

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



A champion for animals

CONTACT:

Mike DeFina, Media Relations Manager
(617) 293-3530
mdefin@arlboston.org

Jamie McIver, Assoc. Director Media Relations
(857) 488-5068
jamie.mciver@bostonabcd.org

For Release on:
March 17, 2023

ARL Joins ABCD for Mobile Food Pop-Up Program

Agency provides groceries and pet food for qualifying families and individuals at no cost

(Boston, MA) -- The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is expanding its partnership with Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), by participating in two monthly ABCD FOOD POP-UPS to help distribute groceries and pet food for individuals and families in underserved and under-resourced communities in Greater Boston.

ARL and ABCD invite members of the media to see the program in action and to learn more about this much-needed and free service.

Media Availability

When: Friday, March 17 @ 1 p.m.

Where: Central Square Park, 216 Border St., Boston 02128

A May 2019 report by **Feeding America** revealed that Massachusetts has the most expensive food prices in the country, with residents of Eastern Massachusetts shouldering the highest food costs statewide. ABCD FOOD POP-UPS are among several new initiatives designed to strengthen ABCD's food security program. To qualify, residents of Boston, Medford, Everett, Belmont, Newton or Winchester must have a household annual income under 80 percent AMI (Area Median Income).

Monthly, FOOD POP-UPS visit Mattapan, Roslindale, East Boston and South Boston, providing fresh produce, meats and grocery staples. Additionally, ARL will be present at the East Boston and Mattapan pop-ups to provide dog and cat food. There are no appointments required. Community members must

register through ABCD's online portal by visiting bostonabcd.org/mobilefood. Supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

ARL's collaboration with ABCD began in 2019, with ARL's [Wellness Waggin'](#), offering low-cost, high-quality wellness care for pets in Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and East Boston, and the organization is thrilled to be able to expand this partnership to offer continued assistance to our local communities.

"Food insecurity is an unfortunate reality for many, and can extend to pets as well," stated ARL President and CEO Dr. Edward Schettino. "ABCD is continually finding ways to better serve clients, and ARL is privileged to be able to be a part of this important program to help both people and animals in our communities.

ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler, Esq., said that high inflation and food costs could force people to make the difficult choice between feeding themselves or their beloved pets. "Right now inflation and grocery prices are through the roof for everyone. Pets are family members. They improve emotional well-being and make life a little brighter all around. Deciding which family member gets fed is crushing. ABCD thanks the Animal Rescue League for this expanded partnership and for providing free pet food to clients at our FOOD POP-UPS."

ARL's contribution of free dog and cat food makes the difference for residents who are trying to make ends meet. ABCD client Diogenes Castillo supplements his grocery budget by visiting an ABCD FOOD POP-UP for fresh meat, produce and staples. He said, "With grocery prices being so expensive, everything helps. My dog is like my best friend. Receiving pet food from the Animal Rescue League when I visit ABCD FOOD-POP UPS lets me stretch my dollars and make sure that my good boy is well fed."

Feeding America also reports that in 2021, 53 million people turned to food access centers and community programs for help with putting food on the table. These pop-ups are ideal for those who don't live near a food access center, can't get to one during regular hours or who have mobility issues.

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 2022, ARL served 20,601 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 arlboston.org; 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.

###