



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2021

ARF Updates Mission and Focus to Support Mobile's Shelters

Mobile, AL – The Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) is rolling out an updated mission and model to focus on supporting Mobile's municipal shelters. With its long-standing history in the community, experience in animal welfare, and a large team of dedicated volunteers and donors, ARF will provide innovative programs that help fund lifesaving medical care, enhance the lives of shelter animals, and help them find and stay in loving, forever homes.

The shift will involve closing ARF's current Rangeline Road location by the end of the year and focusing on adopting out the 90 animals currently in ARF's care. During the pandemic and after a few brushes with inclement weather, ARF's dog building was shut down in 2020. The organization has continued to operate on a smaller scale at this location, while moving to a more foster-based model. As animal welfare organizations at the national level continue to migrate from brick-and-mortar shelters to community-based care, ARF hopes to lead this change in Mobile by pivoting its focus to support the animals in municipal shelters, rather than taking them in directly.

Particularly during this transition, ARF will continue to need the support of the community and donors until all animals have been placed, and ongoing as it transitions to helping the animals in local shelters. For current hospice and special needs animals, ARF will continue to fund their medical care and needs.

ARF's President, Ali Rellinger, was recently appointed to serve as the Director of Animal Services for the City of Mobile. About the upcoming changes, Ali said "ARF has long held a vision of partnering with the City Animal Shelter along with other animal welfare organizations to streamline resources in our area. As I transition over to this new role, I'm happy to have the support of ARF and other partners so that we can help as many animals as possible."

Vice President, Stacey Yawn, added "As the City of Mobile transforms its current shelter, it's more important than ever to rally behind this and bridge the gap between the community's needs and the animals in the care of the shelter. Rather than moving an animal from one shelter to ours, we'll make a greater impact and help more animals by targeting our funds directly to the animals. I think it's a change that's long been needed in Mobile, and I'm excited about all the great things we can do to help."

The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers at ARF have already begun the transition to this new model while working diligently to continue caring for the animals at the Rangeline location. The ARFanage will remain the primary location for adoptions until all animals are placed. For more information and to follow ARF's progress and new programs, visit their website at animalrescuemobile.org.

About Animal Rescue Foundation

ARF is a 501(c)3 organization serving the Greater Mobile area. Our mission is to help homeless and abandoned dogs and cats and provide the care and support they need, until they can be placed in permanent, loving homes. Through outreach and education, we advocate for animals in our community and are committed to bringing about a time when there are no more homeless pets. We have been serving the community since 1995. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@ARFMobile).