

Tails of the heart

Winter 2017

The Newsletter of Animal Rescue Rhode Island

It takes a Village

When Chance arrived at our shelter through our Bark and Ride program last November, you would never have guessed that he came from one of the worst neglect cases ARRI has ever seen.



Happy at home

Paulina, a volunteer for one of our southern rescue partners was horrified when she saw her neighbor's dog in a skeletal condition. The previous months leading up to this, she had concerns that Chance was allowed to free feed out of a large bucket that was left out for him once a week. Many times he would scarf his food up in one day, forcing him to starve until the next feeding, which was often forgotten. Eventually his inconsistent eating habits raised havoc on his digestive system, causing him to develop a protein losing disease. This meant that with the little food Chance was getting, he was no longer able to process the nutrients and was suffering from constant diarrhea which led to his skeletal appearance. Although the neighbors insisted they did nothing wrong, Paulina was able persuade them to relinquish him. Knowing the risks of over feeding a starving dog and

not wanting him to die, he was brought to a local veterinarian where he could be carefully fed. After spending an extended time at the vet, Pauline took him in and worked with him before he moved to his next foster home with Cyndi. Her job was to fine tune him by socializing and housebreaking him, but most importantly loving him. After several months of rehab, he was ready to be transported to ARRI for adoption. At this point he weighed more than 70lbs and became a happy, go-lucky goofball. It took him less than 3 weeks before he would find his forever family, Josh and Shannon. He has settled in quickly to his new home, loves to chew on his bones, but has realized he hates the New England snow. Although he likes to snore very loudly at night, his parents know he has been through a lot and is very happy at last.

ARRI Welcomes Karin Conopask as next Executive Director



The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Karin E. Conopask to serve as our next Executive Director. Karin, a long time resident of South County, has a 22 year career history of leadership and achievement in nonprofits. For the past ten years Karin has held several leadership positions in development at URI. Previously, she served as Executive Director for both the Courthouse Center for the Arts and Slater Mill. An avid animal advocate and pet owner, Karin has been a long term supporter and champion of ARRI's mission and vision and sees the ED position as an opportunity to bring her leadership, talent, fresh ideas and vision to a cause to which she has always been committed. Karin will begin on January 30th. Please join us in welcoming Karin to ARRI.

ARRI's Bark and Ride Program Rescues 1,000th Dog

Late last month, the Bark and Ride program rescued its 1,000th animal — a 3-month-old chihuahua rescued from South Carolina. Shiloh, three months old, is a fun, frisky girl who quickly found a forever home here in South Kingstown. Bark and Ride was started in 2011 by our shelter manager, Jennifer Gebar. Since its inception, the shelter has spent over \$130,000 to rescue animals through the program. "I founded this program due to the very high euthanasia rates in more rural areas of the country," Gebar explained. After coming across a posting on Facebook pleading for help rescuing a dog and her puppies, all of which were on the verge of being euthanized, Gebar sprang to action, having the dogs transported from the shelter in South Carolina to ARRI.



1,000

DOGS RESCUED!

Pictured: Shiloh, 3 mo. chihuahua

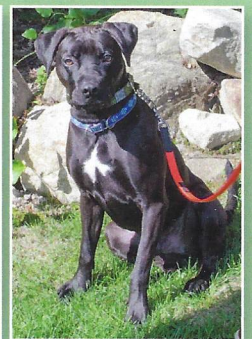
"After coming across a posting on Facebook pleading for help rescuing a dog and her puppies, all of which were on the verge of being euthanized, Gebar sprang to action..."

In the South there seems to be a different attitude about how pets are treated. Generally, neutering and spaying pets isn't commonplace and a lot of the time pets aren't even allowed in the house — they're caged or tethered outside or they're allowed to run rampant. Because of these tendencies, there is an overpopulation of stray dogs and cats in states like North Carolina and South Carolina, and shelters are crowded. In some cases, if the strays are not adopted in five days' time, they are put down.

Bark and Ride was created to rescue these otherwise healthy and adoptable dogs and cats. However, Bark and Ride is expensive. On behalf of ARRI, Jennifer networks with several animal advocacy groups in the South to identify dogs and cats that she believes can be adopted here in New England. Then the animals are driven here in a van, the costs of which are covered by ARRI. Once the animals are here, it is often discovered that they have physical or medical issues that require the care of a vet. Each dog rescued through the program can cost up to \$1,000. After a \$200 adoption fee, the shelter can lose up to \$800 for each dog. Thus, the shelter relies on the generosity of our donors to keep the program running. We are very proud of the success of the program thus far and are committed to maintaining it for many years to come. It won't be long before we will celebrate the 2,000th animal saved.



Every so often, ARRI gets an animal that requires a little extra TLC before he or she is noticed as an adoptable pet to love. Thanks to the loving care of ARRI staff and volunteers, these pets are now living happily in their new forever homes.



Left: **Max** was a senior dog who suffered extreme anxiety after losing his owner to illness. ARRI sought the help of our veterinarian and our behaviorist, and we were able to bring Max to a calm state.

Middle: **Crosby** came from a hoarding situation and had had little human contact. Our staff and volunteers worked hard to build his confidence and trust.

Right: **Ward** lacked basic training and obedience while a puppy. ARRI worked hard to teach this now adult new manners and social skills.

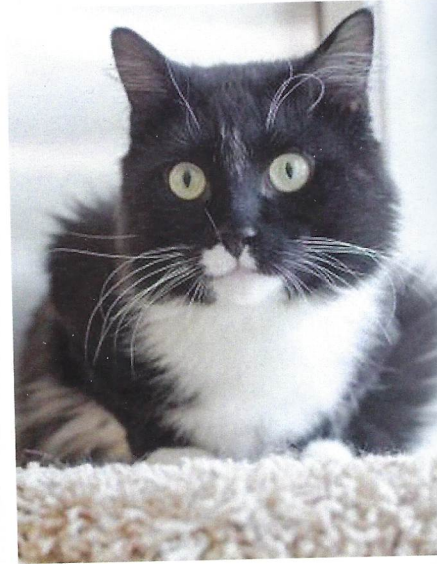
Mio's Story

Mio arrived in our shelter in March of 2016. Over the next 9 months, Mio would find himself passed over for adoption multiple times solely because of his size. Weight gain is a sad result of many cats who suffer depression while living in a shelter environment. Although he received a lot of love and attention from our staff and volunteers, it was just not the same as being in a loving home for Mio.

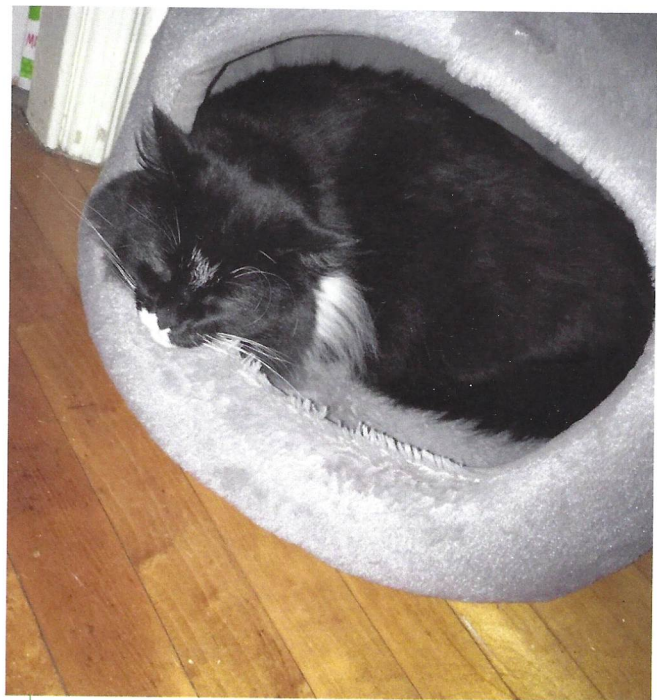
Often, people will ignore obesity in cats because for the most part, an obese cat doesn't look or act sick, but this is a slow and insidious problem which over time can be detrimental to a cat's overall health and quality of life. Although it may seem like a good idea to spoil a cat with treats, obesity can lead to serious health issues including diabetes, heart disease and arthritis, just to name a few.

How can this be overcome? There are plenty of interactive toys on the market which will encourage your cat to exercise. You should aim for 20-30 minutes of exercise a day which can be split into two or three sessions. Decrease caloric intake, forgo the treats and feed 3-4 smaller meals per day instead of filling the bowl and leaving it down for your cat to graze on.

Fortunately for Mio, he attracted the Amey family. They had a cat named Stewey who not only resembled Mio, but who was also adopted from ARRI one year ago. Two days before Christmas Mio received his holiday wish and was adopted! After a few weeks, he has settled right in, plays with his toys and even runs up and down the steps. Of course, this is not without cuddling up for a nap afterward in his new bed.



Mio at ARRI, waiting to find his forever home.



Mio happy in his new forever home.



PET TIP

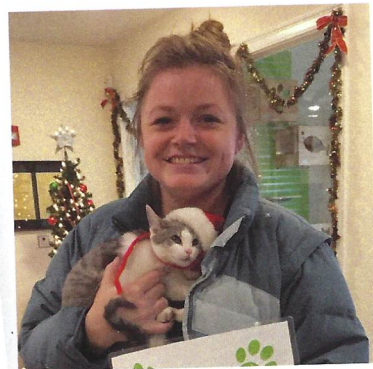
When you are training or working with your dog, DON'T use treats as the reward, use your affection. Research showed that 89% of dogs responded more to the personal affection than treats.

Remember...Keep the good energy flowing.

Bob Midwood, Behaviorist
ARRI K-9 Academy
and Golden Dog Training



Eric & Brady



Kayla & Hocus Pocus



Nicholas & Buford



Eric, Lara & Foxy



Michael, Madison,
Jennifer & Pebbles

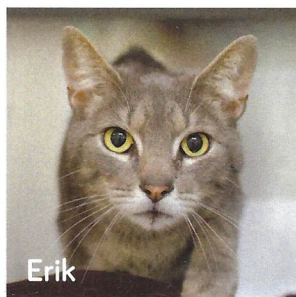


Your support saves homeless pets and brings families together EVERY DAY, enriching lives and making a difference.

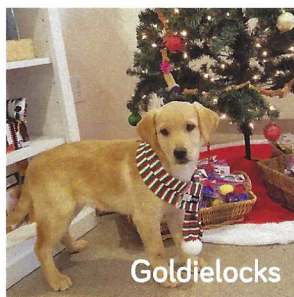
Some of our recently adopted friends from Animal Rescue Rhode Island!



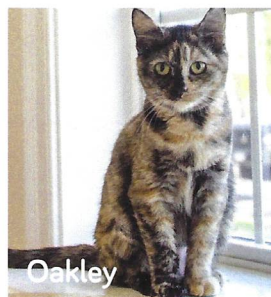
Lily



Erik



Goldielocks



Oakley



Sam

Thank you, Clara!



Clara Smart has been ARRI's talented volunteer photographer for a number of years. Recently, Clara earned her PhD in Ocean Engineering from URI, and though we hope she will continue to help us from time to time, her career may take her out of the area and keep her too busy to be here as much as she (and we) would like. But, we didn't want her to move on without publicly recognizing how much she has done for us, building a rich, professional photographic history of ARRI and the animals we save. Her amazing photographs have played a huge role in attracting prospective adopters to ARRI. We wish Clara every success in her career but hope she'll visit (and bring her camera) as much as her schedule allows.

Upcoming Events



Diamond in the Ruff – April 7, 2017

The Towers in Narragansett

ARRI's Fifth Annual Diamond in the Ruff Cocktail Party/Auction takes place at The Towers in Narragansett. ARRI will once again honor Rhode Island's Animal Welfare Heroes, while raising funds for animals in need and celebrating the unconditional love of the animals in our lives. This grand culinary event features entertainment, a silent and a live auction, raffles, and food and beverage tastings from some of South County's finest restaurants, caterers, and specialty drink providers. Please visit www.AnimalRescueRI.org for details.



The FurBall – July 14, 2017

The Dunes Club, Narragansett

Watch for details!

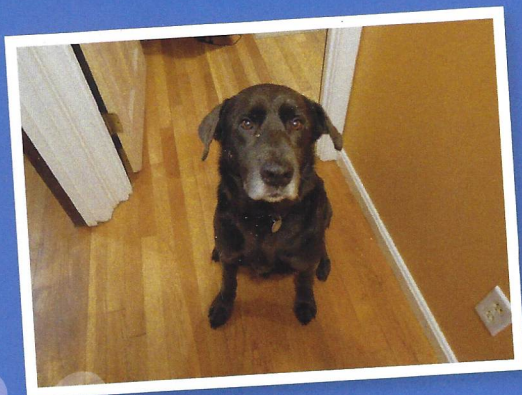


Bark on the Beach – October 14, 2017

Narragansett Town Beach

Save the date!

Happy Endings

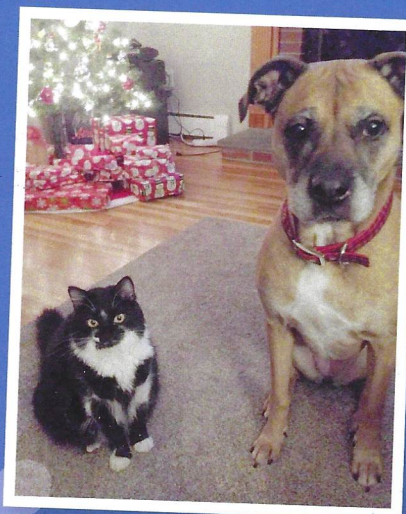


"I wanted to let you know that Rocky (Choco) is doing great! We couldn't love him anymore. He is such a snuggler and a sweetheart. I attached a couple of pictures. His hind quarters (where he was soo skinny and you could see his ribs) are filling out nicely and he is thriving!

We are blessed to have found him....

Thank you for bringing him to us!

-Sand"



"I adopted Ulysses , now named Oscar, about a month ago. He has become a wonderful, cuddly member of the family. We often refer to him as a dog-cat because his behavior is more dog-natured than normally one of a cat. Attached is a picture of Oscar and Hazel (dog) I am confident that in a little more time I will find the two cuddled together rather than just near one another.

Thank you

-Mary"



Animal Rescue
Rhode Island
SINCE 1938



Best Animal Shelter
in South County

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- Bringing families and best friends together since 1938 -

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