

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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**FOR RELEASE ON:**

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**Improperly Disposed Animals Found on Cape Cod**

*Discovery prompts ARL investigation*

BREWSTER, MA – Following two discoveries of animals being improperly disposed of on Lower Cape conservation lands in the past five months, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is reminding the public that anyone who needs to find a final resting place for a beloved pet, or dispose of an animal carcass, to do so responsibly.

These two incidents prompted investigations by ARL's Law Enforcement Department.

In October 2018, a deceased dog was found buried on conservation land in Orleans. A necropsy did not reveal a conclusive cause of death, but it's likely the animal was buried there for sentimental reasons – animals may not be interred on conservation land, therefore this animal was illegally dumped.

In January 2019, a second discovery was made at Punkhorn Parklands in Brewster – this time a garbage bag, wrapped in duct tape with fur protruding from the bag was found.

The animal found in Punkhorn Parklands was the pelt of a black bear cub. The pelt was expertly cleaned of all the meat and the head was removed. No tags were evident nor were there visible wounds to indicate cause of death. Black bear hunting is legal throughout New England so it is unknown where the bear was killed, and a lack of tags makes it impossible to determine if the kill was properly reported. It was however dumped illegally.

In each of the aforementioned cases, the discovery of these animals triggered an investigation by ARL's Law Enforcement Department, with notification and assistance from local and state authorities. Neither situation demonstrated any direct neglect or abuse, and a lack of evidence makes it nearly impossible to determine who may be responsible; however the subsequent investigations resulted in a loss of time and resources for all parties involved.

"ARL Law Enforcement investigates animal cruelty and neglect throughout Massachusetts," said Lt. Alan Borgal, Director of ARL Law Enforcement. "We are on the streets everyday investigating potentially harmful acts against animals; and careless, insensitive incidents like this hinder ARL, as well as local and state authorities from helping those in need."

Discovering disposed animals in this manner can also be traumatic to children or anyone else who comes across these scenes.

If you are a property owner, Massachusetts law does allow pet to be buried on the property, however before doing so be sure to check your city or town's regulations regarding pet burial. Most animal hospitals and veterinary clinics also offer cremation services.

Full text of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 270, Section 16:

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartIV/TitleI/Chapter270/Section16>

**\*PHOTOS OF THE BEAR PELT AND BAG IT WAS FOUND IN AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST\***

**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 [www.arlboston.org](http://www.arlboston.org); and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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