



ARK in Action

The Newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Summer 2022

ARK is Back in the Cat Business



After a short “pawse”, we have two new coordinators to head up our Feline Foster Program and our Trap-Neuter-Return Program. We are thrilled and fortunate to have these women take leadership roles within our organization.

Feline Foster/Adoption Program

Alethea Dudley has been a dedicated canine and feline foster family, a TNR transporter, a Dawgy Dash participant/sponsor and all-around ARK supporter for many years but taking on the title of Feline Foster Coordinator is a big new commitment. She states that she is following in her late mother Catherine Bogikes’ footsteps by being active in animal rescue. When Catherine passed away, she had eight dogs who had been rescued from shelters. Catherine fostered and cared for needy dogs and cats from shelters and also assisted in animal rescue transportation. Alethea learned this compassion from her mother and is carrying on that tradition with her own family.

She will be assisted by her “crew” which consists of her three children: Zoey, Zeke and Zach. They will provide extra sets of hands to retrieve supplies, play with and socialize the young kittens and be part of the team effort in the Dudley household. Alethea adds that her goals as Feline Foster Coordinator include seeing pets going to happy homes after receiving the care they need. She intends to follow ARK’s mission by spaying and neutering the pets in her care and to encourage responsible ownership.



From left: Mindy Beeler, Zoey, Zach, Alethea, and Zeke Dudley

Trap-Neuter-Return Program for Stray Cats

Mindy Beeler isn’t new to Hart County. She’s a native and Hart County High School graduate. But she’s a new volunteer with ARK. Her devotion and affection for all things cat made her a purrfect fit for our organization. Mindy has been purchasing spay/neuter/rabies vouchers and raising funds on social media to humanely trap and fix stray cats in private agreements, so it wasn’t long before we swooped in and recruited her to be our next official coordinator for the Trap-Neuter-Return program.

Like many young girls, Mindy wanted to be a veterinarian when she was growing up. Her mother Sandra Beeler’s patience, care and love for all life had a major influence on Mindy’s path. Friends would call on Sandra when they would find a stray animal because they were confident she would get them the needed help. Now people reach out to Mindy in much the same way and she wants to make her late mother proud.

Save the Date

June 24 - Hart County Animal Shelter
Ribbon-Cutting 1:00, SNR voucher sale
2:00-4:00, Hart County Fairgrounds

July 23, 10:00 - Adoption Fair at PetSense in
Glasgow.

Mindy's fondness for cats developed when she nursed a cat named Dorian back to good health. Dorian lost an eye and almost died. The two created a deep bond as soulmates. Mindy wants to impress upon the public that cats are as loyal, caring and dedicated as dogs. Mindy adds that her own success as TNR coordinator will be measured by seeing the stray cats thrive and their caregivers' stress reduced knowing that no additional litters will appear. Most colony owners don't mind providing food but since unaltered cats reproduce in staggering numbers, getting the strays fixed makes tending them more manageable.

Welcome to both Alethea and Mindy!

Laura Clement is ARK's new volunteer coordinator. She has done a fantastic job matching volunteers with tasks to help our four-legged friends. Sign up as an ARK volunteer by filling out the form on our website (ark4hart.org) or checking the volunteer box on our membership form. Laura will be glad to talk to you about your options.

Two TNR Success Stories

Two situations come to mind when thinking of why I love being part of TNR. Shy Ski is a cat I trapped who is part of a 15-cat colony. After getting her spayed, I didn't have the heart to just release her back on the farm with her questionable skin condition. I'd never seen anything like it before. Both her sides had open wounds with a lot of hair loss. She wasn't used to people but still allowed me to give her medicine



Shy Ski – before and after

orally and medicate her sides. Not even the vet was sure what really happened to her. With a couple months of medicine, kindness, and a safe environment to heal she recovered beautifully. After her release, I went back out to her farm (to trap the last 2 cats) and I saw Shy Ski (short hair on left) and her sister. It made my heart happy to see them look happy and healthy.

The other cat that comes to mind is Chevy. I found Chevy with his head stuck in an old truck motor! (Why I named him Chevy!) Luckily it was near a mechanic shop; the guys there were shocked and jumped right in to help him. They had to break the part off the truck and get him inside. Then they cut his head out by hand while I held him and others held the motor part to try to keep the kitten from panicking and moving too much. It was not a thin piece of metal. When he was finally out, it was so sweet to see these big ole country men rubbing his head and showing him some love.

Mindy Beeler, TNR coordinator and cat lover



Chevy is really stuck



Many helping hands



Safe and sound

Help ARK When You Shop!

Many of us shop locally, and that's wonderful! It supports our local community, including many of ARK's sponsors and donors. But, we also order goods from Amazon when it is hard to find the things we need nearby. You can help ARK every time you order from Amazon by signing up for Amazon Smile and choosing Animal Rescue Kare as your charity. Every time you order, a percentage of your purchase will go to ARK, at no extra cost to you. It's an easy way to support ARK. Last year, we received around \$286 with this program. Every bit helps. We thank all our Amazon Smile contributors for taking that extra step.

ARK's Fundraising Events

ARK has been busy this spring with our fundraising efforts! On April 30, we hosted the Dawgy Dash 5K Run/Walk, and about month later, ARK assisted the Grisez family with Katie's Critter Crawl on June 4th. Both events were widely enjoyed.

The Dash nearly doubled the number of participants from the previous year and raised over \$28,000. Everyone enjoyed a fine spring morning, with special guest – Hart County's own Stan Cottrell lending his presence and his positive attitude to the Dash. Volunteers made sure the race was safe, well-organized, and fun.

Katie's Critter Crawl, a non-competitive walkathon held at Thelma Stovall Park, raised over \$3,200. This was the second year for the Critter Crawl. The Grisez family started this event last year to honor the memory of Katie Grisez, who lost her life in a tragic ATV accident. Katie was an animal advocate and animal lover, so her family thought it only fitting to donate the money raised at the Crawl to ARK in memory of Katie. All funds from both events will be used to benefit our four-legged friends and further ARK's work in the community.

We once again would like to thank all the sponsors, participants, and volunteers who made both these events so successful. *Susan Rowe, ARK Fundraising and Development Chair*



Grisez family and friends honor Katie's life and her love for animals

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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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The Dawgy Dash winners! David Clement awards Zach Jewell the first overall award. Stephanie Milstead was first woman and first with dog.

Hart County Animal Shelter Ribbon Cutting and \$NR Voucher Sale



The Hart County Animal Shelter has been in operation for a few months, but we all are excited to have the official ribbon-cutting. On June 24, at 1:00, there will be a brief ceremony at the shelter. As part of the celebration, ARK will partner with the county to sell our popular spay-neuter-rabies vouchers from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Hart County Fairground's Floral Hall. The Hart County Fiscal Court had secured a grant from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to finance this voucher sale. About 100 SNR vouchers will be sold for only \$25 – a special reduced price for the grand opening. Such a deal!

One of the shelter's cuties As usual, the public pays a reduced fee for the vouchers and ARK pays the balance of the vet bills. This is possible thanks to your support. We are excited to have the county assist our efforts to reduce the pet overpopulation problem and encourage more people to get their pets fixed. We look forward to a bright future and partnership with the county's shelter.

Hot Weather Tips for Your Furry Friends

Summer can be filled with fun activities, but the heat of summer can be brutal for your pets. Cats and dogs don't regulate their body temperatures by sweating like humans. We need to take extra care to avoid heat-related health problems. Remember these important tips:

- Don't leave animals in parked vehicles. The interior can get dangerously hot in just a few minutes, leading to heat stroke and other problems.
- Make sure your pet has plenty of shade and cool water available at all times.
- Avoid the heat of the day for exercise activities. Hot pavement can easily burn paws.
- Talk to your vet about ways to avoid ticks. If you see ticks on your pet, pull them out gently with tweezers.
- Talk to your vet about preventing fleas and mosquitos which can transmit diseases. Ask about heartworm prevention.
- Make sure you have everything your pet needs (meds, food, water, dishes) when traveling.
- Keep your pet near you for comfort if there are fireworks nearby. Don't let them run loose or they may run off.

Have fun, but not too much sun this summer with your pets. Keep everyone – furry or not - cool and comfortable.

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, 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.