



# ARK in Action

The Newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Winter 2022

## ARK's Year in Review



While 2021 was challenging in many ways, ARK had a successful year with our most important programs.

Our popular Spay-Neuter-Voucher program started the year with a virtual sale, but we got back on track with 4 more in-person events. We sold a total of 250 low-cost spay-neuter vouchers to pet owners for use at county vet offices. Most of the vouchers were used for female dogs, which can have up to 3 litters a year. As a result, we're going to have many fewer unwanted pups in Hart County.

We also sold spay-neuter vouchers for cats in partnership with the Barren River Animal Welfare Association (BRAWA). These vouchers can be purchased at any time. A total of 223 BRAWA vouchers were redeemed in 2021. During her lifetime, a female cat can have more than 100 kittens, so spaying not only improves her health, it prevents many unwanted homeless kittens. Thanks to all the pet owners who are helping solve the pet overpopulation problem. (P.S. Don't delay – get your cats spayed and neutered soon. Mating season starts in March. Young cats can get pregnant at 5 months. Get your \$35 BRAWA vouchers today - online at [ark4hart.org](http://ark4hart.org) or at the sheriff's office.)

ARK's Trap-Neuter-Return team had another great year, with 271 strays spayed or neutered and given rabies shots. Their extraordinary efforts made a big difference in the health of our neighborhood pets with over 800 cats served since the program started. Congratulations to all those involved in this worthy program – volunteers, homeowners, financial supporters. The cats are healthier and should live easier lives because of your selfless efforts. We need someone to take over the management of this important program. If interested, please contact us.

ARK's amazing foster/adoption team was able to help 39 dogs and 78 cats transition to new, loving homes. These dedicated volunteers make sure the animals are healthy, well-cared for, and a perfect match for their owners. It takes a lot of time, effort, and passion. We are in a period of transition with this program, working with the new Hart County Shelter team to create a foster/adoption plan for the area's homeless pets.



*An ARK Adoption Fair*

The new Hart County Animal Shelter (managed by the county government) will soon be open. We plan to work with Brandy Nichols, the newly hired Animal Control Officer, and the shelter team to make it a success – materials, supplies, volunteers, foster homes, etc. We were able to supply additional fencing recently, with \$7,900 from ARK's shelter fund. Earlier in the year, we donated \$27,000 for shelter materials and fencing. Stay tuned for more opportunities to help.

We were unsure about fundraising last year, because of Covid restrictions, but we were very successful. We have around 270 members/sponsors whose donations helped fund our various programs. Our Dawgy Dash 5K was held on a very hot day in August, but we managed to raise almost \$25,000. (We

### Save the Date

Feb. 19: SNR Voucher Event, Munfordville Baptist Church  
March 15: ARK Annual Membership Meeting  
April 30 – ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K

are planning this year's Dash for a cooler weekend in April.) Another fundraiser – Katie's Critter Crawl – was organized by her family in memory of Katie Grisez. That gave a big boost to our funds. Thanks to all our fantastic supporters! We are looking forward to a great 2022, with your continued support and the love of our 4-legged friends.

## 2022 Membership Drive is Underway!

Our annual membership drive is underway; ARK and the animals of Hart County are depending on you! ARK would like to thank the members who have already renewed their membership for 2022. We would also like to remind those who have not yet renewed their ARK membership for this year, that we have several options for doing so. Along with mailing a check/money order, you can visit our website at [www.ark4hart.org/donate-volunteer](http://www.ark4hart.org/donate-volunteer), where you can renew online.

We now have options for one-time donations, recurring monthly donations, and recurring annual donations on our website. The recurring options are a great alternative, so you don't have to remember to renew each year! No donation is too big or too small; we appreciate them all!

*Lara Beth Hodges, Membership Coordinator*



*Some of our TNR kittens*

## Storm Dogs

When the tornadoes of December 11 hit Hart County, in addition to the human toll, we knew there would be many frightened, lost, and abandoned pets. ARK board member June King saw the damage in her neighborhood firsthand and went into action, calling local authorities to see what we could do. She contacted some area pet groomers to see if they would be willing to temporarily house homeless pets. Savannah Kenny of Sittin' Pretty Pet Salon and Country Charm Pet Spa & Resort agreed. In addition, several kind landowners offered fields for farm animals. Donated pet food and supplies were collected for tornado victims and made available for distribution at the new shelter building.

Five dogs were abandoned at one severely damaged home in Hardyville. June got the county Animal Control Officer to pick them up and 4 were taken to Sittin' Pretty. The owners were found; they no longer wanted their pets. In the meantime, the dogs had a safe place to stay and excellent care. Savannah got them all cleaned up and vaccinated – going the extra mile. She found a home for 1 of the dogs and the other 4 went to the Bowling Green/Warren County Humane Society for adoption. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help.

## Straw Donation Helps Pets This Winter

Roe Farms of Hammons ville, KY donated 50 bales of straw to ARK to help people keep their pets safe and warm during cold weather. Richard & Brandon Roe are a father/son team who do row-crop farming in Hart and adjacent counties. They are long-time steadfast ARK supporters and always donate generously each year to ARK fundraisers.



*Israel Bergenson with Brandon Roe at straw distribution*

Their latest donation of straw for cold weather bedding was delivered to the Hart County Jail for the January 5 event, which was hosted by Israel Bergenson and his staff. Recipients who called ARK in advance were able to drive up to the jail, have their straw loaded, and proceed to use it to help protect their animals from the cold winter weather.

ARK is very appreciative of good supporters like Roe Farms. Working together, we were able to help local animal owners get their pets through this cold weather season in good shape. Thanks to Israel Bergenson for providing a convenient location and for providing staffing assistance to help the pet-owners! And again, our sincerest thanks to Roe Farms for their generosity!

*Ron Gonterman*

## Featured Foster

Champ is a young Boxer/German Shephard mix that was surrendered to ARK - a little on the skinny side. We were a little worried because we previously got some very sick puppies from this home. But it turned out he was healthy and just needed some fattening up. He's now about 65 pounds and extremely lovable. At our adoption events, just give him a pillow and he would lay with you or settle in a crate. We received a few inquiries and applications for this guy, but no takers for a while.

Finally, a wonderful couple who had owned 2 Boxers in the past were looking for a new dog. One wanted to stay with a Boxer and the other wanted a German Shephard. They fell absolutely in love with Champ – a mixture of both. He now has a secure fenced-in yard where he can romp and is primarily an “over the lap” house dog.

Matching dogs with their new families is one of the biggest joys that the Foster Team had. Thanks Bonnie Sammons and Carrie Thomas for helping with this huge foster dog. *Bonnie Moore.*



*Two happy faces -  
Champ and his new owner*

## A Pawsitive Approach to Stray Cats



Lisa Hawkins has a big heart when it comes to critters, whether it be her own indoor pets or the wild stray cat that she found wandering around the property when she moved to her farm six years ago. She couldn't let a needy animal go hungry, so she put out food for the tortoiseshell queen, later named “Devil Cat.” But lo and behold, that wasn't the end of Lisa's cat tale: the 5-pound bags of cat food became 30-pound bags once another female queen appeared. “Blondie” and Devil Cat each gave birth to litters of kittens and Lisa realized she needed help - not only to get the cats altered to prevent more litters, but to potentially find homes for the friendlier kitties.

She contacted Animal Rescue Kare's trap-neuter-return program since not all the cats were tame enough to handle for transport to a veterinarian for spaying/neutering. ARK's humane traps are baited with tuna and placed where the cats normally eat their meals. Volunteers house and transport the cats, still in the roomy traps, to area clinics to be spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies. The cats then recover overnight indoors where they are kept warm, safe, and quiet. They are returned the following day to their outdoor homes.



*Lisa with Augusta*

Several of Lisa's more socialized cats and kittens have been rehomed by advertising on ARK's active Facebook page. We've been able to get all of Lisa's cats altered so no additional litters will be born. We appreciate Lisa's willingness to assist with transportation and her enthusiasm surrounding TNR. This project is the humane approach to keeping the population of feral cats in check. *Laura Clement*

*Laura and David Clement developed the TNR program with a grant 3 years ago. They have helped over 800 cats under the program with many, many thankful homeowners. They spent countless hours coordinating with landowners and volunteers, trapping cats, transporting cats, making sure they received good medical care, providing food and shelter, and finding homes for some of the tamer kittens. We truly appreciate their dedication to our feline friends. We want to extend our thanks to everyone on the TNR team for making it such a success. Going forward, we need volunteers to administer this program, which is on “paws” right now. Please contact us if interested at [ark4hart@gmail.com](mailto:ark4hart@gmail.com).*

## Foster Coordinators' Note

Since January 2018, the ARK Foster Program has rehomed a total of 206 dogs and 215 cats. This could not have happened without the 42+ foster homes that have a love for animals and a desire to see them in happy loving homes. These people took animals into their homes, trained them, took them to vet appointments, treated illnesses, bottle fed them all hours of the day, took them to adoption events,

exercised them, took them to puppy play dates for social skills, kept the coordinators in the loop of progression/regression, and worked together as a team to get the job done in the best interest of the animals.

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

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

### ARK's Board of Directors

David Clement – Board Chair,  
Foster Committee Chair, TNR  
Committee Chair  
Israel Bergenson – Vice Chair  
Wes England – Board Secretary  
Janet Kistler – Board Treasurer  
Susan Rowe – Fundraising &  
Development Chair  
Ron Gonterman – ARK Grant  
Writer, Shelter Committee Chair  
June King – Spay-Neuter-Rabies  
Voucher Committee Chair

We had foster homes take in several animals at one time, pregnant moms, and whole nursing litters. Many took in animals for the first time in emergency cases when we had no open foster homes. Several fostered animals continually for over a year. Words cannot express the joy this team has given us in helping the animals find their "forever" homes. Thank you. *Bonnie Moore, Laura Clement, and Kayla Hargrove.*

*A sincere thank-you to Bonnie Moore and Laura Clement for founding our foster/adoption program. Bonnie continued to work as foster coordinator until the end of last year. It's an almost full-time commitment that requires a great love for animals. She, Kayla Hargrove, and Laura have helped many pets find loving homes, aided by their team of dedicated foster "parents." Administration for this program is currently in transition.*



*ARK's foster team worked at an adoption fair at Ace Hardware last summer.*

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, 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](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.*