Who we are

• The Animal Rescue League of Boston was founded in 1899 in downtown Boston by Anna Harris Smith, a social worker from Dorchester, when she saw both the cruel mistreatment of Boston’s working horses, and the number of stray and homeless animals living on the streets.

• Today, ARL operates three animal shelters in Boston, Dedham, and Brewster, along with various other programs:
  – Field Services Department
  – Humane Law Enforcement
  – Spay Waggin’ on the South Shore
  – Community Wellness Clinics in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan
  – Boston Veterinary Care, for-profit veterinary clinic whose profits fund the nonprofit work of the organization
  – Community Surgical Clinic for feral cats and other shelters
  – Dog Training
Animal Shelters

Animals come in from a variety of sources in a variety of conditions. All animals are housed in kennels during their stay in the shelter – some are able to go to foster care for some period of time as needed. Every animal is evaluated behaviorally and medically prior to moving to the adoption floor. Animals with behavioral or medical concerns often stay with us longer while we try to find an appropriate home or treat its condition.

Challenges we face:

• Animal’s who struggle to adjust to the shelter setting – its loud, unfamiliar, sterile, and there are new people and animals around them all the time.
• How to provide as comfortable an experience for the animal while still maintaining health and sanitary conditions.
• Housing that meets the animals needs while still meeting the standards we must keep to (and the budget)
• Safety of animals in case of emergency
Animal Shelters
Field Services

Respond to calls of domesticated animals and raptors in need of rescue (ill, injured, or stuck).
Perform technical rescues – high angle rescues, cats in trees, animals stuck in storm drains, fences, etc., ice rescues, and swift water rescues.
Assist with large scale removal of animals from Law Enforcement situations.

Challenges we face:
• Short term, SAFE housing for high unsocial cats
• Capturing animals on the loose
• Safety of people and animals when conducting field rescues
Photo: Boston Herald
Field Services in Action
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON

A champion for animals