

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



***NEWS RELEASE ***

CONTACT:

Mike DeFina, Media Relations Officer

(617) 293-3530

mdefina@arlboston.org

FOR RELEASE ON:

March 27, 2020

ARL Launching Keep Pets S.A.F.E. Program

Multi-tiered emergency plan to assist pet owners in need amid COVID-19 outbreak

Today, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is launching the **Keep Pets S.A.F.E. (Supporting Animals Facing Emergencies) Program**, in an effort to support animals in need and to keep people and pets together during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program, funded by a \$30,000 grant through PetSmart Charities®, will allow ARL to support community partners Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) and Boston Senior Home Care (BSHC), by providing their clients with pet food and supplies and other urgent assistance.

Clients of ARL's Wellness Waggin' are also eligible for assistance.

ARL will offer help during this crisis by providing the following services to clients who qualify for the program:

- Deliver pet food and other essential pet supplies to clients' homes and partner-supported community housing;
- Pick up pets to provide critical veterinary care and return them to their owner;
- Provide temporary emergency shelter for pets and offer pick up and return of the pet to their owner or a designated caregiver;
- Arrange for emergency and essential surrender of pets with pick up service.

As of today, ARL will be limiting these services to clients of the Wellness Waggin', ABCD, and BSHC who reside in the following zip codes:

- 02119 – Roxbury
- 02120 – Roxbury
- 02121 – Dorchester
- 02122 – Dorchester
- 02124 – Dorchester
- 02125 – Dorchester
- 02126 – Mattapan

“The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented, and ARL is committed to keeping pets and their families together during this difficult time,” stated **Dr. Edward Schettino, ARL’s Vice President of Animal Welfare and Veterinary Services**. “If you find yourself in an extreme situation where you have to decide whether your pet can remain in the home due to emergency medical, financial, or personal reasons, you are encouraged to contact the Animal Rescue League of Boston.”

Clients in the aforementioned zip codes who qualify for these services can call ARL’s Keep Pets S.A.F.E. hotline at **(857) 350-8730**. The hotline will be available **Monday-Saturday from 9AM to 5PM**.

For more information on ARL’s Keep Pets S.A.F.E. Program, and to see if you qualify, log onto arlboston.org/safe.

For information on ARL’s protective measures regarding COVID-19, go to arlboston.org/covid-19/.

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. 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; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

###