

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



*****NEWS RELEASE/PHOTOS ATTACHED*****

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Animals Being Abandoned Outside ARL Shelters

ARL Reminds Pet Owners if Surrender is Necessary – Do it Properly

With three animals being abandoned on Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) property in the past week, ARL is once again reminding pet owners that if they need to surrender an animal to please take the proper steps to do so.

Last week a pair of guinea pigs were discovered about 1,000 feet from the Animal Care and Adoption Center doors in Dedham, and on Monday, a cat was discovered outside ARL's Boston shelter doors.

The guinea pigs were found in a urine-and-feces-soaked box with a hand-written message reading "Adopt me, I'm cute." Because the former owners did not contact anyone inside the shelter, it was sheer luck that an ARL employee discovered the small box while leaving for the day.

Similarly, the cat was found outside in a carrier, also with a hand-written note describing difficult personal circumstances. Due to COVID-19, all animals involved are being quarantined for 14 days in case of a possible exposure to the virus.

Unfortunately, this can be a common occurrence for ARL, as well as other animal welfare organizations.

"When people inside the shelter building are unaware that an animal has been left outside, that is considered abandonment, which is a felony in Massachusetts," said ARL Law Enforcement Director Lt. Alan Borgal. "When this happens the animals are put at risk by being exposed to the

elements, animal predators and a variety of other threats, and sadly we have seen a number of instances where the animal wasn't found until it was too late."

ARL is committed to keeping pets and families together, and will explore all options to make that possible. However, ARL does understand that circumstances do arise where the animal may not remain in the home, and if that happens, pet owners need to reach out to make sure the surrender is done properly.

"Surrendering an animal is certainly not an easy decision," Lt. Borgal said. "However, ARL as an organization exists to help both animals and people, and if surrender is necessary, there are no judgements, no shaming, no accusations. We just want what's best for both the animal and people involved. Additionally, surrender gives us, as animal care givers, the opportunity to learn more about the animal's behavior and habits, which further helps ARL find a suitable match for a new home."

ARL Law Enforcement is investigating the incident in Dedham, and asks that anyone with information pertaining to the situation to please contact ARL Law Enforcement at 617-426-9170, or via email cruelty@arlboston.org.

If you need to surrender an animal, please contact ARL's Boston, Dedham, or Brewster Intake Offices at 617-426-9170.

FOR PHOTOS OF THE ANIMALS, CLICK THE DROPBOX LINK BELOW:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/piovtoxbum9ygqh/AAA64A5dVxi246beMvJoEstPa?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 2019, ARL served more than 20,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. ARL relies 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; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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