

2025 Annual Report

Animal Rescue Alliance, Inc.
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Letter from the CEO

Dear Supporters, Donors, and Animal Lovers,

It's been a great year for Animal Rescue Alliance, Inc. We celebrated our 3rd year open in late October, and as we enter our 4th year we come armed with fresh new ideas, and a commitment to help our community's animal population more than ever.

The support from our community has grown, and we are learning how we can better serve people's needs when it comes to their animals. We've realized, not surprisingly, that the #1 obstacle to responsible pet care is being unable to find affordable spay/neuter services.

Our volunteer vet has helped us tremendously with this when it involves our rescue residents; however, legal constraints have prohibited him from assisting in the general community. Unfortunately, none of the private vets in this region are able to offer low cost spay/neuter services. As the only local rescue, we see the result of this in an overwhelming number of unwanted litters of kittens and puppies.

We have continued to transport owned animals to clinics in Dothan, AL and Thomasville, GA for spay/neuter services as a courtesy to local pet owners. Unfortunately, there has been a shortage of vets to work at some of these locations, and we ended 2025 with our standing 2026 appointments being effectively put on hold.

We are actively seeking other options to offer our local pet owners who desperately need these services. We have even contacted agencies as far away as Atlanta to see if there are any vets who might volunteer to come to our location to provide services, even if only once or twice a year.

We are committed to finding solutions that will help our local residents and their beloved pets.

Sincerely,
Carol Williams
ARA

Projects We've Tackled & Activities Involving Our Community

- *Assisted residents with lost animal searches.
- *Provided cat houses and dog houses as needed in inclement weather.
- *Distributed food to needy pet owners through our community pantry.
- *Loaned traps out for TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return) initiatives.
- *Transported animals to spay/neuter appointments for a nominal fee.
- *Continued our Seniors for Seniors Program (Senior citizens may care for an animal through our permanent foster program, at no cost to them. If at any time they are unable to care for the animal it is returned to ARA. All vet and supply expenses are the responsibility of ARA.)
- *Continued our Doggie Day Out program, where community members may "check out" a dog for the day.
- *We acquired, and refurbished a portable building to be used for boarding services.
- *Hosted kids' field trips from Miller County schools, Seminole County schools, and SGA. We also hosted field trips from home school groups.
- *Hosted volunteers from local FFA and 4-H groups.
- *Staff attended specialized training in the nationally acclaimed program, "Dogs Playing for Life", and implemented what they learned with our dogs.
- *Utilized inmates from our local jail to assist with special projects and building maintenance tasks. We also allowed individuals completing community service hours through the court system to work at our facility.
- *Assisted our volunteer vet on site during spay/neuter procedures on our resident animals.

*Took in 4 pregnant mama cats at the same time! Helped raise their kittens, got everyone fixed and vaccinated, and found them all new homes.

*Assisted with a severe hoarding situation involving 30 unfixed cats in a single wide mobile home (all needing vet attention). We acquired all of them, and were able to spay/neuter, vaccinate, and medically clear all but one very sick kitten. Only a couple now remain with us— the rest found homes.

*Received help, donations, and publicity from several of the local “queens”.

*Attended a regional symposium on state animal laws.

*Partnered with our local Tractor Supply Company to hold adoption events and periodic fund raisers at their store.

*Held our annual fund raising auction at Cafe Lele in Colquitt.

*Applied for and received a grant (twice) to assist local residents with spay/neuter expenses.

Specialized Help for Some of Our Most Vulnerable Animals

We believe it is worth devoting space in our Annual Report to those animals for which we went above and beyond. These are animals that, were they in another rescue, would likely have been immediately euthanized due to not being “adoptable”.

While we understand the need to be fiscally responsible when it comes to providing medical care to animals, these were cases that we could not say “no” to. It should also be mentioned that there are “rescues” that don’t treat something as minor as ring worm (a fungus very much like athlete’s foot in humans). We do.

*Stevie- Blind adult cat, likely from birth. An official lobby cat until we find the perfect adopter.

*Maggie- Young cat. Huge painful growth on end of tail, requiring amputation. Adopted and doing well.

*Hope- Young cat, deaf. CH cat (Cerebellar Hypoplasia), neurological brain disorder. Adopted and doing well.

*Scout- Kitten, born blind. In our care, waiting to be neutered and then made available for adoption.

*Iris- Adult cat. One eye due to an injury, and an over-groomer. Also a lobby cat for now.

*Pheasant- Adult dog, raised in our care. Afraid of her own shadow. Too scared when she meets adopters, and too scared for other rescues to accept. Waiting on the perfect quiet, patient adopter.

*Chopsticks- Kitten arrived with previous breaks to both hips and knees. They fused back and have left her with stiff back legs that don't bend. She gets around fine and is not in pain. Waiting to be spayed, and then looking for the perfect home (with carpet so she can get a good grip).

*Simba- Adult cat showed up in a community cat colony, obviously had been someone's pet. Tested positive for FIV (similar to being HIV positive). He can live a long, healthy life indoors and around other cats too with some extra care. He will live with us until the perfect home is found.

*Jericho- Young cat with an eye injury requiring enucleation. Waiting on his forever home.

All of these animals have minor imperfections that would have been a death sentence in other settings. We're blessed to have them with us.



Stevie



Chopsticks

Pheasant



Just the Numbers

In 2025 we took in:

126 cats

74 dogs

The outcomes:

102 were adopted

9 died in custody (this involved a colony of kittens we assisted with, as so many had died we were called to help as we could with survivors.)

1 was euthanized for medical reasons

12 were returned to owner

58 were transported out to other rescues

We took in approximately \$159K, much of it coming from a handful of private benefactors. Expenses totaled approximately \$152K. Medical expenses/supplies totaled just under \$9K.

Looking Ahead (Goals) and Learning Lessons from this Year

*As mentioned in the opening message, we have learned that the best way we can help our community is to expand our reach with spay/neuter clinics to help residents fix their pets affordably. We are pursuing several avenues to accomplish this.

*Because of our collaborations with other organizations that are able to transport animals out of our area to locations in the U.S. where adoption chances are greater, we were able to assist more residents from our extensive owner surrender wait list. We are actively seeking out agencies to help us move more animals, allowing us to intake more locally as the need arises.

*We are learning that not all organizations that claim to be “rescuers” adhere to the same high level of integrity and transparency that we do. This has helped us to redefine exactly who we are and what we stand for.

*As CEO I plan to involve our board more in their major role of fund raising for us, as opposed to leaning heavily on a few private donors. There are a variety of opportunities available to raise funds, and these need to be pursued especially as we are not funded by either of the 2 counties we serve.

*We were offered the use of a building to serve as a thrift store, to fund ARA. We need to move ahead with this by scheduling open times, taking in items to sell, and getting committed personnel to help on site.

*We readied a building for private boarding services; we need to launch that program in the first quarter of 2026.

*We need to find creative ways to engage and educate our community. Some ideas: speaking engagements at local civic club meetings, and articles/interviews in local newspapers.

*We have been approached by several individuals needing TNR assistance in 3 areas; two are in Seminole County, and one is in Colquitt (Miller County). Each area involves 30-45 cats needing to be trapped, with some needing to be relocated. Until we are able to once again secure appointment slots at our low cost clinics, these TNR initiatives are on hold. We have received some grant funds to cover part of these expenses, but without vet appointments we are in the waiting zone. It is our hope that we will be able to help our local residents get these needed services.

In Closing...

Thank you to our donors, our volunteers, and all of you who have helped ARA grow into a valuable community resource. We hope to be around for a long time, and fill whatever needs arise as we care for the animals in our area.

Please follow us on Facebook if you don't already. We are also on X, and Instagram. Our web site is located at: aralliancega.com

Animal Rescue Alliance, Inc.

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