



# ARK in Action

The Newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Spring 2022

## ARK's Annual Membership Meeting



ARK's annual membership meeting was held on March 15 at the Hart County Public Library. Attendees were treated to delicious snacks provided by the library, as they voted for the slate of board candidates and got settled in for the program.

The meeting began with a short talk by Hart County Judge Executive, Joe Choate, representing the Hart County Animal Shelter team. He expressed his sincere appreciation for all that ARK has contributed and all that our volunteers have done to help make the shelter a reality.

Following his talk were committee reports: Fundraising, Financial, Trap-Neuter-Return, Shelter, Spay-Neuter, and Foster/adoption. It has been a successful year for ARK in every way, with all programs contributing to the improvement of animal welfare in the community. ARK is in good financial shape. We were able to fully fund all our programs, thanks to our wonderful members, donors, and sponsors.

The next item on the agenda was a tribute to two of our most steadfast, hardworking volunteers: Bonnie Moore and Laura Clement. These two started our foster/adoption program in 2018. Their commitment has resulted in hundreds of happy adoptions. Laura also managed the very successful TNR program which served over 830 feral cats in 3 years. Please see our website page "Community Lifesaving Impact" to see the results of their dedication: [ark4hart.org/community-impact](http://ark4hart.org/community-impact).

### Save the Date

April 23: SNR Voucher Event, Munfordville Baptist Church

April 30 – ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K:  
[runsignup.com/dawgydash22](http://runsignup.com/dawgydash22)

May 28 – Katie's Critter Crawl Walkathon & Fun Run: [runsignup.com/katiescrawl](http://runsignup.com/katiescrawl)

Susan Rowe announced the winning design for the Dawgy Dash tee contest and awarded door prizes. ARK Board Chair, David Clement announced the outcome of the election and wrapped up the meeting. For more about the evening, including information about our newly elected board members, a treasurer's report, photos from the meeting, and a slide show that accompanied our volunteer tribute, go to the meeting page on our website: [ark4hart.org/meeting-2022](http://ark4hart.org/meeting-2022)

Thanks to the library staff for allowing us to hold the meeting in their excellent facility and for the delicious refreshments. And, thanks to all our members – whether you could attend or not. You're the best!

## Run with Stan at the Dawgy Dash 5K – April 30



Spring is here, and this year's Dawgy Dash 5K Run/Walk is just around the corner! We are so happy to have special guest runner Stan Cottrell to set the pace at the 2022 Dawgy Dash. Stan, a Hart County native and celebrated ultra-distance runner, has made it his life's mission to spread kindness and friendship through running. He has made numerous cross-country treks in many countries across the globe, set many running records, and continues to promote positivity and healthy living as he approaches his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Join us at Munfordville School on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> to run with Stan and support animal welfare in our community. Registration and check in begin at 7:00 AM with the event starting promptly at 8:00. Preregistration is available at [runsignup.com/dawgydash22](http://runsignup.com/dawgydash22). *Susan Rowe*

## SNR Program Ramps Up

ARK's popular Spay-Neuter-Rabies (SNR) program has been providing the community with low-cost spay-neuter-rabies vouchers since 2017. We have always had to place a limit on the number sold at each of the regional events, but no more! With increased funds, we can provide as many vouchers as pet owners need. Thanks to our generous donors for making this possible.



We are thrilled to offer additional vouchers to pet owners. The more critters that get spay-neutered, the fewer unwanted animals will be going to the shelter. It's a win-win situation.

Not only do people win, your pets win! Spay-neutering can prolong your pet's life, reduce unwanted mating behaviors, reduce aggression and roaming, and help prevent some illnesses.

Our next SNR event will be held at Munfordville Baptist Church, back entrance, on April 23 from 10:00 to 12:00. These vouchers are good for Hartland Animal Hospital or Riverside Animal Clinic. They cost \$35 each and are for Hart County residents only. Please bring your payment (cash or check) and proof of residency (driver's license, utility bill, etc.) and come get all the vouchers you need.

## One-eyed Kitty Strikes It Rich

When innocent kittens find themselves in precarious situations, fortunately for them, there are good people who do the right thing. That's what happened when Bobbette Terry discovered many little strays living in her yard. Bobbette kept the kittens fed, worked to tame them, took one to the veterinarian for medication, and reached out to ARK for assistance. The foster/adoption and TNR teams stepped in to help the kittens by getting additional medical care and providing foster care. Every kitten but one was adopted through ARK.

The shyest of the group was a little black male named Jack. Sadly, while at the clinic being neutered, it was recommended that Jack's right eye be removed due to an old severe infection. Once Jack was feeling better, he was returned to Bobbette. But his story wasn't done. A friend of Bobbette's who lives in Ohio decided to adopt Jack to keep the mice population under control. The bashful kitty hid in the basement as he adjusted to his new people and their two Great Pyrenees.

Then one morning when his new owners were sad about a death in the family, Jack decided to meet them halfway up the stairs. This was the beginning of a new relationship. As you can see in the endearing photo, Jack is now a lap cat. He roams the entire house and soaks up affection from his new family, has called a truce with the dogs, and is loving life. This is what we call a happy ending! *Laura Clement, former ARK TNR Coordinator*



*Jack in the lap of luxury*

## Looking to buy or sell real estate? Help ARK at no cost to you

Realtor Bobby Kessinger, with Coldwell Banker, has an incredible offer for ARK. If you use him as your realtor, and you tell him you are a "friend of ARK", he will donate 5% of his net commission to help animals in the community. Thank-you, Bobby, and thanks to all our community partners. We truly appreciate your continued support. Please "shop local" to help our sponsors and partners.

## Hart County Animal Shelter is Open

It's been a long time coming, with lots of planning, effort, and cooperation, but the Hart County Animal Shelter is now open. The official opening day was March 7. The HCAS is a dog facility, although there are a couple of friendly shelter cats who rule the roost - Gloria and Mable.

The shelter director is Brandy Nichols, who has a lot of experience in shelter management and working with animals. Autumn Reynolds is employed part-time at the shelter. She is also a certified dog trainer. Autumn manages the shelter's foster program, a vital part of the operation. David Branstetter is another part-timer, a retiree with a big love for dogs.

They work with the county's Animal Control Officers (ACO), Jimmy Martin and Byron Logsdon to pick up stray dogs and provide them with a safe place to stay. Call the shelter to report a stray (270-524-1692).

Leave a message after hours, or if it is an emergency, call the State Police Dispatch (270-782-2010).



*This good boy is blind; probably someone misses him. Call the shelter if you have any information about him or his owners.*

When someone calls the shelter about a stray, they record the caller's information, which is then relayed to the ACO. The dogs are brought to the shelter, checked for a microchip or any other ID, and given a quick check-up. They receive any needed medical care. Strays are held for 5 days and if no one has claimed them, the staff determines how best to place them for adoption.

If you are missing a pet, Brandy offers this advice: "Pictures of the dogs are posted on our Facebook page, so be sure to check that. Give us a call or stop by to fill out our lost-and-found pet form. It's always better to come in person to check out the dogs if yours is missing. Your description might not match ours. We do our best to make sure the animals get back home if they were lost."

## ARK and HCAS Need Volunteers Like You

ARK is an all-volunteer group, so we depend on the generous donation of time and treasure from the community. We currently need someone to act as cat foster coordinator. This person will work with ARK's foster families to assist in the care and rehoming of surrendered cats and kittens. If you are interested or if you would like more information, please fill out the volunteer form on our website or call 225-414-2765 and leave a message. We are delighted to have Laura Clement as our new volunteer coordinator. She will be happy to discuss your options with you.

The Hart County Animal Shelter is also looking for volunteers. They need folks who can transport animals on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. They need volunteers to bring adoptable dogs to community events, such as ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K. They also need people who can work in the shelter a few hours each week, and they need foster homes for dogs.

Brandy states, "As many of you know, we only have 8 kennels here at our facility. This limits our ability to house dogs, but with a dedicated network of foster homes, we can do this! If you're interested in joining our team, please email us at hartanimalshelter@gmail.com, call 270-524-1692, or stop by our location at 2190 S. Dixie Hwy, Munfordville."

## Membership for 2022

If you have a membership card with your newsletter – thank-you for renewing for 2022! If you have a return donation envelope, we haven't received your renewal for the year. We would love to have you as a member again this year. (Please let us know if we have made a mistake. It happens!)

## Shelter News from ARK's Board

For the past 4 years ARK has worked closely in partnership with the Hart County Fiscal Court to help bring about the creation of the new Hart County Animal Shelter (HCAS). The shelter opened on March 7, 2022, in a remodeled building on the Hart County Fairgrounds. The building houses 8 dog kennels as well as temporary holding cages. We are committed to the shelter's success. We have donated thousands of dollars for equipment and many hours of time and labor to that end.

Due to the limited capacity to house dogs, it is a very high priority for the HCAS to move all dogs into and out of the shelter as quickly as possible to avoid over-crowding. Methods to accomplish this include adoptions, fostering, reclaim by owners of lost dogs, and transporting to other areas where the dogs can be quickly adopted. ARK has committed to support these HCAS efforts to the maximum extent possible. To accomplish this, we've shifted our focus away from any programs that do not directly support operations of the shelter. We have temporarily suspended the ARK TNR (Trap-neuter-return) program and are working in cooperation with the shelter's foster program. This will allow our dedicated volunteers to focus on the shelter's success.

We will work with the shelter and ARK volunteers to bring the suspended programs back online when possible. In the meantime, we encourage you to volunteer for our TNR and Foster programs and report the location of stray cat colonies for our records. ARK has ramped up the spay-neuter-rabies voucher program, perhaps the most important key to reducing the number of long-term unwanted stray and pet animals that might eventually end up at the shelter. We will continue to help pet owners as much as possible through social media and outreach. Looking forward, we will continue to reevaluate ARK's programs and priorities as we consider the needs of the HCAS and the community. *Ron Gonterman and David Clement*



*HCAS employee Autumn Reynolds working with Jasper*

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 a shelter in Hart County. We are committed to helping animals through our spay/neuter, fostering, outreach, and educational programs.

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

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

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

### ARK's Board of Directors

David Clement – Board Chair,  
Foster Chair, TNR Chair  
Israel Bergenson – Board Vice  
Chair  
Cindy Settle – Board Secretary  
Janet Kistler – Board Treasurer  
Ron Gonterman – ARK Grant  
Writer, Shelter Committee Chair  
June King – Spay-Neuter-Rabies  
Chair, Advocacy & Marketing  
Director  
Robin Miller – Assistant Treasurer  
Susan Rowe – Fundraising &  
Development Chair  
Dawn Twyman – Communications

### 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 to the full extent of the law and greatly appreciated.*