



QUARTERLY REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2019

ADOPTIONS

The Humane Rescue Alliance adopted out **1,217 animals** (619 cats, 517 dogs, 81 other) in the first quarter of 2019, sending these previously homeless animals to loving, new homes.

FEATURED ADOPTIONS

- **Frenchie:** Frenchie, a 9-year-old black cat with a history of upper respiratory infections, held our longest length of stay in care (239 days). Despite his big personality, adorable overbite, and charm, he continued to be overlooked while in foster and at adoption events. He was finally adopted after returning to our adoption floor from foster.
- **Tex:** Resident goofball Tex was adopted through our “special adoptions” program, which allows us to house, work with, and adopt out animals who may show more challenging behaviors in the shelter. He closed out January by going home with his new mom after 87 days with HRA.

INTAKE

From January to March, HRA received **2,005 animals** (902 cats, 1,011 dogs, 92 other) through our normal intake channels, including lost/stray animals, owner surrenders, and more. We also dramatically increased the number of animals transferred in from other shelters across the country via our transport program by 289 percent during the same time period last year.

ANIMAL CONTROL

HRA’s Animal Control responded to **3,574 calls** in the first quarter of 2019, with calls ranging from animal rescue, to lost/stray animals, to health checks, to wildlife concerns, and more in all areas of the District. HRA Animal Control Investigators conducted inspections for an African penguin, a Flemish giant rabbit, a red-footed tortoise, 10 Budweiser Clydesdales, and 1 parchorin mare.

PET PANTRY

HRA operates a Pet Pantry to help support DC residents in caring for their pets by providing free pet food to those who indicate need. From January through March, **279 new dogs, 211 new cats, and 276 new families** enrolled in the Pet Pantry. HRA distributed **11,325 pounds of food** in the first quarter via our Pet Pantry.

HRA publicized our Pet Pantry to pet owners affected by the Federal Government shutdown early in the year

and, as a result, had a great response of food donations from individual donors via our Amazon wish list and several companies, including MARS, Inc., Petco, Purina, Chicken Soup for the Soul Pet Food, American Humane, and Blue Buffalo. Because of this, HRA was able to share more than **15 pallets of food and litter** with 16 area organizations for use in caring for their own animals and those of their community members.

HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT

HRA's Humane Law Enforcement Officers conducted **1,251 field operations** between January and March. These field operations included visiting properties, viewing animals, interviewing witnesses, transporting animals for veterinary care, court appearances, rechecking properties to ensure compliance, and more. During this time, our Officers issued 97 warnings and 238 educational advisories. Additionally, Officers responded to **458 new allegations** of cruelty, abuse, and/or neglect.

CASES OF NOTE

- January was a busy month for our Officers, who made several arrests in cases of egregious animal cruelty and executed a number of search and seizure warrants.
 - On January 4, HLE received a call about a dog who was abandoned in a parking lot. Subsequent review of surveillance footage showed a person removing the dog from their car and striking the animal. HRA offered a monetary reward for information in the case, which led to the arrest of the dog's alleged abuser.
 - On January 11, HLE executed a search warrant at a residence to collect evidence related to organized dog fighting after a year-long investigation. This case culminated in the arrest of two individuals.
 - On January 23, another man was arrested in a separate dog fighting case that HLE had been investigating since early last summer.
 - In late 2018, HLE received a call about a man viciously beating a dog. An HLE animal cruelty investigation led to the suspect's arrest on January 25.
- HLE activity continued in February, with the execution of a search warrant that resulted in the rescue of seven dogs from an alleged abandonment case. The dogs were found in unsanitary conditions and the investigation revealed no one had been to the home in at least four days to care for the dogs.
- In March, HLE Officers executed a search warrant that resulted in the rescue of one dog who was living in unsafe and inhumane conditions with no access to water. Additionally, a man who neglected his dog, four red eared slider turtles, and four goldfish was arrested on animal cruelty charges.

HUMANE EDUCATION

HRA's robust Humane Education program educates our youth about the importance of the humane treatment of animals. In the first quarter of 2019, **957 youth** participated in **67 Humane Education programs.**

FOSTER

In the first quarter of 2019, HRA's foster team placed **222 animals in foster care** and **140 animals were adopted** from foster homes. HRA launched another short-term foster program this quarter, Happy Hour, which provides dogs with a six-hour field trip out of the shelter to relax in a home environment or outdoors. The Happy Hour program gave **59 dogs** a break from the shelter environment, with many enjoying these off-site outings more than once.

HOPE

Through door-to-door outreach and community events, HRA's Help Out, Partner, and Engage (HOPE) program makes critical resources available to pet owners in the District, making it easier for them to care for their animals without making life-changing (or life-diminishing) compromises. The program offers spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, food and other supplies, and behavior and training advice at no charge. In the first quarter of 2019, HOPE provided spay/neuter surgeries for **155 animals**, administered **254 free vaccinations**, and helped **122 families**.

MEDICAL CENTER

During the first quarter of 2019, HRA's full-service Medical Center saw **3,061 patients**, including 298 income-qualified clients who received discounted veterinary care. In addition, our medical center and Mobile Veterinary Clinic performed **1,012 surgeries** combined.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Princess:** Princess, a true hero, came to HRA with a large stab wound on her neck, which she suffered while defending her owner. HRA Veterinary Assistant Tiara applied a life-saving measure to slow her bleeding so she could survive the trip to our partner, Friendship Hospital for Animals (FHA). While at FHA, Princess underwent emergency surgery to repair the stab wound, as well as a blood transfusion. After six days in FHA's intensive care unit, Princess returned to HRA where she continued to recover for the next few days. Finally, we ceremoniously reunited her with her owner.
- **Ken:** In January, we received a call about an injured dog who had been abandoned in a parking lot. Surveillance video showed a man hitting the dog, possibly with an object, and dragging her from his vehicle before driving away. When she arrived at HRA, our medical team treated her for severe wounds to all four of her limbs and her tail. Our medical team thought at least one of her limbs would need to be amputated, but overtime we were able to get all four of her limbs on the road to recovery. While Ken is still healing, she makes progress every day. All throughout her treatment, Ken has maintained the sweetest disposition and always greets our staff and volunteers with excited, happy wiggles.

MEDICAL CENTER CONT.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

- **Spartacus:** Spartacus came to HRA as a 2-month-old puppy who had been badly attacked by another dog and suffered two broken legs, bruising, and deep, infected wounds. After a few weeks of supportive care from HRA's medical team, splinting, and pain medication, Spartacus was transported to our partner, Friendship Hospital for Animals, where doctors repaired both of his limbs. Spartacus is recovering in a foster home with an HRA Veterinary Technician. His external fixators make quite the fashion statement!

COMMUNITY CATS

HRA's Community Cat program provides services for the District's outdoor cat population. From January through March, we sterilized **270 cats** through our Trap-Neuter-Return efforts. Our Community Cat team also provided outreach and support via **1,537 calls, emails, and in-field conversations** over the first quarter of 2019.

HRA's Blue Collar Cats program was developed as an initiative to provide opportunities for cats not suited for life indoors with families. These cats are "put to work" with area businesses and homeowners who pledge to care for these outdoor cats while, in turn, the cats provide rodent deterrent. The program celebrated a major milestone this quarter, with the placement of its 200th cat, Lucy.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

- **Lucy:** Lucy, a community cat, found herself at HRA when her caretakers of eight years were moving and could no longer care for her. Highly distressed and fractious in the shelter, HRA's Community Cat team quickly worked to find Lucy a suitable placement with an area homeowner as a Blue Collar Cat. Prior to this program, unsocialized cats like Lucy had few options. Now, HRA can save more cats while also serving as a model of success for other local and regional jurisdictions.

BEHAVIOR & TRAINING

Late last year, Field Services arranged for the surrender of approximately 25 cats from one home. While the cats ranged in age, they were all under socialized and very fearful in the shelter. HRA's Behavior and Training team went to work on rehabilitating these cats using behavior modification to reduce their fear and help them get used to being pet by humans. Over the course of one month, several of the cats made it to our adoption floor and eventually into loving, new homes. For those who were not receptive to the treatment from our Behavior and Training team, we worked to place them with local businesses and homeowners through HRA's Blue Collar Cats program.