

2023 Impact Report

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WHAT A DIFFERENCE YOU MADE!

**SAVING MORE
LIVES**



8,689

*adoptions – a record
number!*

**RESCUED FROM
CRUELTY**



406

*animals who got
second chances*

**SUPPORTING
PETS AND PEOPLE**



35,454

*services provided to
assist pet families*

DEAR FRIEND,

As we enter a new year and look back on the old, it's exciting to think about the work that you and the ARL have accomplished together. Over time, our focus has expanded far beyond just pet adoptions to preventing animals from ever entering the shelter by providing resources to support our community.

Key partnerships, such as our current one with the City of Des Moines to provide Animal Services, enable us to uphold our commitment to create meaningful change for the animals who depend on us and demonstrate an approach that operates independently of taxpayer funds.

Integrating with community outreach efforts the ARL has had in place for years, this collaboration opens the door to enact forward-thinking ordinances that prioritize solutions over punitive approaches and creates opportunity to bolster resources that help maintain a high level of life-changing outcomes for pets who arrive at our doors with nowhere else to go.

This way of looking at animal shelters - not just as a fix for local animal welfare challenges but as an essential component of a larger statewide solution - also had a positive impact on animals beyond our community. This change led to increased engagement from law enforcement agencies across the state seeking our assistance with animal neglect cases.

Your support in 2023 touched countless lives - not just of the pets who arrived at the ARL in need of help, but of pet families who just needed a little help in order to stay together. You also made a difference for suffering animals across Iowa who now have second chances.

Looking ahead to 2024, we hope to foster even more relationships to improve animal care capabilities and strengthen animal welfare in communities across Iowa. None of this would be possible without you, and we look forward to taking on new challenges together in 2024.

For the animals,
Tom Colvin, ARL Chief Executive Officer
Carol J. Griglione, ARL Board President



SAVING MORE LIVES

2023 was a challenging year for the ARL with the largest number of animals arriving at our shelter in years. Your support made it possible to provide the care they needed and also led to a record year for adoptions.

RECORD YEAR FOR ADOPTIONS

4,904	Cats
3,083	Dogs
565	Small Animals
137	Barn Animals
8,689	Total

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE



Pal, Princess, Ty and Billie were all adopted by the same horse-loving family who wanted to fill their pasture with horses so everyone in the family could ride. The family tells us the kids spend almost all of their free time with the horses, and they're looking forward to many years of trail rides together.



RESCUED FROM CRUELTY

In 2023, the ARL assisted authorities across Iowa with multiple large-scale rescues – from hoarding situations to unlicensed breeders to puppy mills. A total of 406 animals were rescued from cruelty, including 270 dogs from four rescues in the span of three months. Our veterinary team also tackled urgent medical cases, giving second chances to pets who needed critical care. Here are just some of the lives you changed.



BEFORE



AFTER



MURPHY

Murphy, a senior dog, was found by a roadside, matted and thin. We gave him an emergency grooming and a good meal. When tests showed multiple medical issues, we placed him in our hospice foster program. For nearly a month he enjoyed great care and all the comforts of home. When he sadly began to decline, our team lovingly helped him on his next journey.

APRIL



THEO

Theo was 8 weeks old when he arrived underweight with a broken leg and severe, untreated injuries to his foot. He was in extreme pain, and our veterinarian estimated his injuries had happened weeks before. His leg was not able to be saved, so our surgical team performed an amputation. Theo is now recovered and in a loving home.

JULY



SPOT

Spot arrived as a tiny, underweight kitten with a head wound and an injury that caused her eye to rupture. She was also battling fleas, ear mites and a cold. Although she was fragile, she needed surgery, and with excellent veterinary care, she pulled through. She later had additional surgeries to remove polyps in her ears. After healing, she found a wonderful home.

SEPTEMBER



BOONE COUNTY RESCUE

The ARL's Mobile Rescue Team responded to an urgent call from authorities, taking in 105 dogs from a puppy mill – our largest rescue of the year. Our kennels were already full, but the dogs couldn't wait, so we rushed to set up temporary housing and provide immediate care. The dogs, many matted, thin and fearful, required medical and behavioral help. Nearly all now have homes, while a handful are still recovering in our care. The breeder has been charged with animal neglect.

NOVEMBER



DALLAS COUNTY RESCUE

In our largest horse rescue operation in years, the ARL's Mobile Rescue Team assisted law enforcement with the removal of 46 horses – many injured and thin with little to no food or water. Two were rushed to equine veterinarians, and sadly one was so severely emaciated he did not make it. Most of the horses are still recovering at our Second Chance Ranch and many are pregnant. Some have fully recovered and have found homes. The previous owner has been charged with multiple counts of animal neglect.

YOUR 2023 IMPACT

IN THE SHELTER

ADOPTIONS

4,904	Cats
3,083	Dogs
565	Small Animals
137	Barn Animals
8,689	Total

FOSTERS & VOLUNTEERS

539	Foster homes
2,875	Pets in foster homes
754	Volunteers
1,284	TheraPets visits

MEDICAL PROCEDURES

66,473	Medical treatments given
5,800	Spay/neuter surgeries for ARL animals
2,488	Dental procedures
271	Other surgeries

IN THE COMMUNITY

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES (DES MOINES)

11,995	Dispatched trips
11,433	Animal Services Officer staff hours
831	Citations issued
1,544	Animal cruelty/neglect responses
1,697	Lost pets returned to owners

CRUELTY INTERVENTION (OUTSIDE OF DES MOINES)

406	Animals rescued from cruelty
782	Cases/investigations
4	Law enforcement trainings
230	Law enforcement training attendees

COMMUNITY-OWNED PETS

230	Spay/neuter surgeries through free and low-cost spay/neuter programs
714	Pets receiving veterinary assistance
850	Pets vaccinated through clinics
370	Pets microchipped
24	Pets in Crisis Care foster program
33,266	Pets receiving food assistance
189,335	Pounds of food distributed
631	TNR cats returned to community

PET BEHAVIOR SERVICES

68	Dog training classes
662	Owned dogs receiving behavior help
504	Owned cats receiving behavior help



JANUARY 2023 - DECEMBER 2023
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA

	DOG	CAT	SMALL ANIMAL	BARN ANIMAL	TOTAL ³	2023 INTAKES¹
STRAY/IMPOUND	2,824	3,855	69	84	6,832	
OWNER SURRENDER	2,273	2,728	544	85	5,630	
TRANSFERS IN	109	176	10	17	312	
OTHER	44	85	43	0	172	
TOTAL INTAKES	5,250	6,844	666	186	12,946	

	DOG	CAT	SMALL ANIMAL	BARN ANIMAL	TOTAL ³	2023 OUTCOMES¹
ADOPTIONS	3,083	4,904	565	137	8,689	
TRANSFERS OUT	170	110	59	0	339	
RETURN TO OWNER	1,444	234	10	9	1,697	
RETURN TO HABITAT	0	631	0	0	631	
EUTHANIZED²	470	775	19	6	1,270	
DIED IN CARE	17	112	23	2	154	
TOTAL OUTCOMES	5,184	6,766	676	154	12,780	

LIVE RELEASE RATE 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. The difference represents a net increase or decrease in the number of animals in our care at the beginning of the period and at the end.

