



ARK in Action

The Newsletter of Animal Rescue Kare, Winter '23



ARK's Year in Review, 2022

ARK had another successful year helping the county's pets. Our Facebook page helped many pets find new homes or find their way back home if they were lost. We offered resources like the straw give-away from Roe Farms and advertised events, like our SNR voucher sales and Christmas parade participation on Facebook. Be sure to "like" and follow ARK's page for all the latest news: ARK for Hart.



The Dudley boys, helping promote cat adoption at the Munfordville Christmas parade

The Feline Foster program, managed by Alethea Dudley, served 80 cats and kittens last year - making sure they were treated for any ailments, vaccinated, and fixed. They took in nursing kittens, sick cats, and geriatric cases. Through a lot of hard work – contacting cat owners, taking cats to appointments, administering meds, hosting adoption fairs, meeting adopters - they were able to find homes for 71 felines. There are several available for adoption now if you're interested in a new cat or kitten. Big thanks to Alethea and her team!

ARK's Trap-Neuter-Return program was managed by Mindy Beeler. She did her best to help all 200 cats that came into her program, preventing a huge number of unwanted litters. She helped host a Halloween-themed event to find homes for some of the tamer strays. She put her heart and soul into the job. We really appreciate the work she did. She is no longer able to manage the program, so if you are

looking for a worthwhile project, we would love to talk to you about coordinating our TNR program. Call or text David at 270-218-8445 to learn more.

Our Spay-Neuter-Rabies voucher program was off to a great start this year, selling 376 vouchers and receiving two grants to help – one secured by the county from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and one from the Bissell Pet Foundation. We were able to offer as many vouchers as people needed at our events. The BPF grant even provided free microchips. Then, tragedy struck with the passing of Dr. Vance last fall. Dr. Green had a huge backlog of appointments, so we couldn't sell any more vouchers, with no one available to perform the operations. We had to postpone our last event of the year. We are working with the area vets to plan our SNR program for 2023. We hope to be back in business before too long. BRAWA cat vouchers are still available. We welcome Alicia McClure as our new SNR coordinator.

ARK's fundraising efforts are coordinated by Susan Rowe. She organized our best Dawgy Dash ever in April – a beautiful time of year for the 5K. She also promoted our first Giving Tuesday campaign. Membership donations and gifts added to our fundraising success. We were able to fully fund all our

programs. We spent \$86,769 last year to improve animal welfare in our community! There will be a more detailed financial report in the spring newsletter. Many thanks to all our members, donors, and sponsors for your financial support. Here's to a great 2023 – helping even more pets.

Save the Date

March 21 – ARK's Annual Membership Meeting, Hart County Public Library, door opens at 5:30, meeting starts at 6:00

April 22 – ARK's Dawgy Dash 5K Walk/Run

It's time to renew your membership for 2023. Thanks to those who have already renewed. Remittance envelopes are enclosed for those who need them. 5K sponsors – we would love to receive your contributions, too! The Dawgy Dash 5K is coming up soon!

Remembering Dr. Vance

Our community lost a fine vet and dedicated servant with the passing of Dr. R. Kevin Vance last fall. He was always willing to help ARK out with our programs, focusing on the best care for our animal friends. In 2015, he helped to start ARK as a founding board member and was instrumental in developing the foster program. We could never have achieved our success in the community without his partnership, support, and assistance.

From serving on the board, donating time and treasure to our programs, to taking on increasing numbers of spay-neuters, we were always able to count on him. In addition to working as one of our awesome vets, he was a loving father and was very involved in the community. ARK lost a wonderful partner and good friend - a true hero. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.



Dr. Vance and Dr. Green have been steadfast partners for all our work in the community. We are so grateful for their involvement and their care for our community's pets. We couldn't manage any of our big programs without their teams at Hartland Animal Hospital and Riverside Animal Clinic.

Cheers for our Volunteers



Halloween Paw Party: Ann & Doug Ostapack who donate time at events and many cat supplies to our TNR and Foster programs

Animal Rescue Kare's hard-working volunteers had a full autumn and year-end season of events including a Halloween Paw Party for kids of all ages at the "old" Dollar Store in Munfordville on Saturday, October 29. Six kittens from our stray cat program (TNR) found permanent homes and we took photographs of many children in their spooky or shimmering costumes with a kitten of their choice. We handed out treats to the tots and sold our new T-shirts and caps to benefit our animal programs. Special thanks to new volunteer **William Rosenbaum** who donned our Sparky costume this time around! The kids squealed with delight to see our fuzzy oversized dog and William was such a good sport. ARK also appreciates the general management of the Dollar General for allowing us the space to hold our Paw Party.

Seventeen volunteers, dressed in their holiday finery, along with eleven canines took part in the Christmas parade in Munfordville on Saturday, December 3rd. Great Danes, Dalmatians, Chihuahuas and more pranced along the route, rode on the float or in the retrofitted truck as ARK got in the holiday spirit. **Darlene Owens** was an amazing petite-sized Sparky and garnered many oohs and aahs along Main Street. Again, children of all ages appreciate seeing our mascot as smiles and cheers were had all around. Volunteers tossed candy to the parade attendees, and we were blessed that the rain held off and the sun shone through the clouds in time for the Christmas parade.



Volunteers at the Munfordville Christmas Parade: David Waters, Janie Ann Slade, Scherry Clontz & Carolyn Bybee with several pooches

We need volunteers in several areas for jobs large and small. **We need a new TNR coordinator** for that important program. (Trap-Neuter-Return for stray cat colonies. We're making a big difference; we need to continue helping the strays.) We also need folks to **serve on ARK's Board of Directors**. You can find links to volunteer and BOD applications on our website: ark4hart.org *Laura Clement, Volunteer Coordinator*

ARK's Support for the New Hart County Animal Shelter (HCAS)

ARK has committed to support the new HCAS in many ways: financial assistance for special needs; recruiting volunteers for shelter work; education among the region's animal welfare community; and most recently, to assist with organizing and re-starting a canine transport program.

This transport program is a work in progress. ARK members Ann & Doug Ostapack have volunteered to head up this effort. They are currently outlining a plan to recruit other organizations both within and outside Kentucky to accept Hart County dogs for adoptions in other northern states where there is an on-going need for adoptive dogs. ARK would like to thank the Ostapacks for their interest, ideas, and contributions to getting this program organized and off the ground.

Since our last quarterly newsletter, a nearby 22-kennel building has been leased by the HC Fiscal Court to house additional dogs brought to the HCAS by the animal control officer or surrendered by Hart County citizens. This new leased building brings the total available kennel space to 30. Some remodeling is now underway to render this new building safer and more functional for the canines that are housed there. *Ron Gonterman, ARK's HCAS Liaison*



The new kennel building

ARK's Annual Membership Meeting, March 21

ARK will hold its annual membership meeting and election for the Board of Directors on March 21 at the Hart County Public Library. Registration begins at 5:30; the meeting starts at 6:00. Learn about ARK's programs, get updates about the county's shelter, help honor some of ARK's partners, and see the winning design for the Dawgy Dash tee. Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

Are you looking to make a difference? Do you enjoy writing, organizing events, working with numbers, solving problems, or social media?

Please consider serving on ARK's board for a 3-year term. We will make good use of your skills and talents. Fill out the simple application on our website - ark4hart.org - and we'll contact you with details.

Featured Foster



Meet Juniper, our longest foster resident! Juniper was brought to the vet last June as a sickly stray. She was quickly returned to health with love and good nutrition in our foster program when no owner could be found. Juniper is so easy going and well-behaved. She has no reaction to large dogs, wild young children, or other cats. A purrfect companion! Front declawed, she is probably over 10 years old. We eventually discovered she is also deaf, so this girl needs an indoor home. Her favorite activities include basking in the sunlight, supervising the laundry pile, napping, and keeping your lap warm. Her only dislike is an empty food bowl.

If you are interested in Juniper or any of our other cats and kittens waiting for "forever" homes, please contact Alethea at 270-779-8392 or check out our adoptable pets on our website, where you will find the adoption application. *Alethea Dudley, Feline Foster Coordinator*

Animal Rescue Kare
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Phone: (225) 414-2765

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

ARK's Board of Directors

- David Clement – Board Chair, Foster Chair, TNR Chair
- Israel Bergenson – Board Vice Chair
- Janet Kistler – Board Treasurer, Communications
- Ron Gonterman – ARK Grant Writer, Shelter Committee Chair
- Robin Miller – Secretary, Assistant Treasurer
- Susan Rowe – Fundraising & Development Chair
- Alicia McClure – Spay-Neuter-Rabies Chair

Catch Me If You Can! ARK's Dawgy Dash 2023

We are so excited to announce that ARK's 2023 Dawgy Dash will be held on Saturday, April 22nd. This year's theme is "Catch Me If You Can." Our RunSignup race website is open now and ready for you to sign up for the Dash! Register at: runsignup.com/dawgydash.



Animal Rescue Kare's
Dawgy Dash
5K Run - Walk

Early Bird Special - register by March 31
 \$25 Adult
 \$20 Youth (4-14)
 After April 1, \$35 Adult
 \$30 Youth (4-14)

Enter a team of 10 or more and SAVE \$5 per person.
 T-shirts not guaranteed after April 1

Catch me if you can!

Proceeds used for ARK's work to help animals



You can print and mail in a registration form for the race at this website if you prefer. Sign up by March 31 to get our Early Bird discount - \$10 off the registration fee. There will be free t-shirts for participants, and prizes for different age groups.

The Dawgy Dash 5K is always lots of fun. We're hoping for some extra fine spring weather – perfect conditions for running competitively or for taking a nice walk with your friends - human and furry! You can participate with or without your leashed dog. We are looking forward to another awesome Dawgy Dash 5K.
 Susan Rowe, ARK Fundraising and Development Chair

ARK Education Programs Are Back!

After a three-year hiatus, ARK education programs are coming back to Hart County Schools! ARK partners with the Hart County Public Library to bring engaging presentations to all students in grades K-8. We are currently working on getting our programs into the high school, as well. The age-appropriate K-5 programs focus on taking care of pets and staying safe around unfamiliar dogs. The middle grade programs cover these topics as well and include an invitation to join ARK's Ambassador Program so that these students can begin to make a difference concerning animal welfare. After all, our children are the future leaders who will be making the decisions about how animals are cared for and treated in Hart County.

These programs are being scheduled for the month of February. It is not too late to volunteer if you would like to help. Also, these programs are open to other groups such as scouting troops, homeschoolers, or 4-H clubs. Contact Susan Rowe via call or text at 270-473-1776 for more information.

Sparky spread cheer at the Christmas parade.



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 the Hart County Animal Shelter. We are committed to helping animals through our spay/neuter, foster, 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.