

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Zoo New England to Host ARL's Spay Waggin' at Franklin Park Zoo** *Inaugural stop coincides with World Spay Day*

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is pleased to announce that its newest Spay Waggin' location will be hosted by Zoo New England at the iconic Franklin Park Zoo, to serve residents in nearby communities seeking low-cost, high-quality spay and neuter services for their dogs or cats.

February 23 is also World Spay Day, an international day of action promoting spay and neuter. ARL and Zoo New England will be joined by the Massachusetts Animal Fund to mark the occasion, and invite members of the media to help spread the message regarding the importance of spay and neuter.

### **Media Availability**

**When: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.**

**Where: Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Boston, MA, 02121**

**Interview Opportunities: Dr. Edward Schettino, ARL President and CEO, John Linehan, Zoo New England President and CEO, Sheri Gustafson, Mass Animal Fund Program Coordinator**

More than 25 animals will have the important surgery during the first Franklin Park Zoo stop, and the Spay Waggin' will return to the Franklin Park Zoo on a monthly basis. The Spay Waggin' will be parked near the Zebra entrance at Franklin Park Zoo. The February 23rd visit is fully booked, for future appointments log onto [arlboston.org/spay-waggin](http://arlboston.org/spay-waggin) or call 1-877-590-SPAY (7729).

ARL's Spay Waggin' is a state-of-the-art mobile spay/neuter clinic that has provided the service for more than 65,000 animals since first hitting the road in 2000. While the Spay Waggin' has primarily served the South Shore, South Coast and Cape Cod communities, in 2020 the Spay Waggin' returned to the city with a stop in East Boston, and the new Franklin Park Zoo stop will further broaden the reach to Metro Boston residents.

"We are excited for the opportunity to offer a second Spay Waggin' stop in the City of Boston," said **Dr. Edward Schettino, ARL President and CEO**. "Zoo New England has been incredibly supportive of this initiative, and it will allow ARL to serve even more animals in the Greater Boston area."

"We are happy to partner with the Animal Rescue League to bring this important service to residents who live near Franklin Park Zoo," said **John Linehan, Zoo New England President and CEO**. "We care deeply about the

health and well-being of animals, and we hope that this opportunity provides ease to residents in caring for their pets.”

Despite the benefits of having a pet spayed or neutered, there are countless pet owners in Massachusetts who cannot afford to have this vital procedure performed. ARL’s Spay Waggin’, along with the Mass Animal Fund have taken tremendous steps to help overcome the barriers some face to have their pet spayed/neutered.

ARL’s Spay Waggin’ offers low-cost services and the convenience of nearly a dozen rotating locations throughout the service area. The Mass Animal Fund provides vouchers through local animal control officers to those facing financial hardship, which covers the cost of the surgery at participating veterinary clinics (which include ARL’s Spay Waggin’ and Community Surgical Clinic). The Mass Animal Fund is primarily funded through the voluntary tax checkoff (Line 33f) on the Massachusetts resident income tax form.

There are numerous reasons to spay/neuter your pet, including:

- Curb pet overpopulation and make your pet healthier
- Reduce the number of homeless pets euthanized – In the U.S., an estimated 6-8 million homeless animals enter animal shelters every year
- Spayed or neutered dogs and cats on average have a longer lifespan than intact animals
- Increased longevity of altered pets involves the reduced risk of certain type of cancers including uterine cancer and cancers of reproductive tract
- Spaying females prior to their first heat cycle has been shown to reduce the risk of breast cancer, uterine infections, and uterine cancer
- Reduce unruly behavior

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

#### **ABOUT ZOO NEW ENGLAND**

**Zoo New England** manages Franklin Park Zoo in Boston and Stone Zoo in Stoneham. Both are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Zoo New England's mission is to inspire people to protect and sustain the natural world for future generations by creating fun and engaging experiences that integrate wildlife and conservation programs, research, and education. “Like” us on Facebook ([/franklinparkzoo](https://www.facebook.com/franklinparkzoo)) and follow us on Twitter ([@zooneewengland](https://twitter.com/zooneewengland)), Instagram, and Snapchat ([@zooneewengland](https://www.snapchat.com/add/zooneewengland))!

#### **ABOUT MASS ANIMAL FUND**

**The Mass Animal Fund’s Voucher Program was created in July of 2014 as a mechanism to provide assistance to Massachusetts’ most vulnerable companion animals.** The Voucher Program is dedicated to bringing resources to

homeless animals and animals owned by low-income Massachusetts residents through a collaborative network of animal control officers, and veterinary providers. Since inception, the Mass Animal Fund has spent over \$1.7 million dollars to sterilize and vaccinate over 13,500 animals across the Commonwealth. The Fund's Voucher Program is made possible through donations collected on line 33f of the Massachusetts Resident Income Tax Form. [www.mass.gov/animalfund](http://www.mass.gov/animalfund)

**Invest in the responsible care of animals. File taxes, help animals #line33f.**