

# 2016

IMPACT REPORT



# NEW IN 2016

SECOND CHANCE RANCH  
**TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP WITH  
IOWA FARM SANCTUARY**

DOG PROGRAMS  
**CLARINDA PRISON PROGRAM  
USE OF ESSENTIAL OILS  
DOG'S DAY OUT**

CAT PROGRAMS  
**RENT-A-CAT  
CAMP PURR  
MEET YOUR MATCH**

DOG TRAINING  
**DROP-IN TRAINING CLASSES**

**THERAPETS PROGRAM**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
**MOBILE PET FOOD PANTRY**

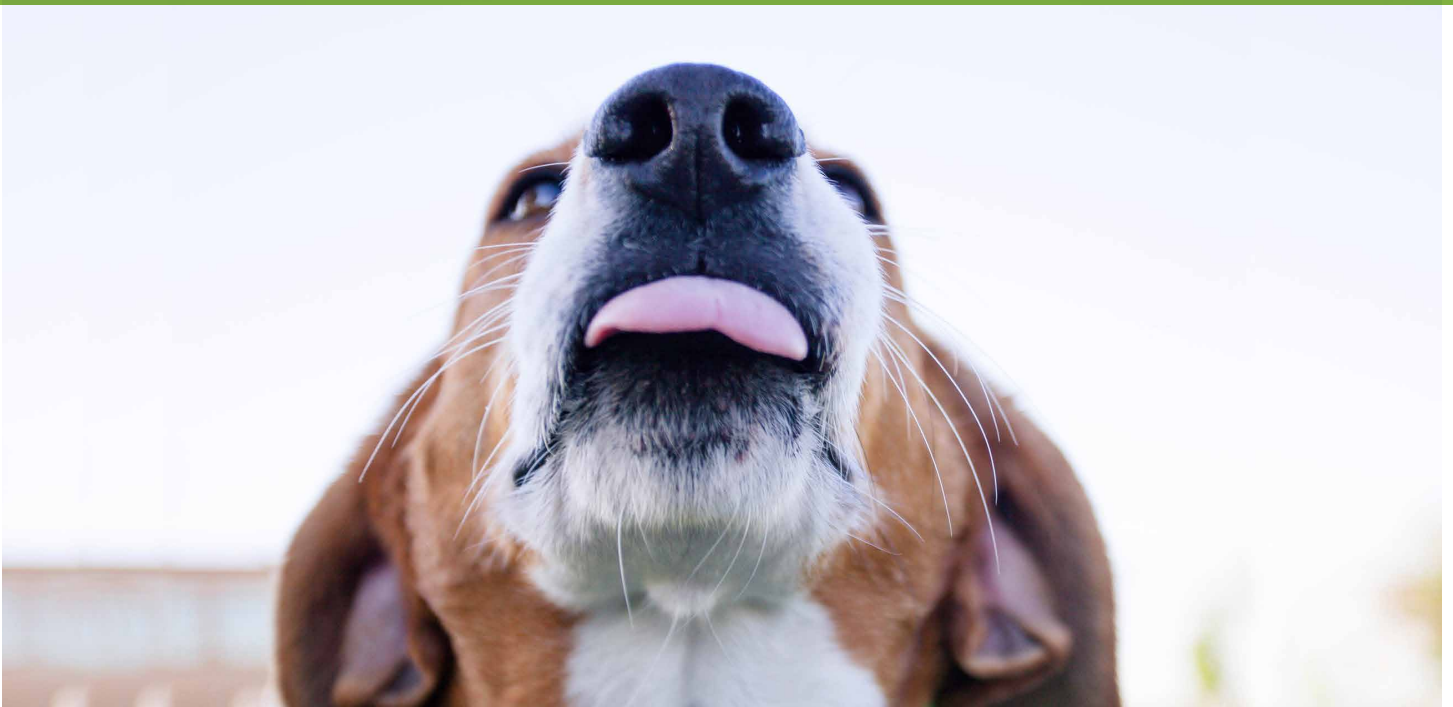


# CHANGING LIVES

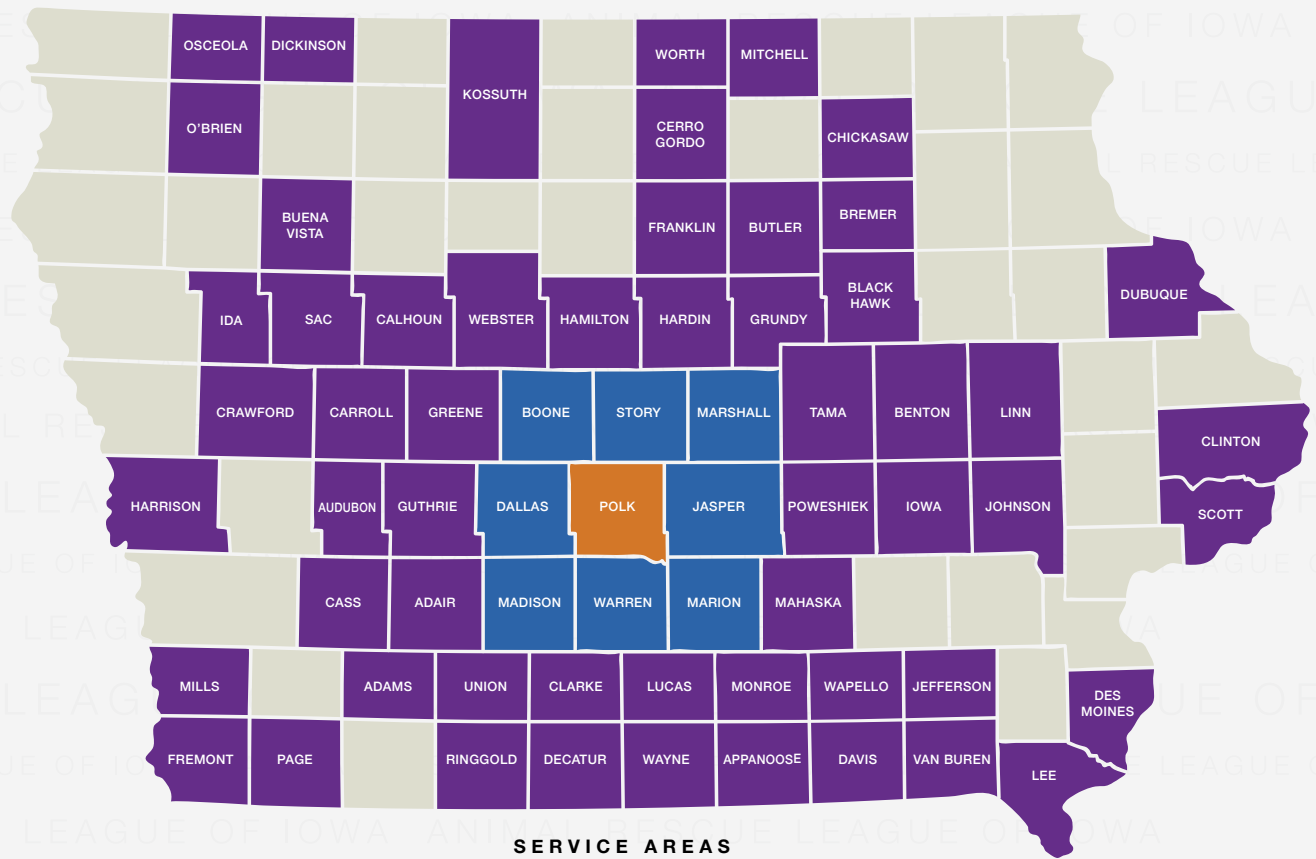
**12% INCREASE IN ADOPTIONS**

**24% DECREASE IN EUTHANASIA**

**5% INCREASE IN LIVE RELEASE RATE**



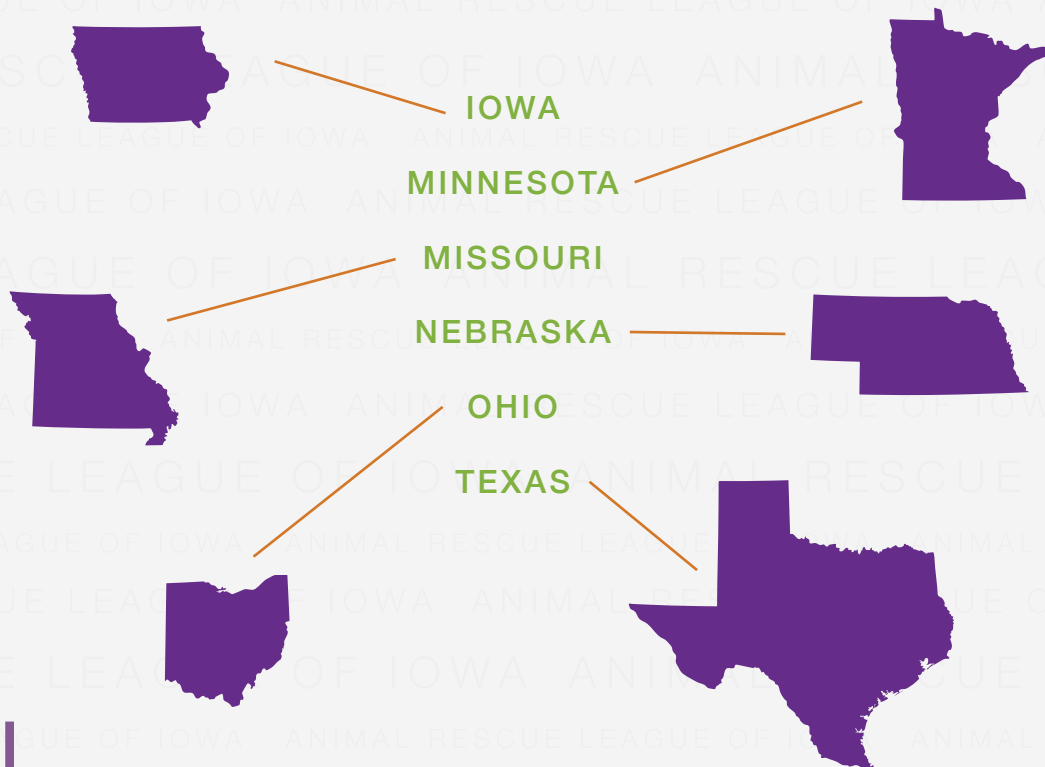
## COUNTIES SERVED IN 2016



### SERVICE AREAS

- PRIMARY
- SECONDARY
- MODERATE

## STATES SERVED IN 2016



## ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA - COMBINED

INTAKES <sup>1</sup>	DOG	CAT	SMALL	BARN	TOTAL
Stray/Impound	2,548	3,117	90	103	5,858
Owner Surrender	1,437	2,524	650	43	4,654
Transfers In	87	41	0	3	131
Other	39	68	37	0	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,111</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>10,787</b>

OUTCOMES <sup>1</sup>	DOG	CAT	SMALL	BARN	TOTAL
Adoptions	2,103	4,203	643	96	7,045
Transfers Out	114	138	29	34	315
Return to Owner	1,523	238	13	11	1,785
Euthanized <sup>2</sup>	388	922	24	7	1,341
Died in Care <sup>3</sup>	8	217	55	3	283
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,136</b>	<b>5,718</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>10,769</b>
<b>Live Release Rate</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>85%</b>

## ARL ANIMAL CONTROL (DES MOINES)

INTAKES <sup>1</sup>	DOG	CAT	SMALL	BARN	TOTAL
Stray/Impound	2,061	2,369	65	88	4,583
OUTCOMES <sup>1</sup>	DOG	CAT	SMALL	BARN	TOTAL
Adoptions	700	1,494	51	60	2,305
Transfers Out	27	53	2	13	95
Return to Owner	1,139	129	5	10	1,283
Euthanized <sup>2</sup>	197	535	2	4	738
Died in Care <sup>3</sup>	1	95	6	0	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,064</b>	<b>2,306</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>4,523</b>
<b>Live Release Rate</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>81%</b>

- 1 Does not include wildlife; we partner with several wildlife rehabilitation organizations to care for wild animals brought to us.
- 2 We only euthanize animals that are dangerous or suffering, and then only after we have exhausted all other humane and responsible options. We do not euthanize for space. This number does not include owner requested euthanasia.
- 3 Unlike many organizations, we include this statistic in our live release rate calculation. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to save these animals.

Note: The "Animal Rescue League of Iowa - Combined" intakes and outcomes tables (top) show the combined numbers for Animal Rescue League of Iowa and ARL Animal Control. The chart at the bottom only shows the ARL Animal Control (Des Moines) numbers, **but it is important to note that those numbers are also included in the combined chart.** We have attempted to make this report as easy to understand as possible, but if you have any questions, please contact [arl@arl-iowa.org](mailto:arl@arl-iowa.org).



# KRUIDENIER SECOND CHANCE RANCH

ADOPTED  
**96 TOTAL**  
**10 HORSES**  
**86 BARN ANIMALS**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Angel and Daisy became inseparable while in our care. Daisy is blind and immediately became more comfortable when we placed her with Angel. The two went everywhere together, with Angel acting as Daisy's eyes. We posted about their friendship on Facebook, and the *Des Moines Register* covered the story, which quickly captured a nationwide audience. A couple in Bakersfield, CA, saw their story and contacted us about adopting the inseparable duo. About a month later, they were on their way to their new home together in California!



# ADOPTION



**4 ARL LOCATIONS**

**7 ADOPTION PARTNERS**

**7,045 ADOPTIONS**

**12% INCREASE FROM 2015**





# TRANSFER PARTNERS



**THE ARL TRANSFER PARTNER PROGRAM WORKS WITH OVER 80 ANIMAL RESCUE GROUPS AND SHELTERS. WE SEND ANIMALS WHO NEED MORE HANDS-ON CARE BEFORE THEY ARE READY FOR ADOPTION. ADDITIONALLY, WE WORK TOGETHER TO SEND AND RECEIVE ANIMALS BASED ON SPACE NEEDS AND AVAILABILITY.**

BY THE NUMBERS

**315 TOTAL**

**114 DOGS**

**138 CATS**

**29 SMALL ANIMALS**

**34 BARN ANIMALS**

Jace was very sweet outside of his kennel, but when he was inside he would lunge and bark, acting very aggressively. He needed specialized care before he would be ready for adoption, so he was transferred to a breed rescue in Wisconsin where they could prepare him for his new home.



# CLARINDA PRISON PETS FOR VETS

**GRADUATED  
DOGS: 36**

The Prison Pets for Vets program is designed to help dogs learn basic skills such as loose-leash walking, leave it, “four on the floor”, and stay. Knowing all these skills helps make the dogs great companion animals for military veterans. Offenders at Clarinda Correctional Facility are matched up with dogs from the ARL. Using positive reinforcement training techniques, the offenders lead their dogs through a six-week training course using Canine Life and Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) developed by the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT).

Correctional staff have noticed changes in the offenders who interact with the dogs on a daily basis. Offenders who had previously kept to themselves are now interacting with staff and fellow offenders.

Veterans who have adopted canine graduates from this program report that the dogs have helped them cope with PTSD, among other benefits.



## CLARINDA PETS FOR VETS, PETER & VEGAS

Vegas graduated from our Clarinda program and it took a while to find the perfect fit. He met with a few veterans, but they just weren't a match. After posting Vegas on Facebook, Peter saw him and instantly recognized him. Peter was a close friend of the family who had previously owned Vegas. When Peter learned Vegas had just graduated from a program specifically geared toward veterans, he knew it was meant to be and Peter adopted him. There was an instant unbreakable bond between these two - Vegas was exactly what Peter needed and the same could be said about Vegas.



## THERAPETS, GINA

In 2015, Gina was seriously injured as a result of a dog attack while at a client's house. Two surgeries later, the physical damage was fixed but the emotional damage remained. She knew it would take time to heal from the emotional trauma, but as the months went on, the fear turned into panic and anxiety. Gina tried to work through this on her own, but quickly realized that she needed help. She saw an article about the ARL TheraPets program and reached out. TheraPets could give her safe exposure to dogs at her pace, and with people she could trust.

Gina's first visit was in July with TheraPets team Suzanne and her dog Jake. She was so panicked by the sight of a dog, she had to stay on the opposite side of the fence at our dog park for nearly 25 minutes before she felt brave enough to interact.

Gina had her 11<sup>th</sup> visit in November and wanted to push herself and walk through our dog adoption area - something she had never done or wanted to attempt in the past. But she did it - and even approached the kennels and gave the dogs treats!



**“ IT HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY PROCESS, OR A QUICK ONE, BUT THE ARL THERAPETS TEAMS HAVE BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH ME AND CONTINUE TO FIND WAYS TO HELP ME SUCCEED.**

They have allowed me to work with various dogs in various settings and each time we increase the interaction to a level I am comfortable with, which allows me to gain confidence little by little. The staff, dog owners and especially the dogs are so kind and patient with me. They are certainly under no obligation to do this but are willing to volunteer their time simply to help a stranger find peace again. I hope to be able to return the favor one day and volunteer my time helping them, and thanks to these amazing people and dogs, I know I will get there. ”

**- GINA**



# THERAPETS



BY THE NUMBERS

**754 VISITS**

**37 FACILITIES**

**45 TEAMS**

ARL TheraPets certifies a pet and their owner/handler as a team to visit people in our community who could benefit from animal companionship. Local facilities such as nursing homes, hospice facilities, schools and libraries receive visits from our TheraPets teams.



# FOSTER



BY THE NUMBERS

**2,016 TOTAL**

**387 DOGS**

**1,514 CATS**

**95 SMALL ANIMALS**

**20 BARN ANIMALS**

The purpose of the foster program is to provide a home environment for kittens and puppies outside the shelter for more one-on-one socialization/care while they grow, for pets needing additional training before adoption, and to give long term pet residents the opportunity to hang out in a home while they await their new home.



# PET HELP CENTER

The Pet Help Call Center has played a valuable role in educating the public about the resources and assistance available through our many programs. Since we created the Pet Help Center, we have seen a significant decrease in pet surrenders because we have been able to keep pets in their homes with their families.

## PET RESOURCES

**LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER  
CRISIS FOSTER  
PET FOOD PANTRY  
FREE PET SUPPLIES  
BEHAVIOR HOTLINE  
PET FRIENDLY HOUSING  
MICROCHIP CLINICS**

After losing their home, a couple came to the ARL thinking they had no choice but to surrender their beloved cat due to temporary financial constraints. One of our Pet Help counselors spent more than an hour with the couple discussing their situation and the options we had available to help them. We were able to provide them with the necessary supplies to get them through this temporary hardship and keep the family together.

We also vaccinated their cat, gave him needed ear medication and scheduled him for neuter surgery – all at no cost to the couple.

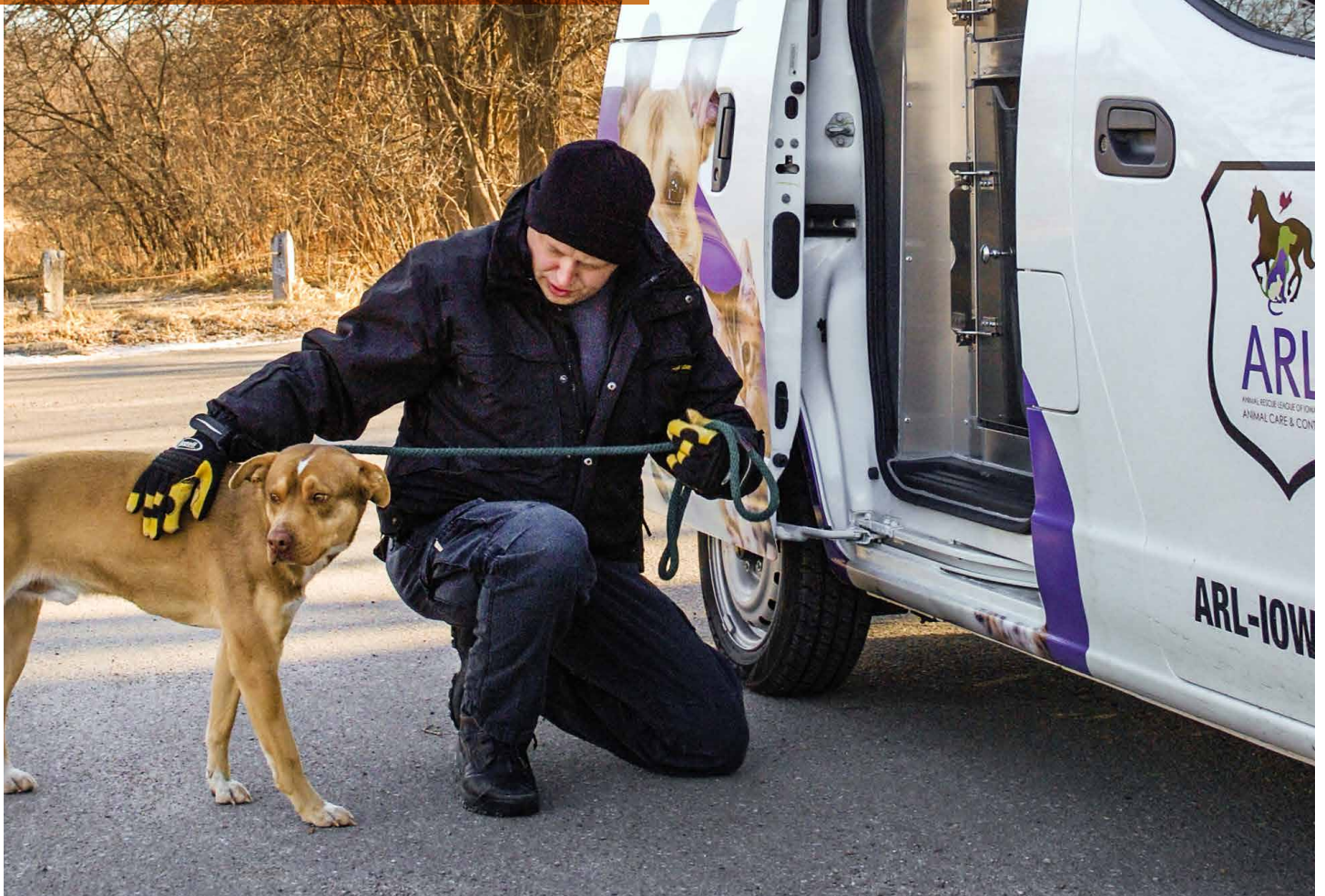


# ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

BY THE NUMBERS

**12,160 DISPATCHED TRIPS  
AND FOLLOW-UPS**


**96 PETS MICROCHIPPED  
AT ACC MICROCHIP CLINICS**





# CRUELTY INTERVENTION

**OUR CRUELTY INTERVENTION PROGRAM ACTS AS AN ANIMAL WELFARE RESOURCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF IOWA BY ASSISTING LOCAL CITIZENS WITH ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS, WORKING WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO INVESTIGATE ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES, TRAINING LAW ENFORCEMENT ON INVESTIGATING AND INTERVENING IN ANIMAL WELFARE CASES, AND PROMOTING DISASTER-RESPONSE PLANNING FOR ANIMALS.**

A black and tan dog is standing in a snowy enclosure. The dog is on a chain and is looking down at a metal bowl on the ground. To the right of the dog is a brown dog house with a white entrance. In the background, there is a chain-link fence and a large tarp shelter supported by wooden poles. The ground is covered in snow and ice, with some brown debris scattered around.

The ARL was made aware of a dog located in Ellsworth, IA, that was outside without adequate shelter during severe weather. We worked with the Ellsworth Police Department and the owners of the dog to provide a new, weather-resistant dog house and straw for insulation to make the dog warm and comfortable. The ARL remained a resource for the police department while they monitored the dog afterward.



# CRUELTY INTERVENTION

**228 COMPANION AND LIVESTOCK INTERVENTIONS IN 68 COUNTIES**

**TRAINED 231 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON CRUELTY INVESTIGATION**



**AN IOWA CITY GROOMER WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE KICKED A DOG HE WAS GROOMING AT A VETERINARY CLINIC, RESULTING IN SEVERAL FRACTURED RIBS AND A BRUISED LUNG.**



The Johnson County prosecutor charged the groomer with simple misdemeanor animal neglect under a city ordinance.

The ARL conducted several media interviews related to the case, explaining how this case was clearly a case of animal abuse, an aggravated misdemeanor, under Iowa Code. After the interviews aired, the Johnson County prosecutor reviewed the case information, dismissed the simple misdemeanor animal neglect charges, and refiled a tougher charge of animal abuse.

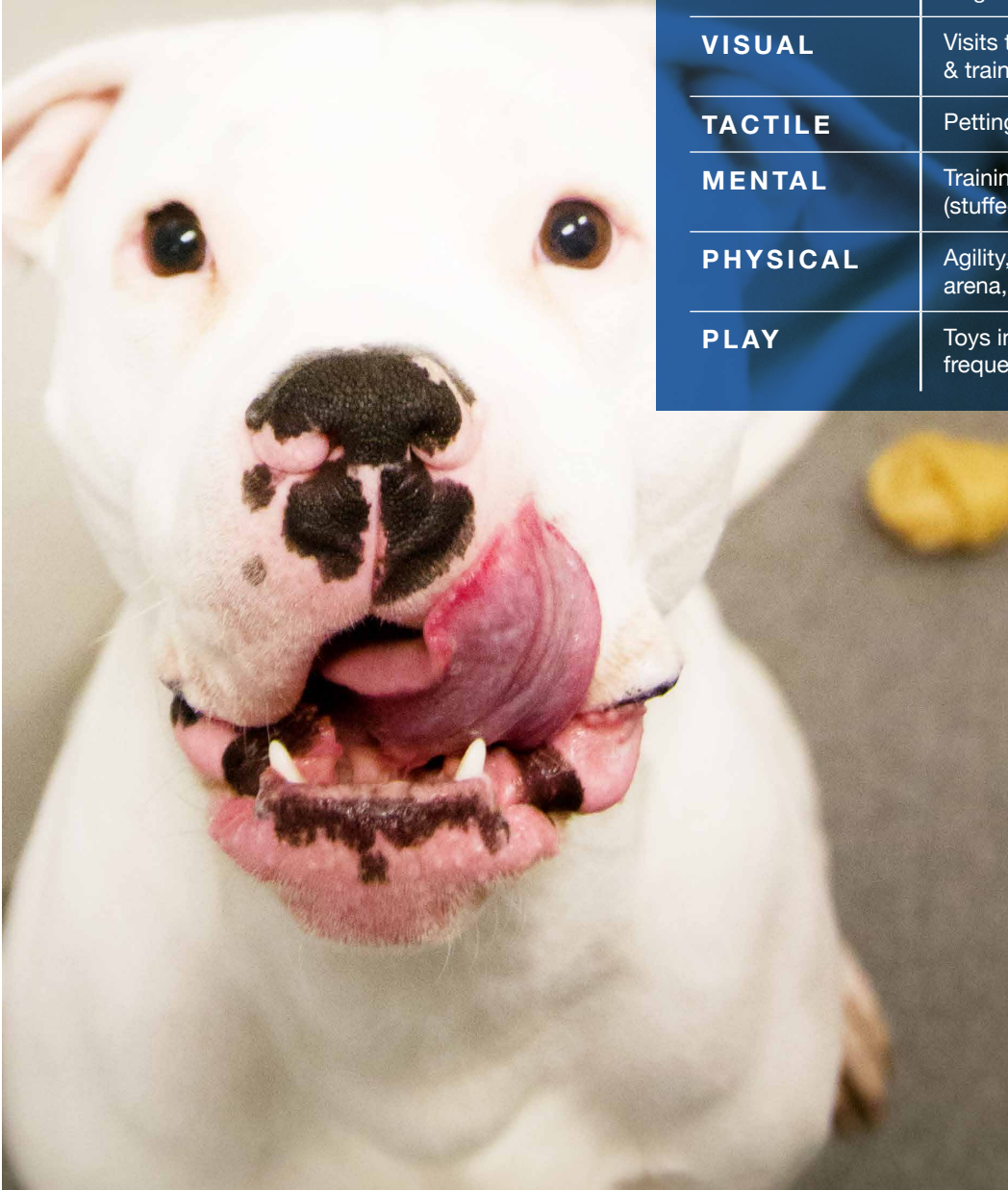


# PET BEHAVIOR AND ENRICHMENT

The ARL's behavior department implements enrichment protocols for shelter dogs, performs behavior modification therapy, and helps people with owned pets learn how to better understand and strengthen their bond with their dog.

## ENRICHMENT PROTOCOLS TOOLKIT: ALL DOGS RECEIVE A CUSTOM COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING STIMULATIONS:

<b>OLFACTORY</b>	Essential oils/various smells
<b>AUDITORY</b>	All animal holding areas play "Through a Dog's Ear" music
<b>VISUAL</b>	Visits to various outdoor areas, arena, & training center
<b>TACTILE</b>	Petting, scratching, rubbing, bathing
<b>MENTAL</b>	Training, use of various food dispensers (stuffed KONGS, KONG Wobblers, etc.)
<b>PHYSICAL</b>	Agility, free run in outside enclosures, arena, and training center
<b>PLAY</b>	Toys in kennel daily and switched out frequently, fetch



The Saydel High School cross country coach wanted to surprise his students with a practice at the Animal Rescue League. We selected dogs that would do well with young people and also enjoy a nice run. When the students arrived they were excited to find out practice was going to be accompanied by four-legged friends! This partnership provided great enrichment and exercise for the dogs and a fun training session for the students.

# DOG TRAINING



The goal of the ARL dog training program is to keep canine companions in loving homes and help them become well-behaved canine citizens. The training extends beyond the animals - these classes also teach dog owners about positive training methods to help build a strong bond with their dog.

**616 DOGS ATTENDED TRAINING CLASSES**



When Angus was just a puppy in 2015, his owners, Ed and Pam, enrolled him in the ARL's Puppy Kindergarten training class to help socialize him and teach him basic skills and manners. After successfully completing that class, he moved on to Adolescent Puppy and Good Manners, graduating with flying colors each time. Next up was 10 Steps to Canine Good Citizen (CGC), but Ed and Pam weren't sure Angus was quite ready. We spoke with them about our new drop-in classes, which would allow Angus to continue training in specific skill areas. Ed and Pam loved the idea and attended several classes before enrolling Angus in CGC training. After a training journey that started a year earlier, Angus passed his CGC test in April! But Ed and Pam weren't finished. They took Angus' training one step further. In October he and Ed became a certified therapy team through the ARL's TheraPets program!



# MEDICAL

EVERY ANIMAL THAT COMES THROUGH THE DOOR IS MEDICALLY EVALUATED TO DETERMINE TREATMENT OPTIONS IF NECESSARY

BY THE NUMBERS

**4,024 SPAY/NEUTER SURGERIES\***

**1,821 PETS RECEIVED EXTENDED VET CARE**

**3 STAFF VETERINARIANS**

**10 HEALTH TECHNICIANS**

\*Spay/neuter prior to adoption

# HUMANE EDUCATION

The goal of the Animal Rescue League's Humane Education Department is to promote empathy, compassion and a sense of responsibility toward animals and people. Our programs include summer camps, spring break workshops, birthday parties, tours, Scout programs, classroom visits, story time, Rescue Rangers and Critter Camp.

**4,958 TOTAL  
EXPERIENCES  
FOR KIDS**

**CAMPS  
BIRTHDAY PARTIES  
TALES WITH TAILS  
CLASSROOM VISITS  
GIRL SCOUTS  
CRITTER CAMP**



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BY THE NUMBERS  
**2,403 OWNED PETS  
SPAYED/NEUTERED**

Since 2012, the ARL's Community Outreach department has been helping animals by empowering the families who care for them. The program is based on the knowledge that the human-animal bond is universal, but there are barriers that make it difficult for some people to access and afford pet care. Our goal is to prevent shelter overpopulation, enhance wellness, and ensure safe communities by making these resources available to families in need. Our programs – including subsidized spay/neuter and wellness care, crisis foster, the mobile pet food pantry, and collaboration with Animal Care & Control – have helped thousands of Iowa families keep their pets healthy, safe, and home.



# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



BY THE NUMBERS

**118,523 TOTAL HOURS**

**47,530 VOLUNTEER HOURS**

**70,993 FOSTER  
VOLUNTEER HOURS**

## **VOLUNTEER VAUGHN HIARING**

Vaughn started volunteering in February 2016 and quickly got involved with our Paws on the Pavement program. Several mornings each week he comes to the ARL and walks nearly all of the dogs in our adoption area. It doesn't matter their size, age or how hard they pull, if they need a walk he takes them. The dogs see him so often, they get used to his route and make the turns without him even having to ask! Vaughn has logged over 650 volunteer hours in the 11 months since he started volunteering at the ARL.

Vaughn is just one of the thousands of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to the mission of the ARL.







#changinglives

5452 NE 22ND STREET | DES MOINES, IA 50313

**ARL-IOWA.ORG**

