

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



A champion for animals

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Two Kittens Found in Car Engines in Taunton and Brockton Now in the Care of the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL)

ARL is the only large animal welfare organization in Massachusetts with a dedicated Community Cats program to address the health and safety of the population of more than 700,000 feral, semi-feral and outdoor cats throughout the state.

A six-week-old female kitten was found in a car engine compartment last week in Taunton by two Good Samaritans. The kitten, named Sparky, was unharmed and secured in a cardboard box by the finders before the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) arrived on the scene to assist.

“We were getting into our car and heard a meow,” says Myah, Sparky’s finder. “We looked under the cars but didn’t see anything. Then I told my sister we have to look under the hood and, sure enough, when I opened it, we saw her hiding!”

Sparky was transported to ARL’s Dedham Animal Care & Adoption Center for a medical evaluation and was found to be only 1.4 pounds, but otherwise in good health. She will remain in foster care for two to three weeks until she is at least eight weeks old, achieves a healthy weight, and has been spayed. Sparky’s brush with danger will soon turn into a new beginning as she will be adopted by the finder who discovered her inside the car engine compartment.

Sparky is not the only kitten to have been discovered in this dangerous, but common, situation recently. A five-month-old male kitten, named Pisces, was found in a car engine in Brockton. Pisces was also transported to ARL's Dedham Animal Care & Adoption Center for a medical evaluation. Unfortunately, Pisces sustained injuries that include a burn on his right hind leg and singed whiskers. Pisces also has a healed, old wound on his left shoulder. Pisces, who is estimated to be five months old and weighs 5.8 pounds, is undergoing wound treatment and will be neutered before he is ready for adoption in one to two weeks.

ARL's Community Cats program was established to address the growing population of more than 700,000 feral, semi-feral and outdoor cats in Massachusetts, including 70,000 in Boston alone. The only large animal welfare organization in Massachusetts with a dedicated community cat program, ARL successfully assisted 1,181 community cats, including spay and neuter surgeries, and facilitated the adoption of nearly 800 community cats in 2024.

ARL often sees cases of kittens found in car engines, especially on properties or in neighborhoods where community cats are present. Kittens take cover in car engines as a way to keep warm and protect themselves from the harsh outdoor elements. In these cases, the biggest concern is kittens getting injured or burned. During rainy or cold weather, especially, always knock on the hood of your vehicle and do a quick visual check before starting the engine.

Because there is no government funding for this important rescue work, animals must rely on individuals to get the care they need, when they need it most, 365 days a year. Donate now to help Sparky and Pisces, and other vulnerable community kittens: <https://arl.boston/sparky-pisces>

For photos and video of Sparky and Pisces, please click [this Dropbox link](#).

ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

Pets are family. This belief is at the heart of everything we do at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

ARL is the first female-founded animal welfare organization in Massachusetts and is proud to carry on a legacy of kindness and compassion, helping more than 20,000 animals annually since 1899. Recognized for innovative, award-winning programs that go beyond sheltering, ARL addresses the root causes of the issues facing animals and the people who love them. By partnering with communities, ARL helps animals heal and thrive, keeps pets and people together, and protects animals from harm. Because there is no government funding for this important work, animals must rely on people like you to get the care they need, when they need it most, 365 days a year. For more information, visit arlboston.org and follow ARL on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

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