



2018 IMPACT REPORT



2018 SETS THE STAGE FOR YEARS TO COME

In 2018, the ARL took in animals from 58 counties and 7 states, but nearly half of the animals that sought solace at the ARL arrived from the city of Des Moines. I'm excited to share these two city council votes that will help animals for years to come:

Des Moines City Council Approves a 10-year Contract for Animal Control Services with the ARL

In 2018, the Des Moines City Council voted unanimously to approve a 10-year contract for animal control services with the Animal Rescue League of Iowa (ARL). The ARL has been the city's preferred vendor for animal control services since 2005 and this contract will now extend this relationship into at least 2029.



Through this agreement, the ARL will continue to:

- Prioritize public safety of the residents of Des Moines
- Manage and staff an open admission shelter where no animal is turned away
- Provide accessible and professional customer service to all residents of Des Moines
- Offer community outreach programs that promote and support responsible pet ownership
- Propose and pursue progressive, innovative solutions in animal control sheltering and operations for City consideration and community support

Nearly 5,500 Des Moines animals arrive at ARL Animal Care and Control each year (11,000+ organization wide), and the ARL is committed to continuing to stay at zero euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals, with public safety and animal welfare being the utmost priority.

Des Moines City Council Approves Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Ordinance

With exactly two weeks left in 2018, the Des Moines City Council voted unanimously to approve an ordinance change that allows for a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program to humanely and effectively reduce community/feral cat colonies in Des Moines.

The ARL has committed to dedicating staff and financial resources to implement a successful TNR program, so once the ordinance becomes effective we will begin altering, vaccinating, ear-tipping, and returning healthy community cats to the areas where they've already been living and thriving - therefore preventing more generations from taking their place. The program will ensure that cat colonies have a caretaker who feeds them and will focus on cats who are happiest living outdoors and are not candidates for in-home adoptions.

Trap-Neuter-Return programs are a best practice in communities across the country and Des Moines is now the largest city in Iowa to allow for such a program. We are excited for this change since it will reduce the growing community cat populations while also reducing shelter intake of cats, and ultimately euthanasia. The result of this vote is quite simply that cat lives will be saved.

Thank you for your support in 2018 and for years to come.

For the animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom L. Colvin".

Tom L. Colvin, Chief Executive Officer



ARL ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

CONTROL 248-6050

OCT. 20 2017

ARL invites National Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) organization, Alley Cat Allies to present at statewide conference in Des Moines

JULY 9 2018

ARL presents to city council about TNR

DEC. 17 2018

TNR contract approved by city

EARLY 2018

ARL begins conversations with city officials about TNR

SEPT. 24 2018

Council holds workshop on animal control contract. 10-year contract renewed.

MARCH 1 2019

TNR Ordinance goes into effect for the city of Des Moines

13,553

Dispatched Trips
in Des Moines

Animal Control officers are on the streets of Des Moines

15

hours a day

365

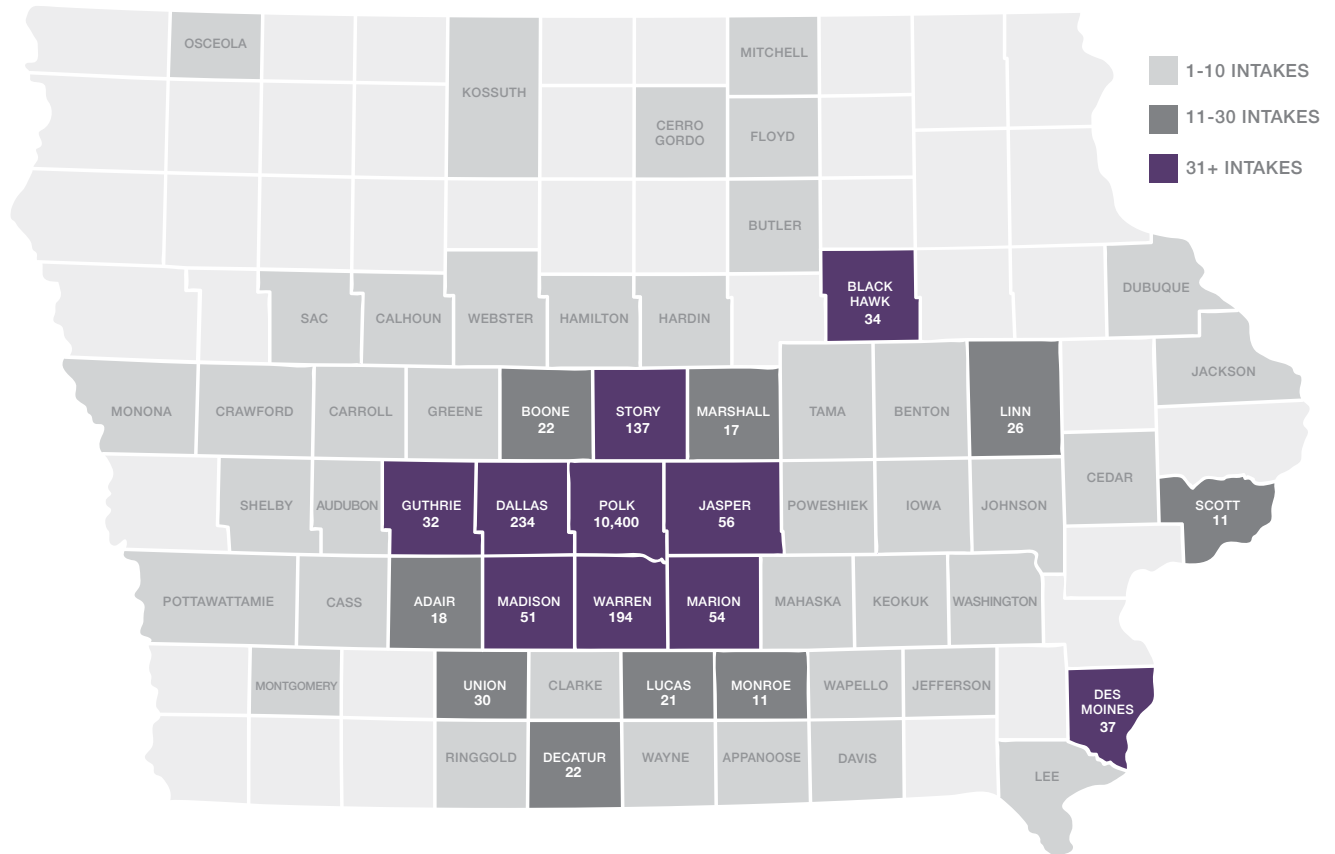
days a year

5,475

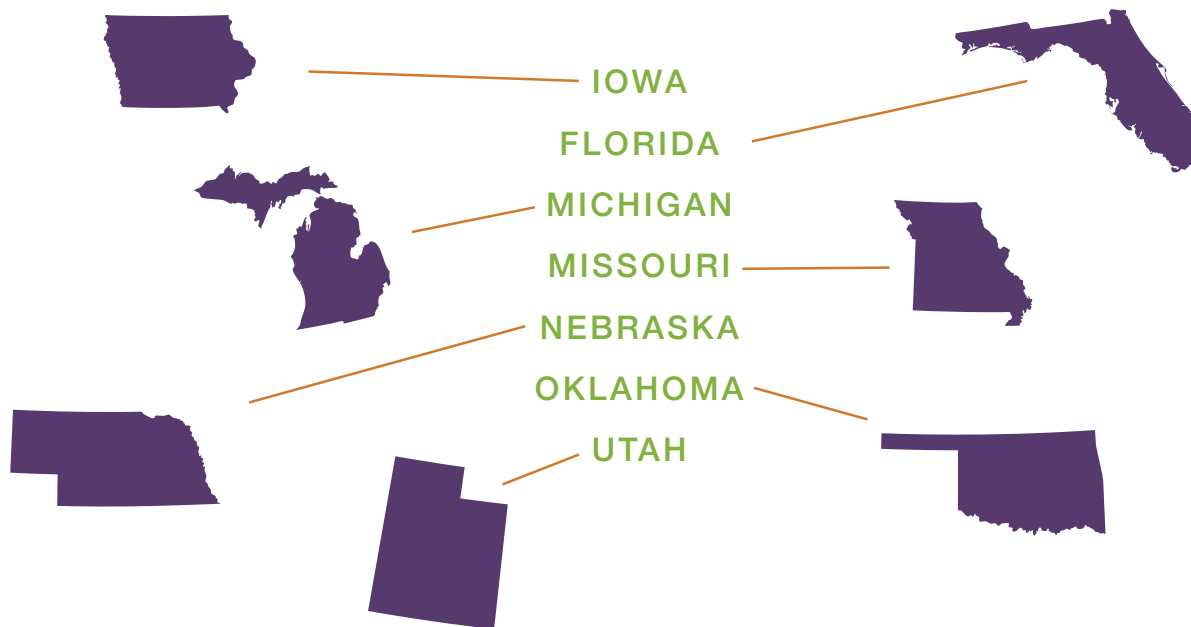
hours a year

IOWA COUNTIES SERVED IN 2018

REPRESENTED BY ANIMAL INTAKE NUMBERS



STATES SERVED IN 2018





MEDICAL

42,355

Medical
Treatments

includes vaccines,
deworming, flea treatment,
ear mite treatment, and
fecal testing

5,310

Spay/Neuter
Surgeries for
ARL pets

2,050

Dental
Procedures

Each one of the thousands of animals who come through our doors is touched in some way by our medical department. From providing basic wellness care like vaccinations and spay/neuter surgeries to performing complicated, lifesaving surgical procedures, our medical team provides a high quality of care to all animals every day at the ARL.

CATS!

The Year of the Cat continued for a second year as we took even more steps to improve the lives of the cats in our care. Kitten incubators that regulate heat have given the tiniest orphaned kittens a better chance of survival. Our Clowder House for cats has continued to make it possible to give second chances to even more cats who need time and special care to prepare them for adoption. Our three new Catty Shacks have allowed us to save and adopt more cats through our Camp Purr barn cat program. And a new isolation room for cats is providing larger living and treatment spaces for cats infected with ringworm, lowering their stress while they are being treated. What started in 2017 as a one-year focus has now become integrated in our daily operations and will be for years to come.

3,992

Cats Adopted

250

Average Number
of Cats in Clowder
House Every Day

1,364

Cats Placed in
Foster Homes



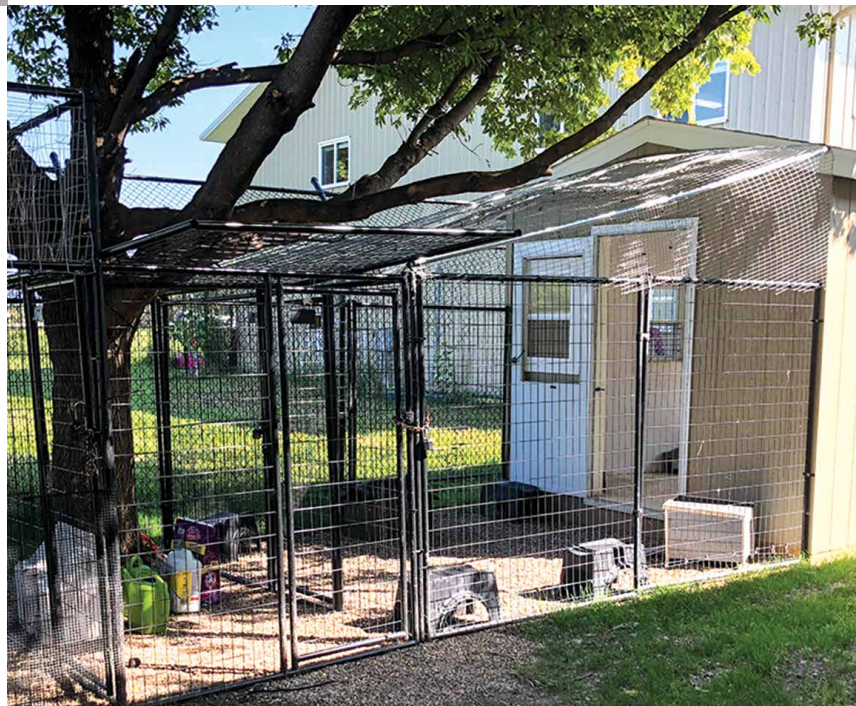


INCUBATORS

In 2018 the ARL received three kitten incubators that gave our tiniest orphaned kittens a better chance of survival. The incubators regulate the kittens' body temperature, since they can't do it on their own, and provide a safe place for them to stay until they can be moved into foster homes. We take in about 250 neonatal – or “bottle baby” – kittens each year, and these incubators are helping save even more lives.

CATTY SHACKS

In 2018 we completed not one, but three new transitional housing projects called “Catty Shacks” where feral cats can continue to live in an indoor/outdoor environment with regular food and care while they wait to be adopted through our Camp Purr program. One Catty Shack is located inside the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville where the offenders care for the cats, and the other two Catty Shacks are located on the ARL's main campus.



NEW CAT ISOLATION ROOM

We have also implemented changes to more quickly diagnose ringworm in cats and provide a lower-stress experience for those cats during treatment. Ringworm is a fungal infection that takes time to diagnose and up to two months to treat. New DNA tests use hair samples to check for the presence of the two most common species of ringworm and results come back in just three days. If results are positive, we begin treatment immediately, so cats can more quickly become healthy and adoptable. Our updated room includes bigger, more comfortable kennels to reduce stress, as well as a larger bathing area where cats receive twice-weekly medicated baths.



BEHAVIOR

The ARL's behavior department ensures the mental and behavioral well-being of all animals in our care, helping them be happy, healthy and prepared for adoption into loving homes.

All pets receive daily enrichment tailored to their needs, and animals with special behavior needs are placed in our behavior modification program, where they get daily customized care from our staff and volunteers for as long as they need. Every element of the behavior program is designed to set pets up for success in their new homes.

Our behavior department also helps owners learn how to better understand and strengthen their bond with their dog or cat, whether through phone consultations or in-person sessions.

971

Behavior Calls &
Consultations for
Owned Dogs



322

Behavior Calls &
Consultations for
Owned Cats



PET RESCUES & ASSISTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The ARL has invested in rescue training and equipment over the years so when animals need help, we are there. We are always ready and willing to respond when large-scale rescues arise. Here are some we assisted with in 2018:

MARCH

The ARL rescue team assisted Des Moines police in removing 104 roosters from a suspected animal fighting operation. The birds were brought to the ARL's Second Chance Ranch for care, treatment and eventual adoption.

MARCH

The ARL was called to assist after a trailer carrying 140 pigs overturned. More than a dozen ARL staff mobilized in minutes and rushed to the scene, working with other agencies for four hours to humanely remove the terrified pigs. An ARL emergency response trailer was used during the rescue.

MARCH

ARL Animal Control officers spent days removing 52 living and several deceased cats and kittens from a feces-filled home in Des Moines. The cats received spay/neuter surgeries, and medical and behavioral rehabilitation before they entered our adoption program.

MAY

The ARL assisted Earlham police with a neglect case involving nearly 60 Welsh ponies with no access to food or water. The ARL's Mobile Rescue Team assisted officials on site for more than seven hours, and nine of the ponies with the most urgent conditions were brought to our Second Chance Ranch, where we began a refeeding program and treatment for extreme hoof and dental conditions.

JUNE

The ARL assisted Perry police in removing 33 cats and kittens from a residence, after local shelters were unable to assist. All were examined by ARL staff. While a few were transferred to partner shelters, the majority stayed at the ARL where they were spayed/neutered and underwent behavioral rehabilitation before being placed for adoption.

OCTOBER

The ARL rescued 25 exotic birds in Southeast Iowa after their owner suffered a stroke and could no longer care for them. ARL officials made the nearly three-hour drive to pick up the birds and bring them back to the ARL, where they were all later adopted.



ADOPTIONS

7,027

DOGS

2,022

BARN PETS

285

CATS

3,992

SMALL PETS

728

1,783

Pets in Foster Homes

36,387

Volunteer Hours

348

Dogs in Training Classes

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

The ARL's Miracle Medical Fund is in place to provide emergency and on-going treatment for pets that have suffered at the hands of a human or have come to the ARL and need medical assistance.

In the cases where animals suffered abuse the penalty is often a light slap on the wrist. Join us in 2019 as we push for harsher punishments for animal abusers. ARL-iowa.org/HAN



JACK JANUARY

Jack was alone in the snow suffering from severe frostbite when he was found and brought to the ARL. After a few weeks of closely monitoring his feet, ears and tail our medical team decided that his tail and all four feet were so badly damaged that our veterinarians needed to amputate parts of them. His ears were able to heal without additional surgery.

Read the full story: ARL-iowa.org/Jack



NOLA JUNE

Nola was abandoned at the ARL in one of our overnight kennels with a severely broken leg and a note that said she had been hit by a car. An x-ray showed that she'd suffered a complete break and a jagged bone had been driven inches into her leg. Nola needed immediate surgery as well as intensive rehabilitation. She underwent 45-minute therapy sessions twice a day for two months.

Read the full story: ARL-iowa.org/Nola



COLBY & JACK JULY

After being turned away from their local shelter, kittens Colby and Jack were brought to the ARL. Colby's back leg was badly broken and had a gaping wound. Jack's entire tail was limp and had a wound so infected that we found maggots living in it. He also had holes in his neck and above his eye where parasitic botfly larvae had burrowed under his skin. Both kittens were also dehydrated and had severe ear mites and fleas. Their injuries were so severe that both would need amputations.

Read the full story: ARL-iowa.org/ColbyJack



MADDY & BEAU OCTOBER

Three dogs were stuffed into a banged up wire crate when they arrived at the ARL. One of the dogs was an 11-week-old puppy, and the other two dogs were adults with deep indentations, abrasions, and scarring around their muzzles and jaws. Upon further inspection of their kennel, ARL officials discovered two thin, black bungee cords that were an exact match to the indentations on the dogs' muzzles.

Read the full story: ARL-iowa.org/BeauMaddy



OSCAR NOVEMBER

Neglected and emaciated, Oscar was trapped in a kennel and thrown in a dumpster – left for dead. Thankfully the kennel broke open upon impact and Oscar was able to climb to the top of the trash pile where he waited to be rescued. When he arrived at the ARL, he was a walking skeleton, weighing only 4 pounds with zero body fat, loss of muscle mass, hair loss, and intestinal parasites. In the first 48 hours in our care he regained 25% of his body weight.

Read the full story: ARL-iowa.org/Oscar



SERVICES FOR **PET** **OWNERS**

CRISIS FOSTER

Our Crisis Foster program provides temporary care for pets of families or individuals experiencing a crisis due to domestic violence, natural disasters or other catastrophic events. In 2018, 165 pets found a safe haven in this program, reducing further heartache for their owners during already stressful times. Our largest intake of Crisis Foster pets came in early July, when floodwaters devastated homes in the Des Moines area. The ARL took in a total of 59 animals, from cats and dogs to birds and goldfish. Those pets that were not vaccinated or spayed/neutered received those services at no cost to their owners, so that was one less thing they had to worry about as they began to rebuild. Many of the pets were reunited with their owners within days or weeks, but some needed to stay longer. The last pet was happily reunited with his family in early September.

OUTREACH CLINICS

One of the reasons pets are relinquished to the ARL is because their owners struggle to afford or access basic veterinary care. However, it's often a beloved pet that holds families together and provides stability and comfort when times are tough. Our pet wellness clinics help bridge the gap so loved pets won't enter the shelter system simply because their owners need a helping hand. On June 2 we saw our biggest free wellness clinic to date, providing free vaccines, microchips and additional preventative services to 505 pets in need! Most of pets came from areas of Des Moines that represent our highest sources of pet intake at the ARL. Many of those neighborhoods have high poverty rates, but despite struggles, owners love their pets and make daily sacrifices. By helping prevent loved family pets from being relinquished due to financial challenges, these clinics free up our resources and space to help animals that truly have nowhere to go.

FINDING HOMES FOR PETS AND **KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER**

ADOPTABLE PETS IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2018, ARL adoptable pets were seen all over the metro. Besides our three satellite sites (ARL West, ARL South and ARL PetSmart in Ankeny) and 8 adoption partner sites, we brought pets to shopping centers, apartment complexes and area businesses – anywhere people may be looking for a pet to add to the family. These outreach events have helped bring pets to people who may not have made it to the shelter, and they have resulted in dozens of happy adoptions.

TRANSFER OF PETS

Working together saves lives. It's as simple as that. The ARL works with dozens of licensed, qualified shelters and rescues across the state and country to transfer and receive pets when it's in the best interests of the animals. Whether pets have special needs or need a different audience because they're being overlooked, or one shelter has open kennels while another is low on space, these partnerships exist to give pets their best chance of finding a home. In 2018 we transferred 655 pets to partner shelters and received 133 from partners.

PET HELPLINE

Our Pet Helpline has played a valuable role in educating the public about the resources and assistance available through our many programs, including low-cost spay/neuter, crisis foster, behavior assistance, and more. Three full-time staff answered calls 7 days a week. Our Pet Helpline helps keep pets in their homes by connecting them with resources to prevent having to surrender their pet.

SPECIALTY TRAINING CLASSES

In April, we launched our first specialty training classes for dogs to offer options for owners who were struggling with behavior issues beyond the focus of our Good Manners classes. We noted the behaviors we were seeing in the classes and based the new classes off the behavior modification program we currently use for dogs in the shelter. Rowdy Rovers helps dogs learn to make polite choices when life gets too exciting. Courageous Canines helps shy dogs with confidence-building. Enriched Einsteins provides new brain games for dogs who already know basic skills and manners but thrive when keeping their brains active. So far the new classes have helped dozens of dogs, with Rowdy Rovers by far the most popular class.



1,382

Owned Pets
Received Microchips

609

Owned Pets Served at
Community Outreach Clinics

8,809

Humane Education Experiences

165

Pets in Crisis Foster

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

2,820
Average Hours
Worked Each Month

12
Average Additional
Full Time Staff
Each Month

2018 marked the second year for a new partnership with the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville.

Community Support Services (CSS) allows offenders who are nearing the ends of their sentences to work alongside ARL staff seven days a week to help care for the animals. This program has been beneficial for the offenders, the animals in our care, and for the ARL.

In addition, the Mitchellville facility acts as a foster facility for pets who would benefit from behavioral help, training or simply a break from the shelter. The pets are cared for by offenders inside the prison. This facility also serves as a training facility for dogs in our Pets for Vets program.

110
DOGS

28
CATS

2
PIGS

JANUARY 2018 - DECEMBER 2018

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA

INTAKES¹	DOG	CAT	SMALL	BARN	TOTAL³
Stray/Impound	2,507	3,504	88	281	6,380
Owner Surrender	1,309	2,196	619	78	4,202
Transfers In	45	38	49	1	133
Other	69	119	151	0	339
Total	3,930	5,857	907	360	11,054

OUTCOMES¹	DOG	CAT	SMALL	BARN	TOTAL³
Adoptions	2,022	3,992	728	285	7,027
Transfers Out	59	491	50	55	655
Return to Owner	1,477	296	79	4	1,856
Euthanized ²	324	588	26	14	952
Died in Care	20	191	34	3	248
Total	3,902	5,558	917	361	10,738
Live Release Rate	91%	86%	93%	95%	89%

Reasons for Euthanasia

The ARL looks at every animal as an individual and not a number and determines a treatment or rehabilitation plan. We only euthanize animals that are dangerous or suffering, and only after we have exhausted all other humane and responsible options. We do not euthanize for space and there are no time limits on the animals in our care.

Note: 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.

¹ Does not include wildlife; we partner with several wildlife rehabilitation organizations to care for wild animals brought to us.

² Does not include owner-requested euthanasia.

³ The number of intakes will not necessarily equal the number of outcomes over the course of a year. In 2018 we ended the year with a net increase of 316 more animals in our care than we had at the beginning of the year.

2018 STATISTICS

ADOPTIONS

3,992	Cats
2,022	Dogs
728	Small Pets
285	Barn Pets
7,027	Total

OFF-SITE ADOPTIONS

12	Adoption locations
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SECOND CHANCE RANCH

285	Barn pets adopted
19	Horses adopted
115	Barn pets cared for from cruelty situations

COMMUNITY-OWNED PETS

1,856	Pets returned to owners
992	Spay/neuter surgeries through free & low-cost spay/neuter programs
609	Pets served at outreach clinics
1,382	Pets microchipped
299	Pets that received veterinary assistance
971	Dogs that received behavior help (phone calls and consultations)
322	Cats that received behavior help (phone calls and consultations)

FOSTER

690	Foster homes
1,783	Pets in foster homes
98,725	Foster volunteer hours

VOLUNTEER

36,387	Hours
2,059	Volunteers

PETS TRANSFERRED

655	Pets transferred out
133	Pets transferred in

MEDICAL

5,310	Spay/neuter surgeries for ARL animals
2,050	Dental procedures
355	Laboratory tests
42,355	Medical treatments given
286	Other surgeries (mass removal, eye/ear surgery, etc.)

ANIMAL CONTROL (DES MOINES)

13,553	Dispatched trips
5,475	Hours that Animal Control officers are on duty

CRUELTY INTERVENTION

231	Animals rescued from abuse
203	Cases/investigations
22	Trained volunteers for emergency response

IN THE COMMUNITY

1,738	TheraPets visits
99	TheraPets teams
76	Facilities hosting TheraPets visits
8,809	Humane Education experiences
1,776	Kids that received dog safety training

DOG TRAINING

348	Dogs graduated from training classes
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5452 NE 22ND STREET | DES MOINES, IA 50313

ARL-IOWA.ORG

