

Summer 2022

Tailwaggers

Published Three Times a Year by the Animal Rescue League of Iowa



**A SECOND CHANCE
FOR 300+ ANIMALS**

**ENRICHMENT IDEAS
FOR SUMMER**

**WORKING WITH
FERAL KITTENS**

TAKE A CUDDLE BREAK



Looking for ways to boost morale at work? The ARL offers Cuddle Breaks to businesses around the Des Moines metro. For a donation, your workplace can enjoy 30 minutes of puppy or kitten cuddles. We guarantee it will be the best work break ever. Learn more: [ARL-Iowa.org/CuddleBreak](https://www.arl-iowa.org/CuddleBreak).

SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOTS



Follow @ARLIowa to stay up to date on everything ARL!



AMAZING RECOVERIES

When Doree was rescued, she couldn't stand and could barely lift her head. After months of rehabilitation, she is now walking and has been adopted into a loving home.



FEATURED ADOPTABLES

All animals are individuals. Find out more about the awesome dogs, cool cats, and all-around amazing pets available for adoption at the ARL.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Scorpio the kitten was still getting used to people so our adoption team took extra time helping her get used to being held. She was adopted soon after.



Since 1926 the Animal Rescue League of Iowa (ARL) has been a safe haven for animals who have had nowhere else to turn.

Over the course of nearly a century, more than 1 million abused, abandoned, neglected, unwanted, and even very loved animals have found refuge within our doors.

ARL Main

5452 NE 22nd Street
Des Moines, IA 50313

ARL West

Inside Iowa Pet Foods & Seascapes
1500 22nd Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

ARL Animal Services

1615 SE 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50315

Coffee Cats Cafe

312 5th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Questions or Comments?

(515) 262-9503
tailwaggers@arl-iowa.org

or visit us online
ARL-IOWA.ORG

BUILDING TRUST WITH FERAL KITTENS



SCUTTLE BEFORE



SCUTTLE AFTER

Kitten season is here, which means that over the next several months, kittens of all ages, backgrounds, and life experiences will be arriving at the shelter. Many are friendly to humans and ready for indoor homes, while others arrive fearful, having had little to no contact with people.

All of these kittens deserve a chance to live happy, fulfilling lives, and that's where our skilled behavior team and foster families step in. When working with feral or semiferal kittens, we first determine if they'll be best suited as indoor or outdoor cats to determine their track to adoption. We can usually tell within days if they will be happiest as outside cats and best suited for our trap-neuter-return (TNR) program. If we see potential that they could live happy lives as housecats, we begin the socialization process using a mix of rewards and small progressions to help them learn to trust.

Scuttle is just one example of how our behavior program changes lives. When he arrived at the ARL at 8 weeks old, he was very undersocialized and very scared. He had been living in a basement with many other cats and had not had much, if any, contact with people. He'd hiss, flatten his ears and stay as far away from us as possible. He didn't trust anyone or anything.

We found that he loved meat-based baby food and began working with him little by little, first putting food on a wooden spoon so as not to overwhelm him. Soon he started associating our presence with the food, knowing he'd get a tasty treat whenever we visited. We worked with him daily, always going at a pace he was comfortable with. As the weeks went by, he allowed us to pet him more and more. He also started to like being held, and eventually he started perching on our shoulders like a bird!

After more than two months of work with our behavior team, he was finally ready for a home. As with many kittens who start out feral, he was still somewhat shy and it took time for him to warm up to people, but he eventually found a family with a quiet home who understood his needs. Thanks to the patience and dedication of our behavior team, he is now living life to the fullest.

FOSTER A PET

Last year, our behavior team and foster families worked with more than 250 feral or semiferal kittens, helping socialize them so they could find loving homes. Learn more about how you can change lives by fostering at ARL-IOWA.ORG/FOSTER.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: **BONDED BUDDIES**

We often talk about the power of the human-animal bond, but we know the bond between animals can be just as strong. Nearly 20 years ago, the ARL created its Bonded Buddy program to ensure that animals that share a strong bond would be adopted together.

Most of the animals in the program are same-species pairs who enter the shelter together, but some are pets who become friends in the shelter ... and occasionally the program includes interspecies pairs.

Artemis the dog and Storm the cat are great examples of the strength of those bonds – how animal friends can struggle when parted and be healed when they're reunited.

When Storm was in the shelter, she was fearful and stressed. She did not want to be touched and hissed when our staff came near her. Her behavior continued to deteriorate as the days went by. Looking for ways to help her, our staff began digging into her records to see if we could find anything

that would help her be more at ease. During our search, we learned that a dog named Artemis had been surrendered to us from the same address that Storm had come from. We decided to carefully reintroduce the two to see if it would make a difference.

We brought Artemis and Storm to one of our larger staff offices. When we showed Artemis the carrier Storm was in, she eagerly sniffed it all over, her tail wagging a mile a minute. When we opened it, she stuck her entire head inside – she was just as happy to see Storm as Storm was to see her!



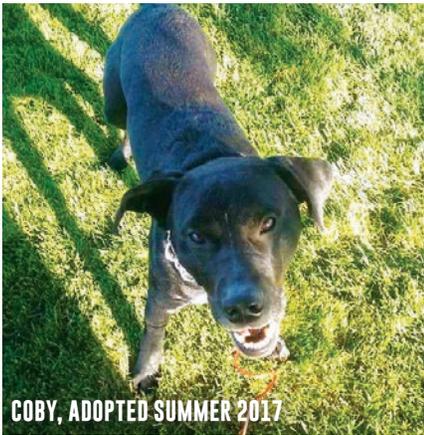
Since then, Storm has made a complete turnaround. Instead of being cautious and defensive, she greets people calmly and enjoys being petted. While she and Artemis mostly coexist in the same space, they clearly find strength and comfort in each other's presence. We have also caught them cuddling together on Artemis' big dog bed.

Once they're ready, Artemis and Storm will go up for adoption as Bonded Buddies, ensuring the strong bond they share will never be broken.

ADOPT A PET

Looking for a pet friend or two?
Check out all our available pets – including
Bonded Buddy pairs or trios – at

ARL-IOWA.ORG/ADOPT



COBY, ADOPTED SUMMER 2017



COPPER, ADOPTED IN 2021



MAI, ADOPTED JANUARY 2022



SOPHIE, ADOPTED MAY 2015

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We love seeing pets leave the ARL and settle into their new homes — but we also enjoy when their families let us know what they've been up to! Here are a few ARL alumni we've received updates about!

Submit your story and photo at ARL-IOWA.ORG/WATN



NALA, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2019



OLLIE, ADOPTED DECEMBER 2021



ROTINI, ADOPTED MARCH 2019



YANKEE, ADOPTED MARCH 2019



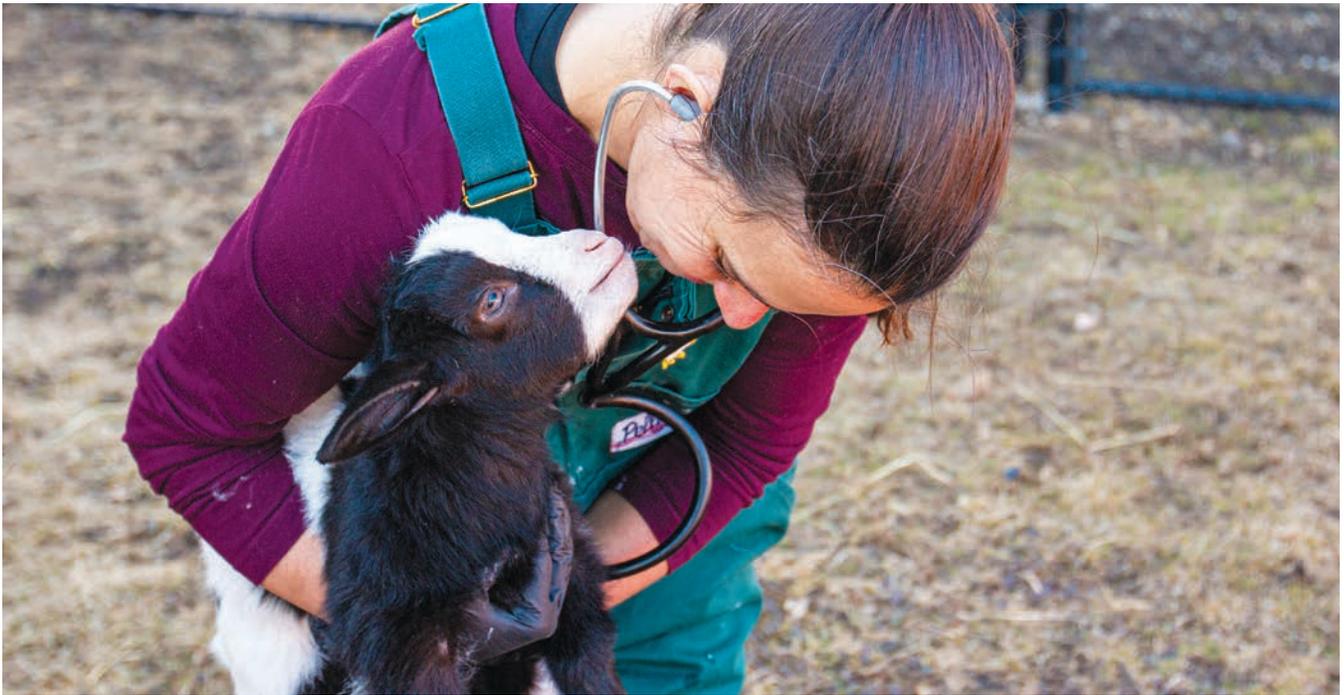
TEDDY, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2021



SARABI, ADOPTED OCTOBER 2018



MOLLY, ADOPTED MARCH 2019



A SECOND CHANCE FOR 300+ ANIMALS

THE LEE COUNTY RESCUE

Just months after our largest puppy mill rescue in ARL history - the Daniel Gingerich case - the Animal Rescue League again assisted authorities in removing 300+ animals from terrible conditions at an unlicensed breeder – this time 3.5 hours away in Southeast Iowa.

In late February, our Mobile Rescue Team arrived to find every room in the Lee County home packed with dogs and puppies in wire cages – everything from Great Danes and Weimaraners to Dachshunds and Corgis. Cages were stacked on top of each other, sometimes with two or three adult dogs to a cage or moms with litters of puppies barely able to move. They were living in their own waste and the smell was overpowering.

Our team, working with local law enforcement, was able to rescue 42 dogs and puppies at that time and bring them back to safety at the ARL. We were also able to rescue 41 hamsters that were piled on top of each other in two small cages, living with deceased hamsters on inches of soiled bedding.

Our Miracle Medical Team was waiting when the animals arrived and immediately began examining and treating them. Many of the dogs were thin, with rotten teeth and flea infestations. Nearly all needed spay/neuter surgeries. We immediately sent the most vulnerable – moms with nursing puppies – to foster homes for round-the-clock care.

All of the female hamsters were placed in foster homes on pregnancy watch, and soon the numbers grew as new babies were born.

All of the dogs and hamsters were evaluated and placed on individual tracks to adoption, depending on their medical or behavioral needs.

But the rescue was not over. Exactly three weeks later, our Mobile Rescue Team was again at the property assisting authorities – and this time a veterinarian determined that all the animals on the property needed to be removed. That included nearly 40 more dogs and puppies, multiple small

animals and reptiles, and more than 100 barn animals, all living packed together in disgusting enclosures with no food and no water. With both rescues at this location combined, the number of animals rose to more than 300.

When rescuers arrived at the ARL late in the evening, our animal care team jumped into action, putting all the animals in comfortable enclosures with food and water. Our Miracle Medical Team assessed the most critical cases, including a 1-week-old puppy found alone in a shed. A member of our rescue team had driven back with the puppy in her shirt to keep it warm, and once the pup arrived, we immediately placed her in an incubator for neonates. She took to the bottle hungrily and was placed in an experienced foster home.

The dogs were in similar shape as the ones from the first rescue. Nearly all the chickens and turkeys were emaciated, with many suffering from injuries and feather loss. Many of the goats were also emaciated and suffering from dangerous parasites. All were placed under the care of veterinarians experienced with their species.

For the 300+ animals saved, their lives changed immediately. Probably for the first time, they all had full bowls of food and water, comfortable living conditions, much-needed medical care ... and hope.

As of press time in early April, many had found new homes where they would be loved and cared for as they had always deserved. Others remained in our care undergoing medical or behavioral treatment. We're looking forward to seeing them start the next chapter of their lives soon.

Thanks to your support, we were not only able to answer the call to help all of these animals, we were able to give them the second chances they've always deserved: the chance to live healthy, happy lives with families who love them.



HELP MAKE RESCUES LIKE THIS HAPPEN

Your support helps make lifesaving rescues like this possible by ensuring the ARL will always be there when animals are in need, whether it be one or hundreds at a time.

Give the gift of second chances by going to ARL-IOWA.ORG/DONATE.



Pictured: (L-R) The ARL's Tina Updegrave, Joe Stafford, Robyn Dobernecker and Megan Wiedmann.

ARL TEAM HONORED FOR WORK ON GINGERICH RESCUE

The ARL's largest puppy mill rescue in history, which gave second chances to more than 500 dogs, was a massive operation spanning months – from the initial investigation to the rescue itself. Four members of the ARL team have been honored for their expertise and tireless commitment to animals during the 2021 rescue.

Robyn Dobernecker, ARL Animal Welfare Intervention Coordinator, Joe Stafford, ARL Director of Animal Services, Tina Updegrave, ARL Animal Services Officer, and Megan Wiedmann, TNR Coordinator, received the ASPCA's annual Champion for Animals Award this spring for their lifesaving work during the Daniel Gingerich rescue. Together the four of them brought more than 100 years of experience to the operation, which proved to be invaluable in saving the lives of so many animals.

Separately, Robyn was recognized in the U.S. House of Representatives for her investigation and rescue efforts in the case. She was named "Iowan of the Week" by U.S. Rep. Cindy Axne of Iowa for her months of behind-the-scenes work that culminated in the rescue of the dogs from Gingerich, an Iowa breeder with a long history of animal welfare violations.

U.S. Rep. Axne's statement recognized Robyn's refusal to give up in the face of challenges, her work with government entities and law enforcement to move the rescue forward, and her hard work to get the dogs to safety as soon as possible.

While we see the impact of Robyn, Joe, Tina and Megan's work for Iowa's animals every day, we are thrilled that their hard work and dedication are being recognized on a national stage.



Pictured: Robyn with Liberty, one of the 500+ dogs from the Gingerich rescue

SUMMER ENRICHMENT FOR YOUR PUP!

Looking for some new ideas to keep your dog's brain and body busy this summer? The ARL's Behavior & Enrichment Team is always finding new ways to keep the pets in our care happy and engaged. Here are a couple of fun things we do in the shelter that you can also try with your dog at home!

BUBBLES

Bacon-flavored bubbles are a fun way to spend a day in the sun with your dog! They'll love to chase and chomp the silly floating orbs, or maybe just watch them float by on the breeze. You'll be engaging your dog's brain and their senses of smell and sight, and they'll get some exercise while chasing and catching. Regular bubbles work great, too – and they can also be a fun game for cats indoors. Just remember to practice moderation if your pet is one who likes to catch the bubbles with their mouth.



SCATTER FEED IN GRASS

You don't need to buy toys to keep your dog entertained when you have the great outdoors as their playground. Dogs see the world through their nose, so scent games are a rewarding way to let them display their natural behavior to sniff and search. One easy way to engage your dog's sense of smell is to toss their food or treats into your yard. Grass is nature's perfect snuffle mat, and your pup will love the thrill of sniffing out a tasty snack. If you have a dog who is a fast eater, this is also a fun alternative to a slow-bowl for feeding them their meals.





MAD CAT PURRFECT PINEAPPLE

The Mad Cat Purrfect Pineapple is a tropical treat for your cat! This fun and quirky toy is filled with a unique blend of premium catnip and silvervine that's maximum potency, pure, and pesticide free.

\$6.99



KONG WRANGLER SCRATCH MOUSE

This fun, oversized toy encourages pouncing, wrestling and scratching. The catnip and rattles inside ignite multiple senses, and the varied rope texture is perfect for keeping claws healthy.

\$10.99



HAUTE DIGGITY DOG WHITE PAW

Made with soft plush with a fun squeaker inside, this is sure to keep your pup busy. Plus, it's the most Instagrammable toy in history! Every Muttlennial needs one.

\$13.99 - various colors

TOP 6 MUST-HAVE SUMMER PET PRODUCTS

Shop online at
ARL-IOWA.ORG/SHOP

All proceeds from the ARL's Animal House store benefit the homeless pets at the ARL



ZIPPYPAWS HAPPY BOWL

Make mealtime fun for your eager eater with the ZippyPaws Happy Bowl Ice Cream slow feed bowl! The raised design helps your dog eat up to 10 times slower, helping prevent bloating, belching and choking and promoting a healthy diet and weight. It holds 4 cups, and the non-slip base prevents sliding.

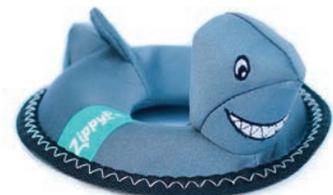
\$11.99



KONG NIBBLE CARROTS

Harvest a feast of catnip-packed fun for your feline with KONG Nibble Carrots. Overstuffed with KONG Premium North American Catnip and featuring a durable mesh netting, this toy is sure to satisfy your cat's natural instincts to catch and grab. Adding to the fun is an interior crinkle paper that entices cats to play longer.

\$4.99



ZIPPYPAWS FLOATERZ

ZippyPaws Floaterz outdoor dog toys are squeaky fun for the pool or beach. They're light enough to float in the pool but durable enough for long fetch sessions. The toys keep squeaking even in the water!

\$9.99 - green, purple, yellow



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ARL ANIMAL CONNECTION
 LIVE! SATURDAYS 6-7 A.M. WHO 1040
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 TIPS FOR YOUR PETS
 HAPPENINGS AT THE ARL
 GIVEAWAYS

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LITTER FOR GOOD

NOMINATE THE ARL TO RECEIVE FREE LITTER!

= 1 LB OF LITTER GETS DONATED

The more nominations we receive, the more litter we'll receive!

Go to www.catspride.com/litterforgood and "Join the Club". From there, you'll be able to nominate the ARL by searching by ZIP code 50313.




PEDAL FOR PAWS

May 21, we ride for pets in need.

Join us for our annual party bike ride!

Covering 18 miles through the Des Moines metro the ride offers fun activities along the way and a chance to hang out with some of the pets you'll be supporting.

REGISTER AT ARL-IOWA.ORG/PEDAL

IOWA'S BIGGEST DOG PARTY

SAVE THE DATE

IOWA DOG JOG

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ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA

SEPTEMBER AT ARL MAIN

18

IOWADOGJOG.COM



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BECOME A SPONSOR

Whether you are part of a business, social group or organization, you can help the animals by sponsoring an event, donating shelter supplies or services, and more!

Learn more at
ARL-IOWA.ORG/SPONSOR



AMAZON SMILE

Be a part of something bigger! When you start your shopping at smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of each eligible purchase will be donated to help the homeless pets at the ARL.

Learn more at
ARL-IOWA.ORG/AMAZONSMILE



FULL BELLIES FOOD FUND

When you donate to our food program, you help ensure a consistent, high-quality diet for the pets in our care, which can help reduce digestive distress.

Learn how at
ARL-IOWA.ORG/FOOD

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Choose to change the world for homeless pets through a variety of volunteer opportunities at the Animal Rescue League. Whether helping clean kennels, walking dogs, or lending special skills and talents to the organization, volunteer team members are at the core of what allows the ARL to change lives.

Find ways to volunteer at
ARL-IOWA.ORG/VOLUNTEER



A GIFT IS MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER

Contributions from generous donors like you have made it possible to help over 11,000 pets in 2021, and continue to make an impact now and for the future.

Learn more about ways to donate to the ARL at
ARL-IOWA.ORG/WAYSTOGIVE

