

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



*A champion for animals*

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## **Severely Emaciated Dog in Care of ARL**

*ARL Law Enforcement investigating case of animal cruelty*

While a severely emaciated dog currently in the care of the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is making progress, ARL's Law Enforcement Department is investigating this case of starvation and gross neglect and is asking the public for any information which could lead to charges and subsequent prosecution for animal cruelty.

ARL will be holding a briefing to introduce the dog to members of the media, discuss his medical condition and ongoing law enforcement investigation.

### **Media Availability**

**When: Tuesday, September 19 @ 1 p.m.**

**Where: ARL's Dedham Animal Care and Adoption Center, 55 Anna's Place (Top of the hill), Dedham**

The approximately one-year-old dog, now named Dobby, was reportedly found as a stray in the area of Franklin Park in Dorchester in mid-August, and was transported to ARL's Dedham Animal Care and Adoption Center for care.

Upon arrival at ARL, he received a thorough veterinary exam and the greatest concern surrounding his condition was the extreme level of emaciation. Weighing just 37 pounds, he scored a 1 out of 9 on the [body condition score chart](#) which represents the highest level of

emaciation with ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance, no discernible body fat and obvious loss of muscle mass.

Additionally, Dobby's fur was urine-stained, presented with mild dental disease, and he also had a number of pressure sores, indicating that he had been kept confined to a small space.

Dobby was placed on a refeeding plan, and while he initially lost weight, he is now gaining weight and continuing to make progress. Despite his condition, Dobby knows he is in a safe and caring environment and personifies resilience as has been incredibly friendly and receptive to attention from ARL staff.

He will be heading into foster care soon and it's important to note that due to his condition he is not currently available for adoption.

ARL Law Enforcement asks that anyone with information pertaining to this case to call (617) 426-9170 x110 or email [cruelty@arlboston.org](mailto:cruelty@arlboston.org).

For photos of Dobby, click the Dropbox link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/g4u5qkqsuifa2hjxgrqr/h?rlkey=8o57zhug3idm5q3eyi2eic3sb&dl=0>

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

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