



ARK in Action

The newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare - serving Hart County, Summer, 2020



Trap-Neuter-Return Making an Impact

ARK's Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) team has had a tremendous impact on the lives of stray cats in our area. This year, they have fixed over 225 cats and returned them to their outdoor homes. Think how many unwanted litters this prevents! The cats are healthier and their human neighbors are happier.

The TNR team has rehomed some of the strays from large colonies to better situations. They have been moved to farms as "working cats," for rodent control. Twelve cats have been placed with 4 different families in May. In order to give the cats a chance to adjust to their new environment and recover from surgery, we ask the new owners to keep them contained in a barn or other building for a couple of weeks while providing regular meals. We try to place multiple cats from the same colony together, so the cats have a built-in support system.



Amy Walters unloading 4 cats for farm rodent control, with David Clement, TNR chair

Save the Date

Dawgy Dash 2020, Virtual 5K. Take part any time from Aug. 22 – 29. Register for FREE – ark4hart.org or use the QR code for RunSignUp



We want to thank the homeowners who are willing to help and the TNR team which has put in a lot of hard work and countless hours to achieve these results, all to help the stray cats in the community. Many thanks to Riverside Animal Clinic, Hartland Animal Hospital, and Barren River Animal Welfare Association for supporting this program, which is funded by a grant from the Two Mauds Foundation.

If you'd like to help, we'd appreciate donations so we can continue to trap and fix more strays. Message us on Facebook if you can donate cat food, puppy pee pads, old worn beach towels to cover traps, and canned tuna in oil to use as bait. Monetary donations to the program are also welcome and can be made on ARK's website. If you know of any stray cat colonies, please fill out the form on our website: ark4hart.org. We'll help as many as we can.

ARK's Dawgy Dash 2020, Virtual 5K

Virtual 5K? What's that?? For safety reasons, ARK has had to make changes this year. One big change - we are going virtual with this year's Dawgy Dash. Rather than running in a big group this year, participants will run safely on their own or with a small group of friends or family, any time during race week – August 22 to 29. You can map out your own 5K course or run the traditional Dawgy Dash course. To avoid traffic, you could run or walk the track at Thelma Stovall Park (4 laps). Post your race time on the official race leaderboard by August 29 at 6:00 PM. Post pictures of your run on social media, wearing your custom bib. It will still be fun! You can put something **on** your calendar, instead of crossing things off.

As usual, you can run with or without your dog. You can race competitively or just take a nice brisk (or even leisurely) stroll. Any way you take part, you show your support for ARK. (If conditions permit in late August, we may host a traditional race, with the option to run on your own.) *continued next page*

(ARK's Dawgy Dash 2020, Virtual 5K, continued)



The awesome 2020 Dawgy Dash tee, designed by Audrey Sydnor

Because there is so much economic uncertainty these days, you can sign up and take part for FREE! We don't want anyone to be excluded. Since this is our main fundraiser of the year, we welcome donations, but those are optional. Registrants who donate \$25 or more will receive one of our snazzy race tees.

How do you sign up? Just go ARK's website (ark4hart.org) or use the QR code on the front page of this newsletter. Sign up today (Remember, it's FREE!) and get your friends to register.

Please support our wonderful race sponsors. It has been a rough year for many of them, but they are committed to helping us improve animal welfare in Hart County. We extend our gratitude to our former sponsors who couldn't help us out this year. Shop locally and thank our sponsors for their continued support.

Stray-Neuter Promotion – a Virtual Event

ARK's spay-neuter committee had to cancel a scheduled event in April due to concerns about Covid-19. We are committed to providing low-cost spay-neuter vouchers to the community, so we came up with a new plan. Striving to meet the needs of folks who need them, we decided to offer 25 vouchers as online orders and 25 more as phone orders.

We didn't know how this would work, but it turns out, it worked great! On the day of the sale, we were sold out by early afternoon. The vouchers were delivered to the two county vets' offices to be redeemed. We had to work out a few kinks, but we were pleased with the result.

We will post any new voucher sales on our Facebook page and website. (See next article for info about cat vouchers.) We're committed to reducing unwanted litters – one voucher at a time.

Too Many Kitties!

It happens every summer – ARK gets overwhelmed with requests to take litters of kittens and find homes for them. We do our best, but we often have to tell folks that our foster homes are operating at full capacity and we can't take any more. We *can* post the kittens for private adoption on Facebook. That helps, but it is difficult to find homes for them all.

Indigo was a stray who appeared at a woman's home. The sweet lady wasn't able to keep Indigo, so the foster team accepted her into our care. She was heavily pregnant and needed extensive medical care. This is just one example of the time, talent, and treasure that our foster volunteers pour into a needy animal. Two of Indigo's kittens were recently adopted, one died from failure to thrive, and three remain in foster care. We can't save every needy cat; that fact breaks our hearts.

If more owners would spay and neuter their cats, fewer homeless litters of kittens would be in need. You can purchase \$25 cat spay-neuter vouchers for use at Barren River Animal Welfare Association (BRAWA) in Glasgow on ARK's website (ark4hart.org) or at the Hart County Sheriff's office. You can get as many as you need. It's a great deal that will prevent a lot of hassle and heartache during next summer's kitty season. Laura Clement, TNR



Indigo and her 6 kittens

Featured Fosters

Sandy the Stray

Sandy is the first truly stray dog we took into our foster program. In the past, we could only accept a stray after the person who found the dog tried to find its owner for 5 days. After that, they could surrender the dog to ARK. Then we would assess the animal, provide necessary care, and advertise it for adoption. Now we have more kennels, so we can quarantine the stray from our other dogs while we look for the owners the required 5 days.

When Sandy first showed up at a house, the homeowner's dog was not happy about her being there. The homeowner checked with all her neighbors and couldn't find the owner. Sandy was a healthy weight, loaded with ticks, had an eye infection and looked like she had been bred numerous times.

We took her into a foster home and looked for her owner. Her owner contacted us, but after talking to us several times, decided to surrender her to ARK. She didn't have a fenced yard and the children kept letting her loose.

So, we treated her eye, cleaned her up, took her to the vet for the works, and advertised for a new home. As you can see from the picture, Sandy is in Beagle heaven with her new family. I'm pretty sure she's in a human bed every night. 🌸 Bonnie Moore, ARK Canine Foster Coordinator



Sandy gets a lot of lovin'

Abandoned Kittens Thrive With Loving Care



Two of the sweet kittens, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed

Five kittens were abandoned by their feral mama cat when they were only 10 days old. The outcome looked bleak until Janice Ballow stepped up to help. She is one of our most dedicated foster "moms." She didn't have any experience in bottle feeding kittens, but that didn't slow her down. She was determined to help.

The babies have all survived and thrived after several weeks of loving care. They are healthy and socialized – ready to warm the hearts of new owners. Can you find a place in your home and your heart for one or more of these cuties? Kayla Hargrove, ARK Feline Foster Coordinator

Update on Shelter

Covid-19 restrictions have slowed down progress on opening Hart County's very own holding facility/future shelter. We continue to make plans for getting it up-and-running. Working with Hart County officials, we are trying to solve as many logistical problems as we can. The project was greatly boosted with an anonymous \$6,000 donation for the shelter fund. We are so grateful to these donors for their generosity. ARK plans to support the shelter with ideas, supplies, funds, and volunteers. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer. Working together, we can make it happen.

Community Support

ARK depends on community support to carry out our mission of helping the neediest animals in our area. We are so grateful to our members, our donors, and our event sponsors. We especially want to thank the families who thought of ARK at the most difficult situation – the death of a loved one.

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

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

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This spring, our community lost two beautiful young ladies, Katie Grisez and Ashley Isenberg. The families requested that people express their condolences with donations to ARK. We received many tribute gifts that honor the memories of these young women, who had a passionate love for animals. Gifts such as these may help to console the families, with something good coming from their tragic loss. We hope their thoughtfulness and kindness will give them some solace. We send our deepest sympathies and humble thanks to their families.



Two of ARK's adoptable foster animals: Sailor - a beautiful calico cat and Duchess - a Great Pyrenees

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 and greatly appreciated.

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, abused, 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 develop a quality holding facility and shelter. 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.