

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE**
of BOSTON



A champion for animals

CONTACT:

Mike DeFina, Media Relations Manager

(617) 293-3530

mdefin@arlboston.org

For Release on:

November 8, 2023

Puppy with Heart Condition Looking for Loving Home

Puppy may have shortened lifespan due to possible underlying cardiac condition

A 12-week-old puppy recently brought into the care of the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is looking for a special home, this after ARL's shelter medicine team detected a grade 5 heart murmur, which may indicate a serious underlying cardiac condition. Sadly, her cardiac disease has prompted a number of potential adopters to shy away.

ARL invites members of the media to meet this special puppy, learn more about her medical condition and story, and help ARL find her the home she deserves.

Media Availability

When: Wednesday, November 8, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Where: ARL's Boston Animal Care and Adoption Center, 10 Chandler St., Boston

Interview Opportunities: ARL veterinary staff

Cecilia, a 12-week-old female mixed-breed dog, was part of a transport of pups from the southern U.S. and her heart murmur was detected during her intake exam. There are 6 grades of heart murmurs, with 6 being the highest – Cecilia's heart murmur is a grade 5.

A heart murmur is a sound generated by the abnormal flow of blood in the heart. It is not uncommon for young puppies and kittens, like human children, to have an innocent heart murmur that resolves with time; however, congenital heart abnormalities can also cause heart murmurs.

The severity of Cecilia's murmur could indicate a more severe underlying cardiac defect, rather than a harmless, innocent murmur. Currently, Cecilia is not showing any clinical signs associated with her cardiac disease, but she could be at increased risk of a shortened lifespan and higher risk of congestive heart failure.

Cecilia's long-term prognosis at this time is not known and ARL will encourage her new family to discuss further medical testing with her regular veterinarian as soon as she goes home.

Medical condition aside, Cecilia is your typical 12-week-old puppy. She's incredibly friendly, energetic, and loves everything and everyone. Due to the uncertainties surrounding her condition, Cecilia's adoption fee will be waived, and ARL wants this special puppy to find the home she deserves as soon as possible.

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](#).

###