

FINAL

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



A champion for animals

CONTACT:

Jessica Heslam

Dot Joyce Consulting

(617) 799 0487

jessica@dotjoyceconsulting.com

For Release on:

October 6, 2025

Dogs Rescued From Alleged Dogfighting and Breeding Operations Now in the Care of the Animal Rescue League of Boston

Twenty-two dogs and puppies were rescued from alleged dogfighting operations in Indiana; more than 100 dogs and puppies were discovered at a neglected breeding facility in Maryland

Last week, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) received six dogs from Humane World for Animals after being rescued from alleged dogfighting operations in Fort Wayne, Indiana and a large-scale case of alleged neglect at a breeding operation in Harford County, Maryland.

Wrangler, a one-year-old pittie mix, was among the dogs rescued from the dogfighting operation. Calendar, Coffee, Fitbit, Slinky and Tassle, all Havanese-mixes between 11 weeks and 5 years old, were rescued from the breeding operation. All of the dogs are fearful, but most are in relatively good health. All six dogs underwent medical evaluations at ARL's Dedham Animal Care & Adoption Center.

"The Animal Rescue League of Boston is honored to welcome these resilient dogs who have endured unimaginable suffering and deplorable conditions. We are dedicated to providing them with the loving homes and lives they truly deserve, and it is our privilege to help them as they begin their journey of healing," said Dr. Edward Schettino, ARL President and CEO.

Photos of the dogs are available at [this Dropbox link](#).

To donate to support these dogs, visit: <https://arl.boston/rescueddogs>



Case Backgrounds:

On June 29, Humane World for Animals assisted the Fort Wayne Police Department with the rescue of 22 dogs and puppies from two suspected dogfighting operations. Law enforcement officials served search and seizure warrants on multiple properties.

The region was under a heat advisory with the heat index reaching approximately 110 degrees when responders arrived at the first property, where they found dogs panting and in filthy hutches and cages. Despite the scorching heat, many of the dogs had no access to water, and some had significant scarring consistent with dogfighting. A dog was found in a cage inside a sweltering garage with an old, large wound on his neck, which veterinarians noted appears to have been caused by a dog bite.

On the second property, dogs were found on heavy chains outdoors with inadequate protection from the elements, and several were suffering from flystrike, a serious condition caused when flies lay eggs on an animal. Other dogs were found in cramped cages inside with no water, including a female dog with significant facial scarring who was missing part of her upper lip, part of her mouth and several teeth. Veterinarians determined that these injuries appear to be the result of a dog bite. Veterinarians identified blood splatter on the wall of the basement. Responders discovered dogfighting paraphernalia on the properties, including several treadmills and a stand typically used in dogfighting operations to restrain dogs for breeding.

Despite the appalling conditions, many of the dogs appeared eager for attention. They were brought to a safe location and given much-needed care and treatment. Veterinarians noted that many of the dogs were underweight, and suffering from a variety of health issues, including some with ear infections, damaged or missing teeth, fleas, ulcerated lesions, overgrown nails, missing hair and one with an abscessed puncture wound.

Many dogs rescued from dogfighting can go on to enjoy safe, happy lives as loving family members, often in homes with other pets.

In August, Humane World for Animals also assisted the Harford County Sheriff's Office in rescuing over 100 dogs and puppies in a large-scale alleged neglect situation at a breeder's residence in Harford County, Maryland.

Rescuers were overwhelmed by the odor of ammonia and feces emanating from the residence. Dogs were found roaming throughout the residence, while others were contained in filthy, stacked wire-bottom cages without apparent access to food or water.

Groups of two to three dogs were cramped together in 1-foot by 1-foot-6-inch cages, giving them no choice but to step on top of each other. Some of the dogs were severely matted, and veterinarians noted several suffering from painful dental abscesses, eye discharge and skin infections.

A mother dog was found in a whelping box nursing three weeks-old puppies, inches away from a recently deceased puppy.

Some of the neonate puppies were found to have urine scalding. Veterinarians noted many of the dogs were underweight and some were emaciated. Humane World for Animals transported the dogs to a safe location where they underwent much-needed care and treatment.

Veterinarians determined many of the dogs would need surgical intervention to treat severe dental disease. Exams also revealed many of the dogs had been suffering from ear infections, ear mites, extremely overgrown nails, and many were underweight, and some emaciated.

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](#).

###