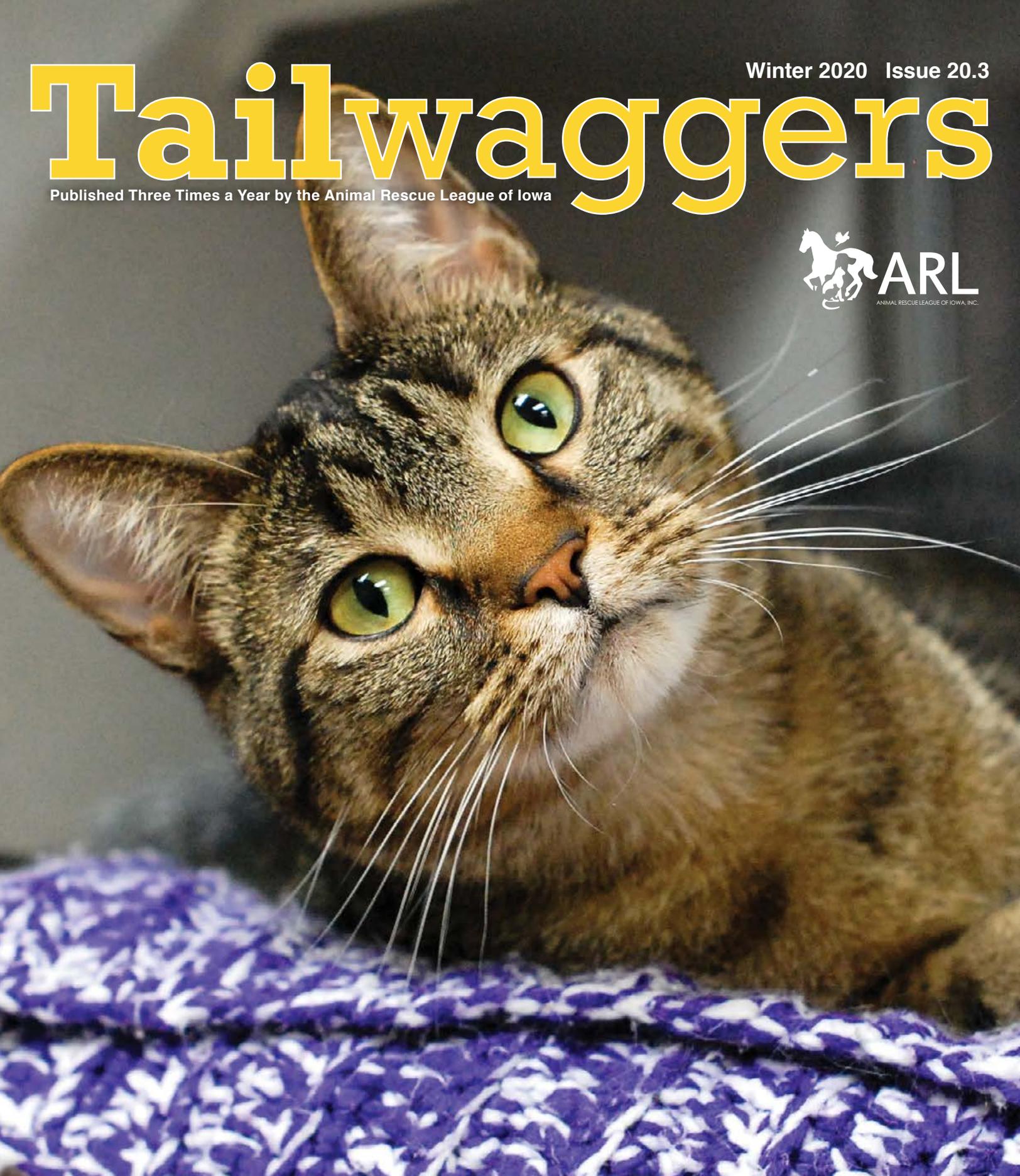


# Tailwaggers

Winter 2020 Issue 20.3

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



**COFFEE & ADOPTIONS  
AT CAT CAFE**

**300 FOSTER CATS  
AND COUNTING**

**CHANGING LIVES  
THROUGH BEHAVIOR WORK**

# FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS



The **Kruidenier Second Chance Ranch** has a large indoor riding space on the ARL Main campus that is perfect for saddle clubs, open riding, and seminars. For hourly or daily rental, visit [ARL-iowa.org/Arena](https://www.arl-iowa.org/Arena).

## SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOTS



Follow [@ARLIowa](https://www.instagram.com/ARLIowa) to stay up to date on everything ARL!



### ARL MILESTONES

In August, our trap-neuter-return (TNR) program celebrated spaying/neutering its 1,000th community cat in the city of Des Moines. Since March 2019, Operation CatSnip has prevented the births of an estimated 7,000 kittens.



### HEARTWARMING REUNIONS

Thanks to a microchip implanted when Maximilian was a puppy, ARL Animal Services officers were able to reunite the 17-year-old dog with his owner just hours after he went missing.



### UNLIMITED CUTENESS

We always have a whole lot of adorable at the ARL — like this little nugget named Buffy the Catnip Slayer — and we love to share.



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 North

*Inside Ankeny PetSmart*  
1715 Delaware Avenue  
Ankeny, IA 50021

#### ARL Animal Services

1615 SE 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50315

#### Questions or Comments?

(515) 262-9503  
[tailwaggers@arl-iowa.org](mailto:tailwaggers@arl-iowa.org)

or visit us online  
**ARL-IOWA.ORG**

# PAW IT FORWARD:

## HOW A SPECIAL TRIBUTE MADE FOR A MEMORABLE ADOPTION

**W**hen Nicole Schafer passed away suddenly at age 37, her family wanted to create something lasting in her memory.

Nicole was a lifelong animal lover who had a special connection with the ARL, so her family asked that memorial donations be sent to the shelter to help care for pets in need.

Part of the memorial allowed the family to add a special tribute to Nicole on one of the dog kennels in our adoption area – a lasting message of their love for her that potential adopters and guests would see whenever they looked for a new dog friend to add to their own family. They also chose to honor her with a memorial tile that will forever hang in our lobby, with a picture perfectly capturing Nicole's love for animals.

Once Nicole's name was placed on the dog kennel, her

family decided to Paw It Forward once again in her memory. On what would have been Nicole's 38th birthday – they decided to pay for the adoption of whichever dog would be waiting for a home in that kennel. The dog's name was Norah, and when a wonderful family fell in love with her and decided to take her home, their day was made even more special by the unexpected surprise.

Norah is doing great in her home and Nicole's memory lives on in the special day they now share.



### HONOR A LOVED ONE

Learn about the many ways to pay tribute to a loved one through naming opportunities at the ARL.

To learn more, visit  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/MEMORIALS](https://www.arl-iowa.org/memorials)

# MAKING AN IMPACT THROUGH LEGISLATION

Our major legislative victory this year, House File 737, ushered in major improvements to Iowa's companion animal abuse statute.



**E**ffective July 1, 2020, here's what the new law does:

**1. Clarifies Legal Definitions of Animal Cruelty Crimes.**

In Iowa, there are three levels of animal mistreatment charges: neglect, abuse, and torture. Each of these three levels had poor language and flimsy penalties that failed to properly address animal crimes.

- **Neglect.** Under the old law, Iowa pet owners could only be charged if they failed to provide a sufficient quantity of food or water (the quality of food or water was not a factor). HF737 imposed more comprehensive minimum standards of care, including proper quality of food/water, veterinary care, sanitary living conditions, protection from the elements, and basic grooming to avoid undue pain and suffering.
- **Abuse.** Under the old law, in order to charge "abuse" the defendant had to inflict injury on an animal owned by another person, i.e. the "owner exception." HF737 removed that language so that owners could be charged for abusing their own animals.
- **Torture.** Under the old law, the prosecutor had to prove the defendant acted with a "depraved or sadistic intent." This baffling language presented a major impediment to torture prosecutions. HF737 removed that intent language.

**2. Implements Mental Health Evaluations.** Research demonstrates a clear link between animal cruelty and domestic violence. Timely mental health evaluations can curb future escalations of violence. For this reason, HF737 requires convicted animal abusers to undergo mental health evaluations and treatments wherever there is serious injury or death to an animal, or if the defendant is a minor.

**3. Increases Penalties.** HF737 increases penalties for most animal cruelty cases. Under the old law, animal cruelty typically resulted in minimal penalties. By raising penalties, Iowa law now recognizes animal cruelty crimes as truly serious. However, we do note that Iowa remains the only state in the country without a first-offense felony for animal torture. This will need to change.

Of course, there is plenty more work that needs to be done in order to better protect Iowa's companion animals. With your help, we can continue to make animal welfare a priority for our lawmakers.

**TAKE ACTION FOR ANIMALS**

To join the Humane Action Network, visit  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/HAN](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/HAN)



MURPHY, ADOPTED MAY 2020



TY (RIGHT), ADOPTED MAY 2020



MEOWI, ADOPTED JULY 2009



ABE, ADOPTED JUNE 2019

## 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](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/WATN)



CHARLIE, ADOPTED MAY 2019



LILA, ADOPTED JULY 2016



MOOSE, ADOPTED IN 2006



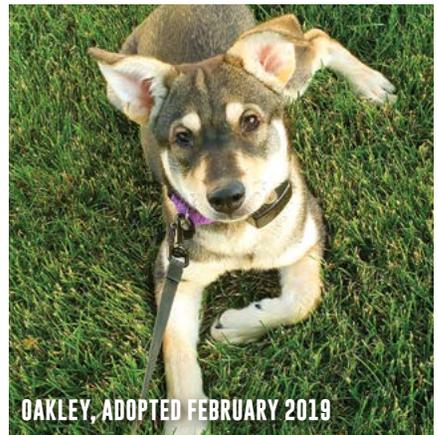
ALBUS, ADOPTED IN 2011



RHEA, ADOPTED MAY 2019



PERIDOTITE, ADOPTED MAY 2018



OAKLEY, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2019



## CHANGING LIVES THROUGH **REHABILITATION & TREATMENT**

Our Behavior & Enrichment Department changes shelter pets' lives for the better every single day by helping them overcome challenges and keeping their minds and bodies active during their stay. But sometimes their work becomes even more critical. In Sasha's case, working with our behavior team saved her life.

**S**asha arrived at the ARL at about 3 years old suffering from heartworms. From the minute she arrived it was clear that she was extremely uncomfortable with any type of restraint. At the ARL, we practice only positive reinforcement and staff are trained in Fear Free practices. But, even more than the typical dog, Sasha was guarded, making safe medical exams next to impossible. At even the smallest hint of restraint or a touch she wasn't fully comfortable with, she would whip her head around and snap.

Heartworms are fatal if left untreated, and treatment meant injections. Our behavior team began creating a plan to help Sasha.

The first step was to build a relationship with her. For the first week, we worked on trust, stopping by her kennel multiple times a day to



A member of the ARL's behavior team talks to Sasha's adopters about how to set her up for success in her new home.



take her for walks and give her treats. We introduced her to “clicker training,” a form of positive-reinforcement training where a “click” sound communicates the exact moment when she does something good and is immediately followed by a reward.

Sasha began to look forward to her time with us and quickly got the hang of clicker training. Once that trust was established, we were able to take the next steps: helping her become comfortable with a muzzle (in case she should ever need it) and with general handling.

At first, she was fearful and didn't want to even look at the muzzle. We again started slowly, over the course of weeks clicking and treating when she looked at the muzzle, then came near it, then allowed it to touch her, then placed her chin on it for a second. After many weeks, she allowed us to put it on and take it off without issues.

At the same time, we were working to ease her fear of being handled. We started by petting her in areas she was comfortable with, then very briefly petting places that she was not as comfortable with. She heard a click and received a treat after each touch. Once she was OK with brief touches, we worked on duration, and then the presence of a needle and the simulation of a needle poke. Everything was done at her own pace, never forced, and when she needed a break she got one. She started coming back voluntarily after her breaks to continue the fun game with the tasty treats.

In the end, when we treated her for heartworms, we didn't even need a muzzle. She stood calmly and didn't even flinch during her injections.

After months in our care she was finally ready to begin the next chapter of her life ... with a family. She found her perfect match in a couple who'd previously had large, active dogs and were ready for a challenge. They listened closely as we explained how we'd worked to build a relationship with Sasha, and they understood that they'd have to establish that trust, too. They committed to taking her to a veterinarian who practices Fear Free techniques to make future medical treatments as stress-free as possible. And they asked lots of questions to ensure they understood Sasha's needs and her potential future challenges.

After months in our care, Sasha was not only heartworm-free and a much happier dog, she finally had a family and future to look forward to.



## HELP CHANGE LIVES LIKE SASHA'S

The committed support of our Loyal Friends is what allows us to help pets that arrive in need of long-term care.

To learn more about monthly giving, visit [ARL-IOWA.ORG/LOYALFRIENDS](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/LOYALFRIENDS)

LOYAL  
*Friends*  
CLUB





## ADOPTING THROUGH COMMUNITY: **COFFEE & CATS**

**A** new partnership with Iowa's first cat café is giving adopters a chance to enjoy kitty cuddles with their lattes – and giving ARL cats a new opportunity to find homes.

The popular cat café concept emerged in Taiwan in the late 1990s and since then cat cafes have been popping up across the globe. The ARL is thrilled to have been part of the planning for Iowa's first café: Coffee Cats.

Part coffee shop and part cat lounge, Coffee Cats opened in late July in West Des Moines' Valley Junction. It features a bright and inviting space with climbing spots, cat trees and cozy furniture where adoptable ARL cats can relax, play and meet with potential adopters.

Patrons can choose to enjoy a beverage and watch the cats from the comfort of the coffee shop or make a reservation to

spend one-on-one time with the cats in the cat lounge. For those looking to add a cat to the family, it's a relaxed way to meet multiple cats at once and find a new friend who is a great fit for their lifestyle.

After years in the making, the partnership between the ARL and Coffee Cats is already seeing success. In Coffee Cats' first month, nearly 40 ARL cats were adopted from the cafe into loving homes.

### **COFFEE CATS**

312 Fifth St., West Des Moines, IA 50265

Make a reservation to meet the cats at  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/COFFEECATS](https://www.arl-iowa.org/coffeecats)

# 300 FOSTER CATS AND COUNTING

Stephanie and Terry Kruse have been changing lives as an ARL foster home since 2004, and in July they celebrated a huge milestone: Their 300th foster!

Little did they know back in 2004 when they heard about a need and decided to give it a shot that so many cats and kittens would come into their lives – tiny kittens with moms, orphaned kittens, kittens with special behavior or medical needs. Over the years, they've seen it all.

And all of the cats and kittens have received the love and care they needed before moving on to permanent homes.

The Kruses have a room just for their fosters with washable flooring, cat towers and toys galore. On the wall are Terry's pictures of their fosters and a poster listing the names and dates of everyone they've fostered. The two try not to reuse names, which at this point means they need to get a little creative at times!

Some fosters have an extra special place in their hearts, including Squidward, a fluffy, high-energy kitten who needed help learning to play appropriately, and Harley, a scared kitten injured in a car engine who needed weeks of socialization. Stephanie said it's especially rewarding to help some of their more special needs fosters get past their hurdles and into homes.

As one might expect, a few of their fosters never left. The Kruses have adopted five over the years, including their first "foster failure," Smoke, who stole their hearts with his habit of leaping onto their backs when they were leaning over.

Stephanie said fostering – and volunteering – is a great opportunity to be around so many animals without "having to be a crazy cat lady and own them all."

The Kruses' official foster total as of Sept. 1 is 305 fosters ... with, we hope, many more to come.

Photo Credit: Stephanie and Terry Kruse



## BECOME A FOSTER HOME

ARL's foster program provides a home environment for pets who need special attention or a break from the shelter. Some pets may need a temporary home for a few days, while others may need a few months.

Learn how to become a foster at  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/FOSTER](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/FOSTER)



### HALLOWEEN HUGGLEHOUNDS

Hugglehounds toys have a thick lining, minimal stuffing, and knotted, corduroy limbs that are ideal for tough chewers. Choose from an assortment of characters for big and smaller dogs.

**\$7.99 - 19.99**



### CAT/DOG ORNAMENTS

These cute ornaments for your tree are little dogs and cats with “who rescued whom” on the front to remind you of your most important fur-iends.

**\$6.99**



### CAT TREAT ORNAMENT

An ornament that doubles as a toy! Put treats or food in the ball for your cat to bat around and slowly get rewards. There’s also a little catnip fish toy on top. It comes in 4 different colors: green, blue, pink, and orange!

**\$6.99**

## UNIQUE PET SUPPLIES FOR GIFT GIVING

Shop online at  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/SHOP](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/SHOP)

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



### DOG TOY GIFT BOXES

Pick up one of these gift boxes for a quick stocking-stuffer for the small dog or new puppy in your life. They come with a selection of 4 toys. Choose between a green or red themed box.

**\$9.99**



### FALL DECORATIVE SIGNS

These fun accordion signs are a cool way to decorate for fall! Stretch them out or scrunch them up to fit wherever you need a little color. They fold up into a small block for easy storage, too.

**\$17.99**



### CATNIP STOCKINGS

This crafty-looking stocking is a long-lasting toy that every cat will enjoy. It has a little pouch at the back where you can refill the catnip whenever it gets low. The toy also comes with a little baggie of catnip to get you started. Choose from a snowman or a snowflake!

**\$4.99**

# ADVENTURELAND INN



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[ARL-IOWA.ORG/ELECTIONSHIRT](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/ELECTIONSHIRT)



*Tree  
of Life*

**December 1-31, 2020**

**MAKE A HOLIDAY A DONATION  
FOR THE HOMELESS PETS AT THE ARL**

Visit any ARL location and locations around the metro to help homeless pets.  
For a current list of participating locations visit [ARL-IOWA.org/TreeOfLife](http://ARL-IOWA.org/TreeOfLife)

**WISH LIST**

- Cat Scratchers • Non-Clumping Cat Litter • Canned Tuna • Kong Dog Toys  
Rabbit Litter • Chicken Feed • Easy Cheese • Timothy Hay  
Small Animal Food for All Species • Horse Feed • Horse Bedding

**Holiday Portrait Fundraiser**

**SANTA N' PAWS**

Whether you bring the whole family or just your pet, these photos are sure to capture the holiday spirit!

You'll get to book a November photo session and choose from a variety of photo packages that will arrive in time for gift giving.



**November 5-22, 2020**

For details, please visit  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/SANTA](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/SANTA)

# UNIQUE & SIMPLE WAYS TO GIVE



## TARGET CIRCLE

You have the chance to direct a portion of Target's charitable giving to the ARL. Accumulate votes when you shop, and vote to make a big impact for the animals.

Learn how at  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/TARGETCIRCLE](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/TARGETCIRCLE)



## 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 to reduce digestive distress.

Learn More at  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/FOOD](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/FOOD)



## AMAZON SMILE

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

Get started at  
[ARL-IOWA.ORG/AMAZONSMILE](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/AMAZONSMILE)

## 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](http://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 2019, 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](http://ARL-IOWA.ORG/WAYSTOGIVE)

