

Press Release: For Immediate Release
Animal Rescue League of NH
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Animal Rescue League of NH Cruelty Program Suddenly Overflowing with Dogs

Over the holidays, the League took in over 20 unexpected dogs through cruelty investigation complaints and prior case follow-ups, bringing the total dogs in their care to 53 (kennel capacity is 32). The League has an Animal Cruelty Investigator, Maureen Prendergast, whose sole job is to handle animal cruelty and neglect complaints from citizens, working in concert with the Police Departments of the towns served. As part of this role, Ms. Prendergast also provides outreach by following up with past individuals who have been the subject of investigation or assisting owners that cannot afford proper care for their animals (vaccines, altering or food and shelter), so that the League can head off potential issues and continually be a resource for our community in times of need. Unfortunately, there has been a steady and substantial increase in the need for this emotionally and financially draining service over the past two years.

This “holiday rush” started with a local police department contacting the League to assist with an investigation of a mother dog and puppies that were housed in an abandoned home. After an initial investigation, the four-legged family was found to be lacking in adequate care; not enough food, water or shelter, especially given that there were puppies involved and the temperatures were dropping into the single digits. After these animals were removed and brought to the League, another call came in from a different police department.

The call received from the Hollis Police Department was about the need for assistance in housing mix-breed dogs and several puppies after their removal from an inappropriate environment. Shortly after that call, Ms. Prendergast received another call from the Milford Police Department asking for help for a citizen who had become overwhelmed with a multitude of dogs while trying to place the dogs for friends who needed to re-home their pets. Additionally, he was helping to place dogs that were transported from the South with no plan as to where they would go once they arrived in New Hampshire. Five of these dogs were brought into the League and the owners will be assisted by the League’s Companion Animal Assistance Fund for future vaccines of the one remaining dog. The League also provided dog food for the family as well.

The latest call was received by another police department in which a woman was court-ordered to surrender her dogs to the Animal Rescue League of NH. Because this is ongoing cruelty case, no further information is available at this time.

The League investigates animal cruelty complaints, provides education and outreach to families that need assistance with altering their animals, and helps with ongoing vaccines, food, litter and other pet-related needs that will help keep an animal in its home until its owner can take financial responsibility. To make a cruelty complaint call (603) 471-0888. If you are interested in helping the animals at the League, please consider making a donation to the League or to the League’s Companion Animal Assistance Fund to assist other families in need. For more information on ways to donate please contact Robin Ahlgren, Director of Development at (603) 472-5714.

About the ARL NH: The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire is a community resource dedicated to saving the lives of homeless pets, caring for companion animals afflicted by neglect,

abandonment and cruelty and enhancing the relationship between people and pets through adoption, education, compassion and the promotion of animal welfare. The ARL NH is open to all residents of New Hampshire, and actively serves the towns of Amherst, Auburn, Bedford, Brookline, Candia, Dunbarton, Francestown, Goffstown, Hollis, Hooksett, Litchfield, Londonderry, Lyndeborough, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, New Boston, Peterborough, Wilton, and Windham. For more information on the Animal Rescue League of NH go to www.rescueleague.org.