

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



A champion for animals

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For Release on:

February 20, 2023

ARL Sees Record-Setting Intake for Community Cat

ARL only large MA animal welfare agency with dedicated community cat program

Following a record-setting 2023, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) continues to see a dramatic increase in the intake of Community Cats.

ARL currently has a large number of young Community Cats in its care and invites members of the media to meet some of these cats and learn more about the organization's efforts to help these local animals.

Media Availability

When: Tuesday, February 20, 9-Noon

**Where: ARL's Dedham Animal Care and Adoption Center, 55 Anna's Place,
Dedham**

In 2023, ARL took in nearly 900 cats through the Community Cat Program, including more than 400 kittens which is the highest number of cats to come in through the program since its inception in 2017.

2024 has already been extremely busy, as ARL took in 68 Community Cats, including 22 kittens, in January – a 75 percent increase over the first month of 2023.

ARL is seeing dozens of Community Cats coming through its doors on a weekly basis, and is working to provide medical care, behavioral assessments and placing these animals into homes as quickly as possible.

ARL is the only large animal welfare organization in Massachusetts directing resources to help community cats, and thus far in 2024, ARL has taken in more than 100 community cats from areas throughout Massachusetts. Current data estimates there are approximately 700,000 community cats living in communities across the Commonwealth, 70,000 in Boston alone.

While community cats are incredibly resilient, kittens born outdoors are extremely vulnerable to fluctuating weather conditions, predators, illness, among others, and sadly many don't survive.

Community cats and kittens can be found literally anywhere – under decks, in basements, woodpiles, dog houses – anywhere a mother cat can provide relative safety and warmth for her offspring.

ARL is committed to caring for these animals and reminds the public to be on the lookout for community cats and kittens. If you come across these cats and kittens, it's important not to attempt to move them, instead contact ARL Field Service for assistance at (617) 426-9170 (option 1).

Once the cats and kittens are rescued, ARL provides veterinary care, including vaccinations and spay/neuter surgery, and the cats are also assessed behaviorally to determine adoption potential. Adult cats who are truly feral and do not want to rely on humans for care are returned to the field.

For more information about ARL's Community Cat Program please visit [Community Cat Program \(arlboston.org\)](https://www.arlboston.org)

For photos of some recent Community Cats, click the Dropbox link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/vyn7jvy9ku5lyk5se2nra/h?rlkey=rgul9ldtyw7flgsiazgw4tqty&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 2023, ARL served 20,964 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](#).

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