

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



*****NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA AVAILABILITY*****

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ARL Reminds Public Covid-19-Related Pet Services Available

Programs designed to keep pets and families together

As we remain in the grips of the Covid-19 pandemic and about to head into a difficult winter, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) wants to remind the public of two programs geared to assist pet owners facing Covid-19-related hardship.

ARL's Temporary Housing Initiative

At the core of its mission, ARL believes in keeping people and pets together, and is offering temporary shelter for animals whose owners may be experiencing housing instability or may be at imminent risk of homelessness. This is an imperative service for individuals facing eviction due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Massachusetts eviction moratorium expired on October 17, and evictions are projected to drastically increase in 2021.

Any pet owner who is experiencing housing instability is potentially eligible for this service, however, priority will be given to existing clients of ARL's Wellness Waggin'.

The first step in the process is to contact ARL's Admissions Office depending on location:

Boston (617) 426-9170 x140; Dedham (617) 426-9170 x404; Brewster (617) 426-9170 x305.

Animal admissions is being coordinated through ARL's animal care and adoption center management staff as space allows. A prescreening process determines eligibility, and once accepted, the client is responsible for transporting the animal to the specified location.

The animal is held at the animal care and adoption facility temporarily to receive a veterinary exam and behavioral evaluation, and is then placed into a foster home.

Animals have a maximum 120-day stay within ARL's foster care network, and pet owners must agree to parameters of conditional surrender to ARL including maintaining bi-weekly check-ins throughout the pet's placement period.

For more information on ARL's Temporary Housing Initiative, log onto [Temporary Pet Housing Initiative - Animal Rescue League of Boston \(arlboston.org\)](https://arlboston.org)

ARL's Keep Pets S.A.F.E. (Supporting Animals Facing Emergencies) Program

ARL's **Keep Pets S.A.F.E. Program** was launched in April 2020, in an effort to support animals in need and to keep people and pets together during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program has allowed 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 continue to 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;
- 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.

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. The Animal Rescue League of Boston does not receive government grants or public funding (with the exception of limited COVID-19 relief funding) and relies on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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