



ARK in Action

The Newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Fall 2022



Cheers for ARK's Volunteers!

Animal Rescue Kare is thrilled to welcome 17 new active volunteers into the fold. This new crop of recruits assists ARK in many ways to make our programs GO!

Kate Decker, Tiffany Brigsby, Rachel Puckett, and Kristian Apolinar have all signed up to foster kittens and cats. Our cat foster program has been very busy this summer, so we really appreciate all the help. **Janie Ann Slade** works the Spay/Neuter/Rabies (SNR) Voucher events. **Darlene Owens** lends her talents at community festivals as well as the SNR sales. **Carolyn Bybee** has volunteered to work adoption fairs and help with merchandise booths.

One volunteer who is back in action is **Brooke Nunn**. Brooke is an extraordinary photographer as you will know if you've seen the Hart County Animal Shelter's Facebook page lately. The dog photos will knock your socks off! Thanks so much, Brooke, for the stunning photos and for doing your part to help get the canines marketed for adoption.



Long-time and new volunteers – Ron Gonterman, Laura and David Clement, Carolyn Bybee, Alethea and Zoey Dudley at PetSense adoption fair.



One of Brooke Nunn's awesome photos for the Hart County Animal Shelter

Our new Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) volunteers include Youth Ambassador **Cole Beeler** (Bravo to the young man who isn't afraid to work the dirty job!), drivers: **Amanda Hatcher, Scherry Clontz, David Waters,** and **Dana Sharpsteen.** **Rhonda Beeler** assists as "cat tender." **Brynnlee Giebitz**, granddaughter of **Kay Clark**, is also a new Youth Ambassador. Both ladies joined us at a recent SNR event. Our new Youth Ambassador Coordinator is **Steve Thompson.** He is working with Susan Rowe on exciting plans for the coming year. We look forward to many enriching youth activities.

We always welcome volunteers. We need people who enjoy working with spreadsheets, writing, and editing, pet foster families, people willing to help with TNR, people willing to work at Hart County's shelter, and more. If you are interested, please fill out the volunteer form on our website (ark4hart.org) or mark your willingness to help on your membership form. We will be happy to discuss your options for volunteering.

Laura Clement, Cat lover and ARK's Volunteer Coordinator

Save the Date

December 10 – ARK Spay-Neuter-Rabies voucher sale, 10:00 to 12:00 at the Munfordville Baptist Church.

April 22, 2023 – ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K Walk/Run

Renew your ARK membership now for 2023, take advantage of year-end giving.

Ready to Adopt a Pet?

There are lots of pets available locally if you are interested in adopting one. For cats or kittens, please call 225-414-2765 and leave a message. We will get back to you to discuss the type of cat(s) you want. All cats are fixed, healthy, and adorable! Very reasonably priced, too. For dogs, call the Hart County Animal Shelter at 270-524-1692 or drop by during their business hours. Also, check out ARK's Facebook page for private adoptions.

The Catch 22 Project for TNR

The Catch 22 Project is the type of TNR situation that rescues like ARK are created for. I was contacted by a concerned friend of the family. An elderly woman was no longer able to live alone; she had to leave behind her home and all the cats she loved. It is unusual to come across such a large colony of cats that are so quick to trust strangers, and so affectionate. I knew she loved them.



Some of the cats under the home's porch

The Trap-Neuter-Return program only covers spay/neuter and a rabies vaccine, so when hearing about this large colony that was used to being fed and cared for, it was a major concern that these cats would have survival issues if they weren't helped. The property was being sold; they had no access to food or water. Cat colonies are either wild enough to know how to survive or depend on people providing for them. It's a misconception that a cat is naturally wild enough to know how to survive when it has spent its life as a pet. Though, if you dropped me and a cat in the middle of the woods to see who would live longer – well, my money's on the cat! Again, survival is more than natural instinct; you also need the resources in order to survive. Most people don't consider that when putting an animal outside to fend for itself.

It was hard to think about anything else for over a month. I, along with other ARK volunteers started humanely trapping, housing, vetting, relocating, and caring for these wonderful feline companions – 23 in all. From word of mouth, online photos, emails, phone calls, and texts, people opened up their hearts, homes, and barns for these precious animals. While some of the cats were obviously healthy, others were showing signs of malnourishment; these cats needed help fast. Talk about some sleepless nights! I knew I was with people who truly care when I saw a cat so terrified that it won't move from its litter box to eat a much-needed meal change into a cat greeting me at the kennel door ready for a head scratch in just a day or two. Animals will let you know when they feel safe. I was convinced I was sharing my time and energy with a rescue community that really cares; we were extending a plea for help, and receiving a compassionate hand from friends, family, and strangers. ARK volunteers like David, Laura, and Susan helped me trap cats and get to vet appointments, feed, and provide sanctuary and attention. They shared this dire situation on social media, and even drove them to their new futures. What would have taken me months on my own happened in just a couple of weeks. There are still stragglers taunting me from the rooftop and watching from the tall grass. So, until all the cats are safe, I will continue searching and relocating with people who will never let them go hungry again.



From crouching in fear to looking for a head scratch

Mindy Beeler, ARK TNR Coordinator

Hart County Animal Shelter Welcomes New Employees

The Hart County Animal Shelter (HCAS) is pleased to welcome several new full-time employees: Tony Roberts, Executive Director; Eric Brown, Animal Control Officer; and John Freeman. Brian Weber, Hart County Facilities Manager, has been appointed by Judge Joe Choate to continue his part-time assignment to oversee HCAS. The Hart County Fiscal Court is responsible for the overall funding and

the operation of HCAS. ARK continues in its role to assist the shelter with special needs fundraising, recruiting of shelter volunteers, and assisting with the foster/adoptions of dogs.

The greatest near-term challenge to the new crew is managing the large number of dogs currently being received weekly. Stray pickups as well as owner surrenders exceed the limited capacity of the 8 kennels that are available. To address this over-capacity situation, the shelter staff has added new outdoor kennels, doubled the dogs per kennel, placed even greater emphasis on fostering and adoptions, as well as seeking out other long-term solutions that will increase the shelter capacity. To promote faster adoptions, each adoptable dog that arrives is promptly being spay-neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, and sent to volunteer dog-groomers around the county. These dogs are immediately available to prospective families, avoiding a delay of several days.



Typically, large numbers of dogs are transported out of Hart County to rescue organizations for adoptions in other states. However, a temporary lull has been caused by the over-capacity at two of the most active rescue groups. Once these groups successfully adopt-out their current dogs, HCAS dogs will again be transported away, which will relieve some of the congestion currently being experienced.

Anyone who needs to report a stray animal for pickup should call Judge Joe Choate's office: 270-524-5219. If your dog is missing, call the shelter to see if they have it. (We can also post missing dogs for you on ARK's Facebook page.) Volunteers are needed at the shelter for Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 11:00 AM to assist with feeding and walking dogs as well as cleaning cages. There is always a need for more dog foster families. Please call the shelter to get more information: 270-524-1692.

Ron Gonterman, ARK/HCAS Contact

Featured Fosters

When ARK got the call from Kentucky Chrome Works in Horse Cave about a momma cat who found her way inside the factory to have a litter of kittens, we knew our work was cut out for us. This wasn't going to be an easy case. But Alethea Dudley, our new Feline Foster/Adoption Coordinator, doesn't back down easily from a challenge. She humanely trapped the mom cat, had her spayed, and placed her with a loving family as a barn mouser.

Here's where the story becomes even more heartwarming. With Alethea's nursing background she was able to provide intensive care for the four kittens, all of whom were exposed to chemical burns at KCW. After three months of fostering, two of the kittens, Chrome, Jr. and Chromette found their "forever" homes. A young cat fan attended ARK's Pet Sense Adoption



Fair and once he heard their story, couldn't bear to see them separated.

Two other kittens suffered more severe eye injuries. Pirate required an eye to be removed. He and his sister Hope are recovering nicely in foster care and are waiting to be adopted together. You may contact Alethea at 270-779-8392 if you are interested and for more details.

We applaud Kentucky Chrome Works for their concern for the feline family, their help rounding up the mom cat and kittens and for the nice monetary donation to defray veterinary expenses.

Laura Clement

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

ARK's Board of Directors

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Rabies Chair

SNR News

ARK's Spay-Neuter Rabies (SNR) program has had a few changes in the past couple of months, but we are going strong. Our goal is to provide low-cost vouchers to the residents of Hart County - to meet the needs of our pets. We are selling more SNR vouchers than ever because we can offer as many as people need. We have received grants from the Hart County Fiscal Court/Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Bissell Pet Foundation to supplement our program. Bissell has provided microchips so we can add that service for our Hart County pets. Microchips are optional and are free during this Bissell program. They will be implanted when your pet gets fixed. Thanks so much to the KDA and BPF!

At the last few events, we have had to limit the number of vouchers sold for each vet, due to a backlog of appointments. Moving forward, there may be limits based on the capacity of each vet office. We will include that information in our event ads. The vouchers are sold on a first-come basis so please come early. Our next SNR voucher sale will be held on December 10th at the Munfordville Baptist Church from 10-12 in the gym. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dawn Twyman, SNR Coordinator

Get Your Kitties Fixed!

With ARK offering as many vouchers as you need, more people are opting to get their cats fixed. Yay! Kittens are adorable, but there are too many kittens and not nearly enough loving homes. ARK is overwhelmed with calls all summer and fall about dropped-off litters, unwanted litters, feral colonies, and felines that just need rehoming. Despite the heroic efforts of our Foster and TNR teams, there are many cats and kittens that still need homes. So, the best remedy – get 'em fixed! For only \$35 each, you can get all the vouchers you need for your cats.

Vouchers are available at any time if you don't mind taking your cats to Barren River Animal Welfare Association (BRAWA) in Glasgow. You can purchase them at the sheriff's office or online in ARK's website shop. The other option is purchasing vouchers at our SNR events. These can be used at Riverside Animal Clinic or Hartland Animal Hospital.

*Prevent cat overpopulation
with spay-neuter*



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 the address on this page, along with a check.

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.