

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



A champion for animals

CONTACT:

Mike DeFina, Media Relations Officer

(617) 293-3530

mdefina@arlboston.org

For Release on:

December 19, 2022

ARL and ABCD to Mark Pet Wellness Clinic Milestone

ARL's Wellness Waggin' to complete 10,000th appointment

On Monday, December 19, the Animal Rescue League of Boston's (ARL) and Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) will celebrate a major milestone for a mobile high-quality, low-cost pet wellness program that launched in 2019.

ARL's Wellness Waggin' will be completing its 10,000th appointment, and invite members of the media to attend and learn more about this unique and important partnership.

Media Event

When: Monday, December 19 @ 11:00 a.m.

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

Serving clients weekly from ABCD's Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan/Hyde Park locations, as well as two monthly stops in East Boston, the Wellness Waggin' offers pets a physical exam, rabies vaccine, distemper vaccine, flea treatment and microchip – all for \$10. ARL is the only animal welfare organization in Massachusetts to offer such an extensive accessible low-cost clinic, and these aforementioned services would normally cost upwards of \$300 in a veterinary clinic setting.

The Wellness Waggin' was officially put into service in August of 2019, serving nearly 1,200 animals in the remainder of the year and the service has grown exponentially on an annual basis.

The idea for the Wellness Waggin' was born out of ARL's Healthy Animals, Healthy Communities Initiative, which launched in 2017. The goal of the initiative was to improve the welfare of animals in Greater Boston, and to deepen the understanding of the human-animal bond and its connections with individual and community health.

Through partnerships with local organizations in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, ARL received direct feedback from the community regarding existing barriers concerning pet ownership. Top responses included lack of affordable care and access to services. In its four years of service, the Wellness Waggin' has drastically reduced these barriers.

Additionally, with pets being a large part of the family dynamic, the partnership between the two organizations has forged a new model of collaboration, with animal and human service organizations coming together to care for both animals and people in need.

"I'm overjoyed to celebrate this milestone and seeing how much of an impact the Wellness Waggin' has had in the communities that ARL serves," stated ARL President and CEO Dr. Edward Schettino. "This milestone is a reflection of the wonderful collaboration between ARL and ABCD and I look forward to this partnership continuing for years to come."

ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler, Esq., said that ABCD seeks to meet as many needs of people who are struggling, including health care for four-legged family members and friends. "Because of the Animal Rescue League and its Wellness Waggin', people in under-represented and under-resourced communities were and are able to get necessary and local vet care for their beloved furry friends, who are also family members who help get them through the tough moments, improve emotional well-being and make life a little brighter all around", she said. "ABCD is so proud to be a part of this 10K Wellness Waggin' moment with the Animal Rescue League, and be a contributor to meeting unseen needs in the community."

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 2021, ARL served over 23,000 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 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](#).

About ABCD:

A nonprofit human services community action organization, ABCD provides underserved residents of Boston and the Mystic Valley area, with the tools, support and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, the organization serves 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 60 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in every neighborhood and community served, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more information, please visit bostonabcd.org.

###