

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



A champion for animals

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ARL Joins MAF for Special Subsidized Spay/Neuter Clinic in Fall River

Nearly two dozen Animals to receive vital surgery

On Tuesday, November 21, the Animal Rescue League of Boston's (ARL) Spay Waggin' will once again be in Fall River to spay/neuter nearly two dozen animals as part of an ongoing collaborative effort with ARL, the Massachusetts Animal Fund (MAF), and Fall River Animal Control.

This collaboration has become a vital resource for the Fall River pet community, and members of the media are invited to learn more about this ongoing effort to serve an area of Massachusetts with a severe lack of accessible and affordable veterinary services.

Media Availability

When: Tuesday, November 21 @ 8:30 a.m.

Where: Fall River Fire Museum, 1181 N. Main St., Fall River, MA

Interview Opportunities: ARL, MAF and Fall River Animal Control staff

Since 2018, Fall River Animal Control has hosted the clinic in collaboration with ARL and MAF. The surgeries are under the MAF voucher program, which distributes vouchers to qualifying low-income pet owners to subsidize the cost of the important procedure. More than 150

animals have received surgeries through these clinics since the collaboration began five years ago.

Due to high demand, many clients have been on a waiting list for a number of months to have their pets spayed or neutered, and ARL is pleased to once again be providing this vital service that's greatly needed in the Fall River Community.

"Fall River is already a struggling community, but since the pandemic, it seems as if getting spay/neuter services has proven to be even more difficult," said Cynthia Berard-Cadima, Fall River Animal Control Officer. "People contact us daily, asking for funds. Many are out of work and our homeless community is growing. We are stretching every dime and our veterinarians are donating time and services more than ever."

Clients will begin arriving with their animals around 8:30 a.m. and will be picking up their animals in the afternoon following surgery and recovery time.

Clinics like this that provide subsidized spay and neuter services are at the core of MAF, which is primarily funded by the voluntary tax check off (Line 33f) on the Massachusetts resident income tax form. Since 2014, the MAF voucher program has helped provide spay and neuter services for more than 17,500 animals.

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](https://www.facebook.com/arlboston), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/arlboston), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/arlboston).

The Mass Animal Fund's Voucher Program was created 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 in 2014, the Mass Animal Fund has spent over \$2.5million dollars to sterilize and vaccinate over 17,500 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 **Invest in the responsible care of animals. File taxes, help animals #line33f.**

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