

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE/PHOTO OP\*\*\***

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**FOR RELEASE ON:**

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**ARL Partners with ABCD in Pet Wellness Program Expansion**

*Media event to be held at Roxbury clinic location*

Today, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is pleased to announce a groundbreaking partnership with Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), to bring pet wellness services directly to four Boston communities where they're needed most.

ARL and ABCD invite the media to mark this partnership and the uniting of animal and human service agencies to better serve pets, and the people who care for them.

**Media Event:**

**When: July 10 @ 11 AM to Noon**

**Where: ABCD Roxbury/North Dorchester NOC, 565 Warren St. Boston, MA 02122**

ABCD helps Greater Boston's most vulnerable and at-risk individuals and families transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Every year, the agency serves more than 100,000 individuals, families and the elderly.

In 2018, ARL's 38 Pet Wellness Clinics in Dorchester's Codman Square were an enormous success, serving 431 pets. The success, combined with the need for veterinary

services, supported the fundraising to expand these clinics and in addition to the Dorchester and Roxbury clinics, an additional clinic will soon be added to serve Mattapan and Hyde Park. Clinics will be held outside ABCD locations.

During ARL's pilot program in Codman Square which began in 2017, the organization received direct feedback from the community on what barriers existed concerning pet ownership. Top responses included a lack of affordable care and access to services. ARL's Pet Wellness Clinics drastically reduces these barriers.

For just \$10, pets receive a physical exam; rabies and distemper vaccines; flea treatment and microchip. These services would normally cost upwards of \$300 in a traditional veterinary clinic setting.

ARL wishes to express its extreme gratitude to ABCD for its partnership, and is also grateful to generous grants from [PetSmart Charities](#) and the [Mabel Louise Riley Foundation](#), who made it possible for ARL to purchase and outfit its brand-new Wellness Waggin'. The vehicle is state-of-the-art, and features a separate exam and surgical area.

"The Animal Rescue League of Boston of course cares for animals in need, but also helps the people who love them," said **ARL President Mary Nee**. "Cost or accessibility to care should never be a barrier to having a healthy and happy animal in the home and we are thrilled to be partnering with ABCD to bring these vital services where they're needed most to help eliminate these barriers."

"Most of us would agree that our dogs and cats are part of the family. The people we serve struggle to get by, and their pets bring much-needed joy into their lives," said **ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew**. "For many elders, pets are important companions that keep loneliness at bay. Unfortunately, veterinary care is expensive, and when a pet gets sick, it can lead to real financial hardship or worse making the choice between feeding themselves and getting that care. That's why we are happy to partner with the Animal Rescue League to make pet care affordable and accessible to all our neighbors."

#### **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](#).

**About ABCD:**

*ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development) is a nonprofit community action agency that provides low income residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support, and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success.* Each year, we serve more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For more than 50 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in each neighborhood we serve, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more, please visit [bostonabcd.org](http://bostonabcd.org). Also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [SnapChat](#).

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