

# Tails Of The Heart



L-R Upper: Brute, Trex, Max, Ranger, Aero, ARRI Shelter Manager Jennifer Gebar, Krystal, Mud, Tux, Finch, Boots, Caesar. Lower: Sprout, Churchill, Claire, Bambi, Olive, Lenny, Rocky and Basil.

## Happy 10th Anniversary Bark & Ride!

3,000 cats and dogs have been saved since ARRI's Bark & Ride rescue program launched in the summer of 2011. Here we take you back to the day it all began...

**A**s a nuzzle of newborn puppies huddled close to Lab-mix Allie for motherly warmth and nourishment, staff at the South Carolina shelter looked on with heavy hearts. Due to extreme overcrowding, the threat of euthanasia was already looming.

"We have 48 hours to find a commitment to take the whole family. Can you help?" Their social media plea was met with a flurry of support and well-wishing, but it took one special person to take action, and that person was ARRI's brand new shelter manager Jennifer Gebar.

"I had always shared Facebook posts from animal shelters, but this was the first time I was in a position to offer a solution. My directors quickly gave me the go ahead,

transport was arranged and what had been a picture on a computer screen became a kennel full of yelping pups, each in need of a home."

Miraculously, local couple Margaret and Dominic Ferrara offered to take on the hardest to place two-year-old mama without even meeting her.

"I was longing for a dog and Allie's big friendly brown eyes were begging for a home - we needed her just as much as she needed us," Margaret explains.

Allie became Mollie and proved to be quite a handful. "She shredded every wooden blind in the place and knocked the air conditioning unit out of the window so she could go lie out in the garden - what can I say? She's a Southern gal, she likes to lie in the sun!" laughs Margaret, her voice brimming with affection. "The first six months were tough, but we persevered and Mollie became the most gentle, loyal, loving companion."

Meanwhile, back at the shelter, one of Allie/Mollie's puppies had gashed her

eye on some metal fencing and was complaining loudly about wearing her protective E-collar when longtime ARRI supporter Patty Gardiner dropped by en route to an adoption event. "Is there anything I can do?" Patty asked. "Yes!" came Jennifer's assertive response: "You can take her home!"

Patty's protests were short-lived, as was her conviction that the name "Puppy" was a temporary fix until she was placed with her new owner. When Puppy's health took a turn for the worse, the pair formed an unbreakable bond.

"I would cradle her and sing to her as I rocked her on the garden swing," says Patty, serenading her again as she sits on a bench on the ARRI grounds. Puppy looks fondly up at her, as if remembering the moment she became part of the Gardiner family. In return, Puppy was there to offer comfort when Patty's husband Peter was taken into the hospital for the last days of his life. In the hours before dawn, Patty would sneak Puppy onto the ward and the three of them ▶



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► would cuddle up.

"After 45 years of marriage I always thought we'd go out together but when I voiced this to Peter, he wagged his finger and motioned to Puppy to let me know I had to stay on to take care of her. Now I say you'll have to dig a double plot in the backyard for when she goes because I simply can't imagine a day without her!"

Today as the fellow adopters assemble for the group photo they chuckle over the dogs' similar quirks - from disliking sizzling in

the kitchen to four-letter words on television - and then recall one blustery winter's night in the parking lot of Belmont Market in 2015....

Patty was heading back to her car with her groceries when she spied a man with a familiar-looking dog.

"Is that Allie?" she inquired. "No, this is Mollie," he replied. "Did she used to be Allie?" Patty persisted. And that is when realization hit.

Margaret gets misty-eyed reliving the moment when mother and daughter were reunited for the first time since they arrived from South Carolina five years prior. "It was a pretty emotional encounter - tears all round."



2021 Patty, Puppy, Mollie, Dominic & Margaret



2011 The very first Bark & Ride arrivals

But today it is all sunshine and smiles as the two dogs sniff and wag tails in recognition.

ARRI's Jennifer Gebar looks on at this full circle moment and sighs contentedly. "And this is why we do what we do."

## Ticket to (Bark &) Ride

So how exactly does the Bark & Ride program operate? And how can you help? We have the answers!

Over the past decade, Shelter Manager Jennifer Gebar has built up a network of contacts and connections across the Southern states, even taking a research trip to the original Chesterfield, SC shelter in 2012 so she could have firsthand experience of the situation and better understand the process.

"It was heartbreaking to see the animals in run-down outdoor pens, exposed to the elements year-round," Jennifer recalls. "The staff there do everything they can to take care of the animals, but they confided that they sometimes prefer to send their rescues directly to Rhode Island as many locally-adopted pets are later found back on the streets, abandoned and malnourished."

She notes that the laws that govern animal welfare are very different in the South, but there is always hope that things will improve. "One of the highlights of my trip was visiting local foster homes and meeting people who are dedicated to protecting precious pet lives. I always try

to update the fosters on the new homes of the cats and dogs they have nurtured, and I have formed many lifelong friendships along the way."

It certainly takes a village to rescue each pet. As well as the shelter partners and fosters, Jennifer coordinates with a team of dedicated drivers making the 800-mile journey to ARRI, and then of course there is our own animal care team ready to greet the newbies as they arrive each week.

"Fifty percent of our intake is now cats like Gio and Willow (see The Fab Four article). Of course, we always serve the local population first, but we are lucky in Rhode Island to not have an extensive problem with strays so, when space allows, we are always happy to welcome our Southern friends."

Jennifer herself has had two Bark & Ride dogs. Her first was brindle Pit Bull soulmate Carley and now her constant companion is a striking Husky-mix named Krystal.

"I feel like she

came to me to heal my broken heart when Carley passed," Jennifer shares. "Krystal had a tough start, but she was a fighter and there was just something magical about her ice blue eyes. I knew straight away she was meant for me." Krystal comes to work with Jennifer every day, sits in the chair opposite her desk, and watches over her as she makes plans for the next batch of Bark & Ride arrivals. Part of this preparation includes keeping tabs on the budget....

Each cat and dog crate has a \$140 transportation fee, and ARRI receives an average of 10 each week. The Bark & Ride program is funded in part by a generous private foundation; for the rest we depend on kind donors in our community.

We would be honored if you would consider purchasing a Ticket to Ride for a pet in need. Every week there is a lineup of Southern dogs and cats desperately hoping to get picked and have their chance to find a loving home in Rhode Island. Your \$140 donation is the equivalent of handing them a golden ticket. Please see the attached form and know that your gift is a genuine life-changer.





# Dalmatians ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND!

Wear your heart on your sleeve  
and an ARRI bracelet on your wrist!

You've heard of statement jewelry - pieces that really say something about your personal style. Now with Hope & Co's stunning ARRI collection, you can adorn yourself with bracelets that show your love and support for our furry friends.

Based in Providence, RI, accessory brand Hope & Co is on a mission to do good in the world with a special project initiated and hand-crafted by designer Jackie Kasun.

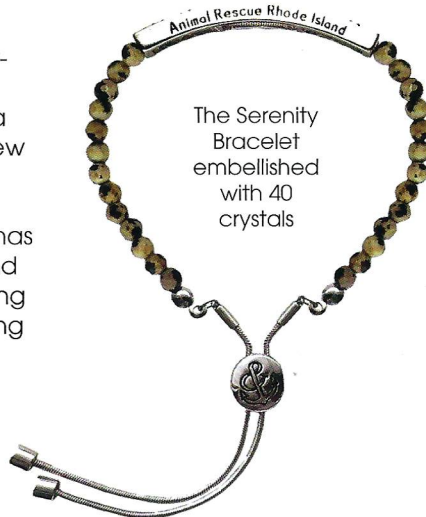
"I wanted to create a line of bracelets tied to the missions of six carefully-chosen non-profits as a way of giving back. I am a huge animal-lover, so I knew I wanted to work with an animal rescue that really makes a difference. ARRI has a strong 80-year history and incredible programs ranging from adoption and fostering to a community pet food pantry and humane education classes, so we knew our contribution would really count."

That contribution takes the form of 10% of each bracelet sold, and ARRI's Executive Director Liz Skrobisch is thrilled with the donation and the partnership: "We are so grateful to have this incredible opportunity to promote animal welfare on both a local and national scale. Working with a creative talent as enthusiastic and dedicated as Jackie has been a dream."

Animal Rescue Rhode Island is positioned proudly alongside Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer



Manifest Your Best Trio



The Serenity Bracelet embellished with 40 crystals

Society, Project Sweet Peas, Hope's Harvest RI and Make-A-Wish. Each non-profit has a bracelet collection with its own distinct color palette and gemstone, including lapis, turquoise and peach quartz, with each one chosen for its special meaning.

For ARRI, Jackie selected the beautiful, neutral-toned Dalmatian Jasper described as "spotted, dotted and freckled"! As well as being apt in name and features, this little-known semi-precious stone symbolizes



Hope & Co's Dalmatian Jasper collection

"positivity, playfulness and loyalty - everything ARRI stands for!"

It is also originates in Chihuahua, Mexico!

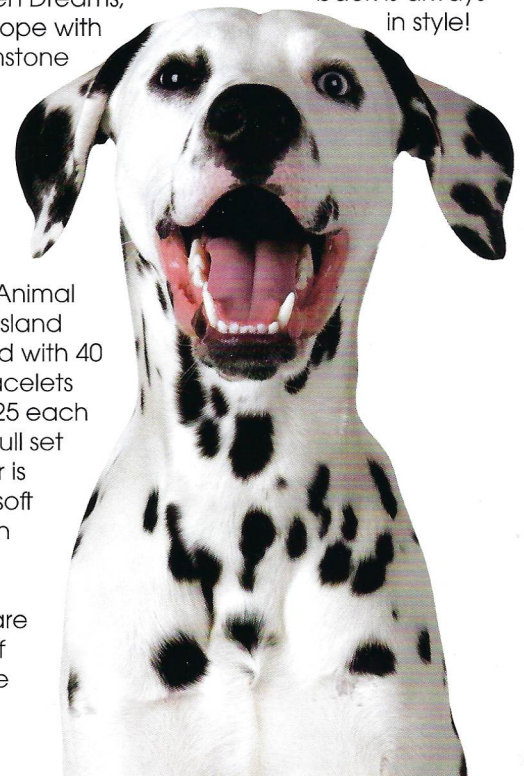
friend or animal-loving family member, these really are a great buy - both for you and the pets that benefit from your purchase!

Please visit the Hope & Co website at [hopeandco.org](http://hopeandco.org) and place your order today - because giving back is always in style!

## Pick of the litter

There are five bracelets in the set including the macrame Woven Dreams, a twisted silver rope with a teardrop gemstone for Tides of Hope and the beaded Serenity bracelet with a bar that is inscribed with the words Animal Rescue Rhode Island and embellished with 40 crystals. The bracelets are priced at \$25 each or \$100 for the full set and each order is presented in a soft jewelry bag with an embossed gold logo.

Whether you are treating yourself or a fashionable







# Sea Dog ZENA

From the Ocean State to a New York State of mind, ARRI rescue pup Zena has sailed 534 Nautical Miles since being adopted by Rhode Island sailors Anett and Willem last October. Zena has proved true to her water-loving Chesapeake Bay Retriever roots and the couple has invented a new breed name - the Chincoteague Oyster Hound - to reflect Zena's love of seafood! You can read the full story on the ARRI website at [animalrescueri.org/seadog](http://animalrescueri.org/seadog)



## Crafty Volunteers

**A** RRI volunteers got crafty during the pandemic, determined to find a way to keep our shelter cats entertained, even from afar...

Gini Spaziano revved up her sewing machine to create a range of colorful cat kicker toys - stuffed tubes of fabric infused with catnip that our feline friends love to tussle with! She also made matching curtains for the cat condos, offering a layer of peek-a-boo privacy for our shyer guests.

"Many cats are introverts by nature, others are timid until they become familiar with their new environment," notes volunteer cat socializer Carolyn Hedberg (pictured). "The curtains help them feel protected, especially when they are eating and drinking."

Another welcome crafting addition has been kitten björns - carrier

pouches that cradle kittens next to the warmth of the wearer, helping them adjust to human contact and thus become more adoptable. Volunteer Victoria Walsh stitched these as well as repurposing donated sheets into reusable shopping bags for heavy community pet food pantry items that would tear through paper bags.

"They have proved so useful we would welcome many more cloth bags!" encourages Volunteer



**Volunteer Carolyn with ARRI cat Pounce.**

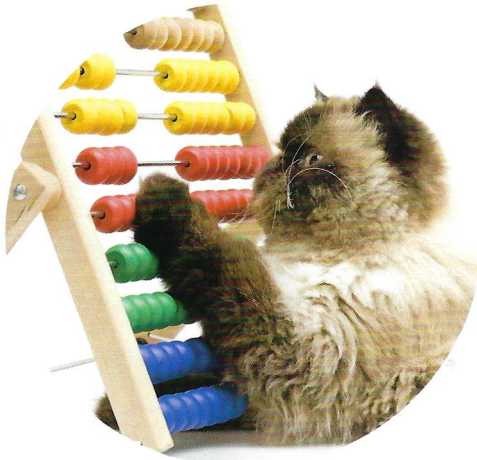
Coordinator Sami Overby. "Their simplicity makes them a great starter project so if you are handy with a needle and thread please email me at [soverby@animalrescueri.org](mailto:soverby@animalrescueri.org)."



# ARRI's Impact Numbers for 2020

**611**

ARRI pets  
adopted in  
2020.  
(27 guinea  
pigs &  
bunnies,  
263 dogs  
and 321  
cats)



**443**

Bark & Ride cats and  
dogs brought to Rhode Island from  
our Southern state partners.

**50**

Animals living at ARRI  
at any given time.

**1,000**

Hours worked by  
170 volunteers.  
(Reduced due to COVID restrictions  
- in 2019, 438 volunteers clocked  
6,000 hours at ARRI!)

**25,000+**

Meals  
supplied by  
our Community Pet Food Pantry.

**6,440**

Miles of dog-  
walking by  
volunteers, trainers and staff.

**42**

Laundry loads a week.  
That's 1,890 a year!

**2,835**

Cans of wet food  
eaten by ARRI cats,  
plus over 900lbs of dry.

**2,925**

Lbs of dry food  
eaten by our shelter  
and foster dogs, along with 900  
cans of wet food.

**Note: ARRI was open for 45 weeks out of  
52 in 2020 due to COVID constraints.**

**ARRI's Save Rate is 99%**



# The fab four

Four cats, from four very different backgrounds, now living as one harmonious feline family, thanks to loyal ARRI adopter Susan Healy. Here we meet each one, in order of their adoption:



**PUMPKIN** - Susan remembers coming eye to eye with this "squishy-faced" ginger beauty while peeking into one of the top cat condos. Pumpkin seemed a little confused as to why she was in a shelter (having spent her first 4 years in a loving home) and was thrilled to resume her rightful position as "Queen of the household!" Her signature move? Rolling onto her back and waiting for someone to pass by and rub her soft white belly.



**GIO** - As much as Pumpkin enjoyed interacting with her humans, Susan felt compelled to find her a feline companion. Returning to ARRI she spied a 7-month-old gray tabby, recently transferred from a high kill shelter in South Carolina. Gio was cowering wide-eyed at the back of his cage but during a private audience in the play room, Susan saw how gentle he was and sensed that a loving environment would gradually coax him out of his shell. In fact, the minute Gio arrived in his new home he relaxed and showed his affectionate, spunky side. "Today he is the most outgoing of the four cats - a total goofy love bug!"



**WILLOW** - 6 months after adopting Gio, Susan dropped in at ARRI for a visit and an 8-month old dilute tabby

caught her eye. Willow had been whisked to the safety of a foster home when her southern shelter was ravaged by feline upper respiratory disease and was one of the lucky few who survived. "This is my miracle kitty," Susan sighs fondly. "Willow has a voracious appetite and can out-eat her much larger siblings and still keep her svelte shape!"



**JUNIOR** - At just 2 days old, Junior was rescued by animal control from a hoarding situation. 3 months later Susan glimpsed this striking black and white boy on the ARRI website and was instantly smitten. Despite his challenging start in life, Susan describes him as the comedian of the family: "He's such a happy soul, always bringing so much joy!"

Of course the one thing all these cats have in common is ARRI! We asked Susan about her enduring loyalty. "ARRI feels more like a home than a shelter. When you enter the lobby you are greeted by the staff's smiling faces, in the Cat Room you see cats outside

of their cages, playing with toys, and staff and volunteers spending quality

time with them. The facility is bright and clean, the animals are happy and loved, and the adoption process is thorough. It is clear that the ARRI team genuinely loves the work they do to make a positive difference in animals' lives. That is why I kept (and will keep!) coming back!"



## Calendar



**July 17th-30th**

Go Beyond! Online Auction

**August 15th**

Rockin' For Pets concert benefiting ARRI at East Providence Yacht Club

**October 2nd**

Bark on the Beach fundraising walk

**October 16th**

Holiday Wreath pre-sale event

**July 15th 2022**

FurBall Gala at The Dunes Club

For more details, check the **EVENTS** tab at [animalrescueri.org](http://animalrescueri.org)





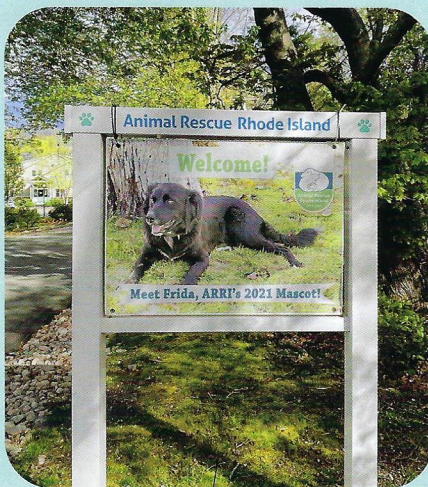
**Animal Rescue Rhode Island**  
**506B Curtis Corner Road**  
**Peace Dale RI 02879**

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WAKEFIELD, RI



ARRI 2021 MASCOT FRIDA

Let us give your pet the  
*Star treatment!*



**F**rida is lapping up the limelight as ARRI's 2021 mascot! This beautiful black Retriever mix greets visitors on the welcome banner in our scenic driveway, makes cameo appearances on ARRI stationery and promotional materials, and is even beaming out from the address panel of this newsletter!

*Go Beyond!*

**ONLINE AUCTION**

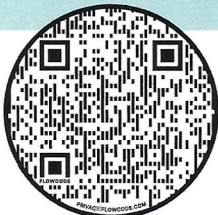
July 17-31st 2021

If you would like your pet to get the ARRI celebrity treatment, you can make a bid on the 2022 ARRI Mascot Package during our exciting GO BEYOND! Online Auction.



**ARRI 2022 MASCOT**

**For the first time ever we will have both a cat and a dog mascot representing ARRI. Funds from the winning bids support our mission to find loving homes for pets in need, and in return your best friend gets to be the furry embodiment of hope and second chances!**



**Scan the QR code to go straight to the ARRI website to learn more!**

Designed by @PengellyArt