

## **\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE/PHOTOS ATTACHED\*\*\***

CONTACT: Mike DeFina, Media Relations Officer (617) 293-3530 mdefina@arlboston.org

FOR RELEASE ON: January 3, 2019

## **ARL Notches First Cat Rescue of 2019**

Feline trapped on rooftop three stories up in Dorchester

The Animal Rescue League of Boston's (ARL) Rescue Services Department tallied its first cat rescue of 2019 today (Thursday), as a three-year-old male cat named Gadget managed to get out of his home on Wednesday and found his way atop a roof along Gaston Street in Dorchester, MA.

The rescue had a high degree of difficulty, as the cat was on a shingled area approximately two feet wide just below the jutting roof. Agents ascended the fire escape, however there was still a three-foot gap between where the cat was and the fire escape.

Attempts using nets and hook poles proved to be unsuccessful, however a narrow board placed from the fire escape to the shingled area turned out to be the best approach – particularly when Gadget's owners came to the scene after leaving work.

Stephanie Mitchell, Gadget's owner, conquered her fear of heights and climbed the fire escape with the cat's favorite food. Slowly but surely the cat gained enough confidence to make it across the board and into the waiting hands of ARL Rescue Agents.

Gadget was hungry and scared, but was not injured during his adventure. Upon getting the cat home Mitchell replied "I'm so grateful and so happy to have Gadget back home!"

ARL is the only animal welfare organization in Massachusetts with a dedicated technical rescue department and rescues thousands of animals annually, including more than 200 cats being trapped in trees and other precarious places.

For photos of the rescue click on the below Dropbox link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2bte3nuj1geycnu/AAAuDjHwp0Ue3fpbnQr74fuYa?dl=0

## 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>.

###