



# ARK in Action

The newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, serving Hart County - Winter, 2021



## ARK's (Different) Year, 2020

Like everyone else, ARK volunteers had to make significant adjustments for safety during the pandemic. We stopped in-person events right after our annual members' meeting in March, but we continued our vital work in the community. We just did it differently.

Our popular Spay-Neuter-Rabies events had to go virtual after one live event early in the year. We had 4 virtual events, selling low cost spay-neuter vouchers online and by phone. It worked great and everyone stayed safe. We sold 255 regular vouchers and 146 ARK/BRAWA cat vouchers this year with the SNR program, preventing *many* unwanted litters.

We were thrilled to see construction begin on Hart County's own holding facility/animal shelter for stray and surrendered dogs. Covid-19 has delayed completion of the shelter, but we look forward to seeing our dream realized. More details can be found in another article.

The Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) team trapped feral cats all year long, even during the shut-down, with a total 375 spayed/neutered in 2020. What a huge accomplishment! Most wild cats prefer their outdoor homes, but 47 friendly TNR cats were adopted. We are very appreciative of our volunteer team and the area vets for supporting this effort.



Our Foster/Adoption program didn't slow down at all. Masks allowed eager adopters to meet their new furbabies safely. We had 108 successful cat, kitten, dog, and puppy adoptions this year. Outstanding work by the foster/adoption team!

We wondered how to manage our major fundraiser – the Dawgy Dash 5K. We settled on having a virtual race, which turned out to be quite successful. Participants raced on their own, anywhere they chose, and reported their times online. It was still fun and promoted ARK's work in the community and far beyond with runners from as far away as Michigan, New Mexico, and Florida competing.

We are blessed with wonderful supporters. Not everyone could donate to ARK this year, with the uncertain economy, but those who could gave generously. We ended the year in good financial shape. Our 2021 membership campaign is now underway as we make plans for the coming year. If you are able, please use the enclosed envelope for your yearly donation or donate online at [ark4hart.org](http://ark4hart.org) (and pass your donation envelope to someone else). Several folks have already renewed for the year! Many thanks to all our volunteers, members, sponsors, and donors. We're looking forward to an even better year.

Save the date: ARK's Annual Members' Meeting – Facebook Live, March 16, 2021, 6:00 PM  
Vote for ARK board members, help celebrate our successes, and share plans for the coming year.

## 2020 Canine Foster Updates

We had a successful 2020 with the canine foster program despite COVID challenges. We accepted 61 dogs and puppies this year and adopted out 59. We raised adoption fees for some of the more popular pooches. There was still high demand, so we knew we were in the right ballpark with fees. We adopted to homes as far as Wisconsin, Illinois, Tennessee, and South Carolina with wonderful reports on how happy these canines are in their new homes. Most of the time these families came all the way to Hart County to meet and pick up their dogs. Occasionally our volunteers took a road trip and met the potential adopters halfway.

I cannot emphasize how much I appreciate our awesome pet foster families. They are critical for evaluating each dog and making sure we have a good adoption match. They know these animals firsthand. In most cases, the foster canine is welcomed as a family member till they are adopted. I personally love this approach because we know each animal and screen potential owners together, making sure we have a good fit.



Our last litter of 8 puppies was a win-win all around. This was the second litter from these two parents. All the puppies now have happy homes. The big plus - our SNR chair arranged to provide vouchers so both parents were fixed. You have to love the teamwork with the ARKies. We are looking forward to helping educate more people about spaying/neutering their pets and finding homes for the unwanted and stray animals. Have a wonderful 2021. *Bonnie Moore, ARK Canine Coordinator*

### A TNR Tale (Tail?)

Wanda Sandidge, a Horse Cave resident and ardent animal lover, has befriended the many stray cats who roam her neighborhood. The cats make rounds to Wanda's carport or her neighbor's back patio where the ladies provide food and water. Wanda purchased low-cost spay/neuter vouchers from ARK for a few of the tame cats but needed assistance from our Trap-Neuter-Return team for the cats who weren't socialized enough to handle.

Over the course of the fall and winter months, Wanda trapped an average of one cat each week, which were fixed by local vets. Wanda named some of the friendlier cats. We were tickled pink when "Earless", "Hopper", "Cuteness", "Butterscotch" and "Tigger", among others, were spayed or neutered to prevent additional homeless kittens from being born.

Wanda continues to keep an eye on the cats after they are returned to her neighborhood. She enjoys seeing the cats wait patiently from a short distance while she puts out their supper each evening. Her story hasn't reached its conclusion though, since the grandmother of the colony, the elusive "Midnight", hasn't been caught and spayed - yet. Wanda hasn't given up on the wily black beauty. *(continued next page)*



ARK's TNR efforts in 2020 were bolstered by a generous grant from Two Mauds Foundation as well as many donations from stray cat colony neighbors and supporters in our community. We are indebted to the area veterinarians and staff who provide the spay/neuter procedures and rabies vaccinations. A big shout out goes to our volunteer transporters. We've hit the ground running in January 2021 by reducing the numbers of litters of needy kittens, fixing stray cats in every corner of Hart County. TNR works! *Laura Clement, TNR Team and Cat Lover*

## An Adoption Trifecta – Featured Foster

As so often happens, ARK was alerted about kittens in need. Three small littermates were found hungry and frightened at Stovall Park in Munfordville. They were easily and humanely captured and placed in our foster program. They grew quickly and came out of their shells in their foster home. Their story has an amazing ending. A family recently moved back to Hart County and wanted all three!

One of the males has been named Houdini, since he knows how to escape his room at night. The lone female, Fancy, prances around the house like the boss. Lucas, the other male, is a cuddle buddy and sleeps on the bed with his humans at night. We are simply overjoyed to score our first “hat trick” and thank the Noble family for being heroes to these 3 young kitties. *Laura Clement*



## Hart County's New Holding Facility / Future Animal Shelter

Have you recently driven past the fairgrounds near Rowletts and wondered what the construction activity is all about? In the spring of 2020, the Hart County Fiscal Court unanimously approved a five-year lease for the creation of Hart County's first ever animal holding facility/future shelter – one of ARK's original goals. The remodeling of the old Dr. McFarlin veterinary building is nearing completion, although progress has been seriously slowed due to the current pandemic.



The office section of the building will house a reception area, a dog-adoption room,

quarantine cages for isolating sick or suspect canines, a dog-wash station, temporary holding cages, and an inspection area. A large outdoor fenced area will be available for exercising canine residents. Eight indoor-outdoor kennels will temporarily house any dogs that are picked up by the county's animal control officer or surrendered by Hart County citizens.

We really appreciate the Hart County Fiscal Court for stepping up to manage/fund this much needed facility. ARK is contributing some materials in cooperation with the county. We will assist the facility's operation by recruiting kennel volunteers, providing fundraising support, and helping with the canine adoption program. Plans are for a new Hart County Shelter Board, with an ARK representative, to soon be organized that will provide guidance and oversight to the new operation. *(continued next page)*

Every year, approximately 250 Hart County dogs are transported to Bowling Green's animal shelter for re-homing. These dogs will soon be housed at the new holding facility where every attempt will be made to re-home them. ARK's fantastic foster/adoption team stands ready to assist these efforts.

If you would like to volunteer at the new facility once it is up-and-running, feel free to contact ARK's new Volunteer Coordinator, Katrina England or fill out the volunteer form on our website. If you would like to donate funds in support of this new adventure, please go to ARK's website and click on "Donate." *Ron Gonterman, Shelter Committee Chair*

## Pet Safety - It's Cold Outside!

Our pets depend on us for comfort at all times of the year, but winter presents some unique challenges. Even with thick coats, pets can suffer from the cold. Here are some tips for keeping pets healthy and comfortable:

- Let them inside. Provide shelter and warmth when they get cold. Use sweaters for short-haired, easily chilled dogs.
- Bang on your vehicle's hood or beep the horn before starting your car if you have cats in your neighborhood. Cats like to snuggle on warm engines.
- Make sure your pet has a collar with your contact info and/or a microchip. More pets are lost in winter than any other season.
- Check paws for cracks or bleeding and wipe off toxic deicers after walking.
- Clean up spilled antifreeze right away. It is attractive to pets and very toxic.

### 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.*



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[leave a message](#)

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

### ARK's Board of Directors

- Israel Bergenson – Chairman
- David Clement – Vice Chair, TNR Chair, Foster Comm Chair
- Janet Kistler – Board Treasurer, Membership Director
- Lawrence Avery – Board Secretary
- Susan Rowe – Fundraising & Development Chair
- Ron Gonterman – ARK Grant Writer, Shelter Comm Chair
- June King – Spay-Neuter-Rabies Voucher Comm Chair

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.