



ARK in Action

The newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Summer, 2021



Hart County Shelter Update

Much excitement is building about the new Hart County Animal Shelter (HCAS) located at the Hart County Fairgrounds. The HCAS is a Hart County Fiscal Court project with assistance and support from Animal Rescue Kare (ARK). The county government will fund, manage, and operate the shelter.

The Fiscal Court will establish an advisory board to guide Judge-Executive Joe Choate, who will be responsible for shelter oversight. One of the first tasks is to hire an animal control officer to manage day-to-day shelter operations. The Fiscal Court will determine the opening date for the building. Once operational, ARK will provide ongoing assistance with special needs fundraising, recruitment of shelter volunteers, and the county's new dog adoption program.

ARK has donated over \$27,000 for shelter materials. This includes funds for the boundary fencing, indoor and outdoor kennel doors, guillotine kennel doors to allow dogs to move between indoor and outdoor cages, quarantine and holding cages, and a dog wash station. ARK wishes to sincerely thank every donor who has ever contributed to ARK's Shelter Fund. With construction now completed, each donor can rest assured that their contribution has been invested in the new Hart County Animal Shelter.

Save the Date

Aug. 7, Spay-Neuter-Rabies Voucher event, Cub Run Fire Station, 10:00 – 12:00.

Aug. 28, ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K Run/Walk, starting at Munfordville School, 8:00am

TBA – Pet Adoption Fair at Ace Hardware, Munfordville

Many thanks to ARK's Shelter Committee, headed by Ron Gonterman, for their efforts to make the shelter a reality, with everything from extensive research to hands-on construction work. We also want to thank volunteer Paul Bunting for all his advice and installation work at the shelter. And we commend the Hart County Fiscal Court for tackling this important project. Any questions about the opening date or plans to operate the new shelter should be directed to a member of the Hart County Fiscal Court or directly to the office of Judge Joe Choate at 270-524-5219. *ARK Board of Directors*

Hot Diggity Dawgy Dash 5K!

ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K run/walk will be held on August 28th. You can race competitively or walk at your own pace with 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. The course will start at Munfordville School and travel the historic streets of Munfordville.

Register soon! 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 the snazzy t-shirt, created with designs by Hart County HS students Stevie Guggisberg and Karlie Griffen, since they must be ordered by early August.

Get a team of 10 together to receive a \$5 discount on registrations. Get your sports team, church group, social club, service organization, work buddies, extended family, or your good friends and create a team to support ARK. Enjoy a late summer morning together for a good cause.



For more info and to register, access the race site with the QR code or go to runsignup.com/dawgydash21. You can easily sign up online or print a paper form and mail your check. Check out our awesome sponsors at the race website or order extra tees. Hot Diggity Dawgy Dash! Help us make this year's race (ARK's main fundraiser of the year) a howling success!



The awesome race tee - designed by 2 HCHS students

Live SNR Voucher Events!



The SNR voucher team in Munfordville

Like everyone else, ARK volunteers are delighted that things are getting back to normal. We held our first in-person SNR event in over a year on May 22, on the courthouse lawn in Munfordville, selling 50 low-cost spay-neuter vouchers along with a few BRAWA vouchers. Many happy pet owners can now take their beloved pets to be fixed, preventing many unwanted litters in addition to other benefits: less roaming, reduced aggression, and longer life expectancy. We owe a huge thanks to our SNR volunteers!

Our next event will be at the Cub Run Fire Station on August 7, from 10:00 AM to 12:00. Vouchers can be used at Hartland Animal Hospital or Riverside Animal Clinic. Fifty will be sold, with a limit of one per household. We will also sell unlimited BRAWA vouchers for cats. Please bring proof of Hart County residency. Get your pet fixed for a happier, healthier critter!

Katie's Critter Crawl – Chilly, but Warmed with Love

Family and friends of Katie Grisez gathered on May 29 at Thelma Stovall Park to celebrate her life with Katie's Critter Crawl. The family worked with ARK volunteers to organize this event, which served as a fundraiser for ARK. Katie loved animals and devoted her life to working with them, so it was a fitting tribute. It was an unusually chilly and gray day for Memorial Day weekend, but that didn't hamper the spirit of the participants as they gathered for the walk-a-thon. It was heartening to see everyone wearing their custom t-shirts as they shared stories and memories.

ARK volunteers feel blessed that the family chose to help our furry friends with this event. They were so generous, devoting a lot of time and treasure to make the Crawl an event for remembering. We are so grateful; the event raised about \$7,000 for ARK.



TNR - One Family Saves Many Ferals

How many of you know of a stray queen who has come to a kind person's home in great need of food, shelter and care? That's what happened at Stacy Blair's property in rural Hart County when a feral calico could be heard meowing desperately in their bushes. Unbeknownst to the Blairs, the kitty was pregnant and soon the family had 12 felines on their hands because the cats were too wild to be handled. ARK's trap neuter return (TNR) team stepped in to help get them humanely captured, transported to area veterinary clinics to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated against rabies, then returned.



Stacy's daughter Sadie with her kittens Petra & Scotch

Stacy's daughter Sadie has adopted the two adorable offspring you see pictured here. Petra is always into mischief and Scotch loves to chatter and play with hair ties. Several other kittens from this colony are being socialized and medicated and, fortunately through posting on ARK's active Facebook page, some can find permanent homes.

The grandmother of this colony is happy to be wild and free and stays distant from the people who provide her with food while her descendants are pet-quality. No matter the CATegory, it's vital that felines are spayed and neutered to keep the population in check.

If you know of stray or "unowned" cats near you, report them by answering a few short questions on our stray cat reporting form at ark4hart.org Thank you! *Laura Clement, TNR Director*

Pets + Cars + Heat = Danger

Most of us have pets that LOVE to go for a car ride. But when it's hot, it can be a recipe for disaster. Our intentions may be to park in the shade, crack the windows and run right in. We are sure that there's no harm, right!? The answer is wrong, and the consequences can be tragic.

On a mild day of about 70 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature inside a car can quickly skyrocket to over 115 degrees in less than 30 minutes. Although we think our pets are tough, dogs have a harder time dealing with heat than we do. They are built to conserve warmth and can get over-heated fast. Deadly heatstroke can happen in as little as 15 minutes. Catching a heat stroke in its early stages can help prevent permanent damage to a dog's internal organs. Signs of heat exhaustion are:

- Excessive or loud panting
- Extreme thirst
- Frequent vomiting
- A bright red tongue and pale gums
- Skin around muzzle or neck doesn't snap back when pinched
- Thick saliva
- Increased heart rate

Cooling treatment should begin immediately. Move the dog to a cool location, inside or in the shade. The dog may be overly excited or fearful. Slow, quiet movements will help reassure him/her. Offer cool (not cold) water to drink. Apply cool, wet cloths to the dog's armpits, between back legs and tail. Gently spray cool water onto the dog's body and use a fan. You can also use alcohol to rub on the paws. **DO NOT USE ICE OR ICE COLD WATER!** This can cause more severe complications.

Even if the dog is responding well to the cooling treatments, contact a veterinarian. Internal organ damage can be present. Untreated, it can be fatal.

Remember, heat inside a car rises so quickly, even the shortest trip inside can turn deadly for those left in a car. If it's too hot for you, it is way too hot for them. Save the ride for a cooler day. Your dog will kiss you for it! *Cindy Thomas, ARK Engagement/Awareness Chair*

CAR TEMPERATURE DOG SAFETY CHART		
Running into the store for "just a minute" can be fatal for a dog left in the car!		
IF IT'S THIS HOT OUTSIDE:	IT ONLY TAKES THIS LONG:	TO REACH THIS INSIDE:
75°	10 Min.	100°
75°	30 Min.	120°
85°	5 Min.	90°
85°	7-8 Min.	100°
100°	15 Min.	140°

DON'T LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR THIS SUMMER!



Reporting Animal Abuse or Neglect

We see animal images that haunt us late at night - physical abuse, starvation, neglect. But what if it is happening next door? What do you do?

First, how do you recognize abuse or neglect? Signs can include obvious wounds or untreated injuries, poor condition; lack of food, water, and/or shelter; starvation; lack of sanitation; abandonment; chains or padlocks around the animal's neck; signs of an animal being trained to fight; abnormal behavior; too many animals living on one property; overt acts of violence; and appearance and disappearance of small, young animals. There is no violence against an animal that is justified.

Any person who would abuse an animal in public is likely doing worse outside of view. Animal cruelty is linked with child and elder abuse, and domestic violence. Reporting it can be frightening, but you may be an animal's only hope. You can report animal abuse anonymously.

The first thing to remember is never confront the abuser. Take photos if you can from a distance. Write down as much information as you can. Document the details you observe with dates to help prosecution. Then call animal control, law enforcement, or dial 911 if it is an emergency situation.

Do not assume that someone else will handle the situation. If you see an animal in distress, report it. Be the voice for those that cannot speak. Talk to your legislators to strengthen Kentucky's animal abuse laws. Help educate others on how to interact with animals. Let's make this world a better place for all, including our 4-legged friends. *Cindy Thomas, ARK Engagement/Awareness Chair*

Featured Foster – Shy Sandy

Shy little Sandy is a 5-year-old Jack Russell Terrier mix. Her owner passed away and her whole world was turned upside down. She had never been anywhere her whole life but with her owner - never a groomer, a trip to the vet, on walks, etc. ARK took her into our foster program. If she had been taken to a shelter, she would have been euthanized because she was so fearful.



Sandy was thoroughly checked by a vet, brought up to date on shots, and was spayed. She was healthy, but still very unsettled. She needed a quiet home and someone with the compassion to help her get comfortable and develop trust. This is an example of the challenges we face in the foster program. Fortunately, most of our adoptions have been successful.

Sandy met her new mom on June 21 - a lovely retired lady who is prepared for Sandy's insecurities. Sandy accepted some treats and petting and won her over. Thank you, Virginia for knowing the challenges you're getting into and having the patience, time, and love to give Sandy a good home. Another win/win for the ARK Canines. *Bonnie Moore, ARK Foster Coordinator*

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 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.

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

ARK's Board of Directors

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Thanks to Jeff Jobe and Jobe Publishing for our newest ARK member benefit – a buy one year, get one year free offer for the Hart County News Herald. Use the coupon to get your savings.

Huge thanks to all our membership business partners!



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 ____

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