



ARK in Action

The Newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Spring '24



ARK Education Program Updates

Animal Rescue Kare recently completed our 2024 education and enrichment initiative. Along with providing info about ARK's work in the community, students at all 5 Hart County grade schools were treated to a program featuring a high-flying canine show from Performance Dogs of Ohio. The dogs in the show are all rescues – showing just how amazing rescues can be. A huge thanks to the schools for helping make this a reality. ARK's new youth mascot, Munford, made his debut



Munford draws an enthusiastic crowd

and was an instant celebrity. A special thanks to Crystal Hughes and Madison Dennis for bringing Munford to life.

The ARK Youth Ambassador program has evolved. To accurately reflect the mission and outreach of this dynamic group, the ARK Youth Ambassadors will now be re-named as the "ARK Youth Corps." ARK's Youth Corps has invested nearly 400 hours of community service in the last year, including a recent adoption event for the

Hart County Animal Shelter at the Munfordville TSC. Among their other duties, they help socialize the shelter dogs, which make them more adoptable. It has really paid off with many successful adoptions.

ARK's Youth Corps is piloting a program called the "Service Pup Academy." Youth Corps member Anna Scott is fostering and training Whiskey, a pup rescued from the KY 357 shelter. Anna is receiving her training certification from the Victoria Stillwell Academy under the guidance of Autumn Reynolds, of Autumn Rose Dog Training. The ARK Service Pup Academy will train and foster young service dogs through the AKC Good Citizenship level of training. Once completed, the certified dogs will join a service training group for further development. This project is underwritten by the HeartPaws Foundation. We are very grateful for their support. *Steve Thompson, Education Coordinator*



Ariel Faeth with one of the Performance Dogs of Ohio



Anna Scott with service pup Whiskey

ARK's Annual Members' Meeting, 2024

A nice crowd attended the annual ARK Members' Meeting on 12, 2024 at the Hart County Public Library. Attendees enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by the library during registration and voting.

Save the Date

Dawgy Dash 5K, April 13, 8:00, start at Munfordville School

SNR Voucher Event, June 22, 10:00 – 12:00, Munfordville Baptist Church, rear entrance

Susan Rowe brought the meeting to order by greeting all the guests and introducing the ARK Board of Directors and board candidates. The committee chairs gave reports about their programs. Susan Rowe discussed the upcoming Dawgy Dash 5K, ARK's main fundraiser of the year. Janet Kistler presented the treasurer's report, (which can be found on our website.)

Karen Klettner has recently taken over the role of SNR chair. She gave a brief summary of our plans for the coming year including an SNR event every 3 months. We are very grateful to have Riverside Animal Clinic, the Leitchfield Veterinary Clinic, and Barren River Animal Welfare Association partnering with us for all our programs.

Alethea Dudley and her children brought heart-warming stories about some of the challenges they have dealt with in the foster program. Our pet foster homes are doing their best to help homeless and surrendered kitties. (See one story on page 3.)

Bonnie Moore presented a slide show of the Trap-Neuter-Return program and gave a shout out to her team of trappers and haulers. They work hard to help feral cat colonies. The team also has a barn cat program to take care of cats who must be removed from their original location. They tackle it all with determination and good humor.



Zoe, Alethea, and Zeke Dudley-
Zach not pictured

Ron Gonterman, shelter liaison, explained ARK's role with the HCAS – to provide support and to help with material needs. He also gave a brief history of ARK from its inception to date. He is leaving the Board but will continue to volunteer. Alicia McClure is taking over the role of liaison.

Tony Roberts, Hart County Animal Shelter director gave an update on the shelter. Weekly, they have about 47 stray dogs in their two facilities. (one near the fairgrounds and one on Hwy 357) 513 dogs were processed in 2023, with 313 adopted/transported out. Dogs have been adopted as far away as Canada and Boston. One good dog is being trained as a service dog by an ARK youth volunteer. They are planning to build a bigger shelter that is more functional in the future. He introduced the shelter staff. They are doing a terrific job for the needy dogs in our area.



Ron & David reminisce about ARK

Janet Kistler recognized David Clement and Ron Gonterman for their 8+ years with ARK - helping get the group established, volunteering in many capacities, and serving on the board. They each received a handsome plaque. They will be missed.

Susan Rowe announced the winner of the Dawgy Dash 5K t-shirt contest. See the winning design on the back page.

Steve Thompson gave the evening's featured presentation about ARK's educational outreach program. Read about their amazing work in the lead article. He introduced three of the "dog whisperers" in the Youth

Corps who work with shelter dogs.

David Clement provided the results of the election - candidates Israel Bergenson, Bonnie Moore, and Karen Klettner were elected unanimously. David announced that he would be leaving ARK's board for retirement at his farm. He offered some great insight and pointers to the new board members as the meeting was adjourned.

We extend our gratitude to the library for hosting the meeting and to our members and supporters. We couldn't do any of our work without you!



From left – the "dog whisperers" Olivia Teague,
Anna Scott, and Annabelle Thacker with Steve
Thompson

Trap-Neuter-Return Program Going Strong

The ARK TNR is growing with volunteers which is great, because the county is unfortunately growing in feral cats. We have broken Hart County down to 3 areas: Bonnieville, Cub Run and Munfordville: Hardyville, Magnolia and Canmer: and Horse Cave. We have 1 trapper and 2 transporters for each area.



TNR kitties awaiting transport

So far this year, we have trapped 56 kitties, 34 of them are females. If we hadn't trapped these females, they could have had litters numbering up to 140 kittens per quarter. The time to TNR the kitty is when it shows up, not after it's had time to start breeding.

We have taken 26 kitties to work as barn cats on farms. Let us know if you want some fixed barn cats by filling out the form on our website home page.

We are still looking for someone with a truck or van that can take 10-15 kitties to and from Leitchfield Animal Clinic on Tuesdays. If you're interested in helping with the TNR Team, go on our website and fill out the volunteer form. We try to rotate so you may volunteer one or two days a month. *Bonnie Moore, TNR Coordinator*

From Trash to Treasure, a Foster Story

From trash to treasure! ARK volunteers sprang into action when they received a call from the county dump about newborn kittens discovered in someone's load of trash. Four fragile kittens less than 2 weeks old required round the clock bottle feeding and special care. Sadly 2 did not survive, but the remaining 2, Ruby and Pearl grew stronger and healthy with lots of loving care. These extra special sweet sisters graduated the foster program

in 4 months after completing vaccinations, deworming, spaying, and microchipping.



Ruby and Pearl enjoying life

The girls hit the jackpot when our foster coordinator took a call from a local retiree who was looking for house kittens to keep her company on the farm. Cats often stress out with changes; they need time and patience to adjust to their new environment. Ruby and Pearl immediately began exploring with confidence and made fast friends with the dogs in the house. The foster team is thrilled the girls got to stay together with a loving, doting new family. This is the happy ending we work so hard for! Thank you to the foster families that put their hearts and souls into this volunteer work and the adoptees who support our efforts.

If you are interested in fostering cats or kittens, please fill out the form on our website: ark4hart.org/petfoster. It's very rewarding to be part of such happy endings.

Animal Rescue Kare
PO Box 427
Munfordville, KY 42765
Phone: (225) 414-2765, message only

We're on the Web -
Website: ark4hart.org
Facebook: ARK for Hart

ARK's Board of Directors

- Israel Bergenson – Board Vice Chair, Nominating Comm. Chair
- Janet Kistler – Treasurer, Communications
- Bonnie Moore – Secretary, TNR Chair,
- Susan Rowe – Fundraising & Development Chair
- Alicia McClure – Shelter Liaison, Membership Chair
- Karen Klettner – Volunteer Coordinator, Spay-Neuter-Rabies Chair

In training to serve on the board

- Steve Thompson, Educational Outreach
- Antoinette Christaldi, Grant Writer
- Jeri Sutter, Secretary in training

A TNR Tale – The Return of the Kitty!

Susan Rowe was transporting a couple of cats to a farm after surgery, when one of them jumped under her car's hood. She tried and tried to get him to leave, but with no luck. She drove home – fearing the worst. Thankfully, he arrived at her house safe and sound, but still wouldn't come out, even when bribed with tasty treats. For 3 days he stayed under the hood – perhaps her hybrid car was a little safer for a kitty hitchhiker. She noticed a little bloody patch around his ear, but otherwise, he was fine.

On the third day, Susan popped her hood to discover that the kitty was gone. Unfortunately, he wasn't in the trap that she had set. Fortunately, he had been neutered and wouldn't be responsible for any new litters.

A week later, Bonnie had some more cats for Susan to deliver to a local farm as barn cats. Bonnie mentioned that one had already been neutered, so the vet just treated a previous injury behind his ear. You can probably guess who this was. Mr. Hitchhiker was back! He really wasn't a feral cat, according to Susan. He was ready to be loved on, petted, fed like royalty, and spoiled. He did not become a barn cat after all. ARK will try to find his owner, but if no one claims him, Susan knows that he was meant to be her cat. Some pets just know how to communicate their needs and desires. Mr. Hitchhiker, (who will be renamed Rav after Susan's car) sure did!

ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K – Our Big Fundraiser for the Year

"Paws, Claws, and Outlaws" is this year's 5K theme. It'll be a rootin-tootin' good time with buckaroos and buckarettas racing with or without their canine companions. You can sign up for the race at runsignup.com/dawgydash.

As always, you can race competitively or just have a nice walk with your friends. Registration is \$35 for adults or \$30 for youth 4 to 14. Participants get a snazzy race tee and a bandana for their dogs (till we run out.) Get a team of ten or more together to save \$5 on registration fees – your friends, your ball team, your coworkers, your club members, your family. Come on out on April 13 for a real good time! The race starts at 8:00 AM at Munfordville School.



The winning race tee design, by HCHS student Autumn Lutterman.

Animal Rescue Kare (ARK) is an all-volunteer animal welfare organization working to improve the quality of life for animals in our area. We strive to provide necessary care, to promote adoptions, and to encourage responsible pet ownership. ARK is working with local officials to support the Hart County Animal Shelter. We are committed to helping animals through our spay/neuter, foster, trap-neuter-return, outreach, and educational programs.

Please consider putting your talents to work by becoming an ARK volunteer! See our website for more details about volunteering.

Join ARK - Donate Today

Donations over \$25 include ARK membership. Fill out this form and send it to ARK, PO Box 427, Munfordville, KY 42765

Or join/donate online: www.ark4hart.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Volunteer? (circle) Yes No

Level of Giving Youth (under 18) \$10 ____

Adult \$25 ____ Family \$45 ____ \$100 ____

\$250 ____ \$500 ____ \$1,000 ____

Lifetime individual \$1,500 ____

ARK is a tax-exempt charitable organization. Your donations to ARK are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law and greatly appreciated.