



# ARK in Action

The newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Spring, 2021

## 2021 Virtual Members' Meeting



The annual members' meeting was different this year. With Covid-19 still affecting the community, the ARK board opted to host a virtual meeting, live on our Facebook page. All the participants gathered on a Zoom call that went "live" on the evening of March 16.

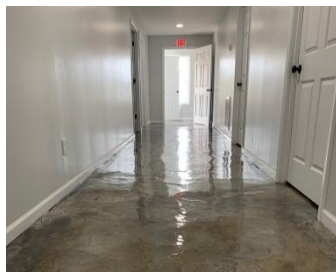
Featured at the meeting were reports by ARK's various committee chairs and an informative video overview of the trap-neuter-return operation by Laura Clement, our TNR coordinator.

We were pleased to have Joe Choate, Hart County Judge Executive give us an update on the county's future shelter. Following his talk, we enjoyed a virtual tour of the shelter by Ron Gonterman. Ron has worked toward this goal for a long time, learning about shelter management, working with local officials, and securing materials. He has even helped install some of those materials.

Leading up to the meeting was the "Tournament of Cuties." This event highlighted our foster program and added an element of fun to the proceedings. The winner, after a hard-fought battle among 16 strong contenders was Coco, aka Miss Kitty, a blue-eyed beauty.



The results of the elections for ARK's Board of Directors were announced. Susan Rowe, Cindy Thomas, and Wes England were elected to fill unexpired



board terms and Ron Gonterman, David Clement, and Israel Bergenson were elected to 3-year terms. We want to thank departing board members Melinda Houk, Alicia McClure, and Dave Foster for their years of hard work and dedication to ARK and its mission.

If you want to see the meeting in its entirety, or just see the 10-minute shelter tour, you can view them on ARK's Facebook page or our meeting web page – Find the link at [ark4hart.org](http://ark4hart.org).

## Two Upcoming Events

### Katie's Critter Crawl

The family of Katie Grisez reached out to ARK to see if they could organize a fundraiser in her memory, with proceeds going to ARK. She was devoted to animals and to her family, so it seemed like a wonderful way to celebrate her life. Katie's Critter Crawl will be held on May 29 at Thelma Stovall Park at 9:00 AM. Join us to commemorate her life with a 3-mile Walk-a-thon or a 1-mile Fun Run.

Donors can order a t-shirt, designed by her family. If you'd like a t-shirt, be sure to sign up early. There is also the option to take part virtually if you can't attend in person. Sign up online at [runsignup.com/katiescrawl](http://runsignup.com/katiescrawl) or print out a paper form and mail it with a check. Enjoy part of Memorial Day weekend at the park to celebrate Katie's life and loves.

### Save the Date

May 22 - SNR Voucher Event, 50 vouchers available for \$35. Hart County Courthouse lawn

May 29 – Katie's Critter Crawl, walk-a-thon and fun run to honor the memory of Katie Grisez at Thelma Stovall Park. Learn more and register at [runsignup.com/katiescrawl](http://runsignup.com/katiescrawl)

August 28, Dawgy Dash 5K Run/Walk, Munfordville Elementary School. Register at [runsignup.com/dawgydash21](http://runsignup.com/dawgydash21)

## ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K Run/Walk

ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K is back! Hot diggity Dawgy Dash! This year's race will be held on August 28, 8:00, starting at Munfordville Elementary School and following the traditional course through the historic streets of town. You can race competitively or walk at your own pace with your friends and family. You can bring your (leashed) dog if you like to join in the fun. There will be prizes for different age categories, with free t-shirts and door prizes for participants.

Early bird discounts are available till July 28: \$25 for adults and \$20 for youths (4 – 14). Prices will increase by \$10 after July 29. We can't guarantee that late registrants will get a shirt.

Get a group together for even more savings. Groups of 10 or more receive a \$5 discount on registrations. Get your sports team, church group, social club, service organization, work buddies, extended family, or just good friends and create a team to support ARK.

For more info and to register, go to [runsignup.com/dawgydash21](http://runsignup.com/dawgydash21). You can sign up online or print a paper form and mail your check. There will be plenty of opportunities to help with the Dash. Stay tuned!

## A TNR Turnaround

Michael and Lea Tourville have for many years looked after stray cats in their Munfordville neighborhood. They have taken in several tame cats as pets, who lived long and happy lives after being spayed or neutered. So, when a big rough and tumble Tom showed up on their street, Michael and Lea, along with another kind neighbor, began to feed him. They named him Butterscotch and the cat became more comfortable with his new friends. The Tourvilles were a little concerned about a problem with the cat's mouth and contacted ARK.

Our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) team captured Butterscotch humanely and transported him to Barren River Animal Welfare Association in Glasgow to be neutered and vaccinated against rabies. While there, Butterscotch had two rotten teeth removed and was given antibiotics to treat an infection. The cat was kept indoors for a short recovery before being returned to his outdoor home.

Michael and Lea were quite relieved to welcome Butterscotch as he ran to their back deck each evening at dinner time. He seemed to feel much better and was grateful to his humans. He even began to purr after meals and welcomed petting from the Tourvilles. One huge benefit, and the point of our TNR program – he won't contribute to the problem of homeless litters of kittens. Butterscotch may not win any awards for his beauty, but TNR helps exactly these types of cats – unowned strays who are desperate for our assistance.



Please report any stray or feral cats on our website: [ark4hart.org](http://ark4hart.org). We will do our best to capture the cats, transport them to area clinics, then return them to you after they've been fixed. It's good for the cats and it's good for your neighborhood. *Laura Clement, TNR Coordinator*

## ARK Treasurer's Report

We were really worried about fundraising early last year, with the downturn in the economy. Thanks to the generosity of our members, donors, and sponsors, we were able to meet our goals. Not everyone was able to contribute last year, but those who could were very generous, including an anonymous donation to our shelter fund for \$6,000 and a contribution of \$7,500 from Span Tech in Glasgow. Those donations made a huge difference for us. Our virtual 5K fundraiser did much better than we expected,

thanks to support from far and wide. That and our membership drive gave us the financial boost we needed. We deeply appreciate all our donors!

Our 3 big programs – Spay-neuter promotion, Trap-Neuter-Return, and Foster/adoption – require vet services. Our greatest expense last year was paying for these services. This year, ARK's big budget item is \$27,000 for materials that we are donating to Hart County's future shelter. We started the year with over \$51,000 in the shelter fund, thanks to years of hard work and fundraising, so we can easily afford this expenditure.

For details about last year's expenses and a look at this year's budget, go to the annual meeting webpage at [ark4hart.org](http://ark4hart.org). You will find clickable links to those documents if you want to see the numbers. Our income projections for the year are quite modest. We hope the economy will roar back, making our fundraising efforts more successful than ever this year, so we can continue our work in the community.

*Janet Kistler, ARK Treasurer*

## Featured Fosters

### Sahara, the Desert Rose

Sahara, our sweet desert rose was adopted on April 13 after being with her foster mom Carrie Thomas since early December. We called her our Gargoyle because her posture was so bad. Before fostering, she was a stray that some neighbors took care of until she wanted to play with the small children in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, she scared them. She had no idea how big and intimidating she could seem.

She was featured in our Tournament of Cuties. We hoped someone would fall in love with her photo and adopt her, but we had no luck with that. She finally found the perfect home! Thank-you so much Laura Parihus for adopting this lovely lady. She will definitely enjoy the life you plan to have with her.

*Bonnie Moore, Canine Foster Coordinator*



### Beauty and Her Beasts!

As mentioned on the first page, Coco/Miss Kitty mesmerizes everyone she meets with her brilliant blue eyes and precocious attitude. Miss Kitty was saved from a busy roadway and entered ARK's foster program last summer. This adorable little girl quickly found her forever home with Chris McKee and



Kim Miles who also have two canines. Miss Kitty bonded with Lexie, the family's chocolate lab, and they are now inseparable. She waits patiently each evening while the dogs go outside to do their business, safely cradled in Kim's arms, watching out the window with interest.

This young cat isn't one to be ignored and has captured Chris's heart. Miss Kitty picked her cherished napping spot in a large wooden bowl, so now it features her favorite soft blanket. The cutest antic of all - Miss Kitty has been trained to walk on a leash and enjoys outings with the entire family. Chris says she believes she is one of the pack but is still "all cat!" Moving objects must be knocked to the floor and no one can have complete privacy when in the bathroom.

Congratulations to Coco/Miss Kitty for being crowned the Tournament of Cuties winner. All the animals in our foster program are special and strike it rich when they find their perfect family match! *Laura Clement, for the Foster Program*



## Who Let the (Unfixed) Dogs Out?

If you've talked to ARK's SNR Chair, June King, you know she is passionate about pets and the importance of spay-neuter for pet health. She has pointed out a persistent problem; many people don't get their male pets fixed because they don't actually produce the babies. But, she says, intact males contribute to the pet overpopulation problem. More importantly for pet owners, neutering can help reduce some behavior problems, such as:

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Munfordville, KY 42765  
Phone: (225) 414-2765

We're on the Web!  
Website: [www.ark4hart.org](http://www.ark4hart.org)  
Facebook: ARK for Hart

### ARK's Board of Directors

David Clement – Board Chair, Foster Committee Chair, TNR Committee Chair

Israel Bergenson – Vice Chair

Wes England – Board Secretary

Janet Kistler – Board Treasurer

Susan Rowe – Fundraising &

Development Chair

Ron Gonterman – ARK Grant Writer,

Shelter Committee Chair

June King – Spay-Neuter-Rabies

Voucher Committee Chair

Cynthia Thomas – Engagement/

Awareness Chair

- Roaming – Intact males roam in search of females. Dogs can sense a female in heat 3 miles away and cats - 1 mile. Roaming comes with many dangers, including traffic, getting lost, and irate homeowners.
- Mounting – Okay, this is just not appropriate in social situations. This behavior can be reduced with neutering.
- Aggression – This is a big problem as males assert their dominance. When the desire to mate is reduced, so is aggression.
- Marking – Males want everyone to know where their territory boundaries lie. Neutering helps reduce territorial instincts.

Ultimately, your pet's behavior is based on their individual personality. Neutering won't change your pet's personality but can improve some behaviors. Proper socialization combined with spay-neuter can help your pet live a happy and healthy life!

You'll be able to get a low-cost SNR voucher on May 22, from 10 to 12, at the courthouse lawn in Munfordville. We'll have 50 \$35 vouchers available on a first-come, first-served basis. See you there!

### 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](http://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 and greatly appreciated.*

### Renew for 2021

If you have a return envelope in this newsletter, we have not received your membership renewal for 2021. If you can, please renew to help us continue our vital work in the area. We depend on our loyal members to help our 4-legged furry friends. We couldn't do the work without community involvement. Thanks for your support!

Animal Rescue Kare (ARK) is an all-volunteer animal welfare organization working to improve the quality of life for animals in our area, especially lost, unwanted, or neglected animals. We strive to provide necessary care, to promote adoptions, and to encourage responsible pet care. ARK is working with local officials to establish a shelter in Hart County. We are committed to helping animals through our spay/neuter, fostering, Trap-Neuter-Return, and educational programs.

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