforcement Officers, Quincy ACO Don Conboy, Quincy Animal Shelter Director Kit Burke

In recent weeks, both organizations have had instances where animals were left outside their respective shelters, waiting to be rescued. Unfortunately some of these animals were found too late to help.

Some pet owners feel guilt, shame, embarrassment, fear judgement or condemnation for surrendering an animal and choose abandonment instead. Abandonment is never a viable option. Not only does this put the animal at risk; abandoning an animal is also a felony in Massachusetts.

Our organizations exist to help animals, as well as the people who care for them. There are certainly scenarios where pet surrender is necessary and if that's the case we want to help pet owners directly, see what resources or services available, and also reassure them the animal will be taken care of and find a 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 2017, ARL served more than 18,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive no government grants or public 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 <u>www.arlboston.org</u>; and be sure to follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.

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