

CONTACT: Mike DeFina, Media Relations Manager (617) 293-3530 mdefina@arlboston.org

For Release on: June 18, 2024

## **ARL Announces Partnership with The BASE**

ARL provides internships, educational opportunity to expose youth to careers working with animals

BOSTON – Today, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is proud to announce its ongoing partnership with The BASE, a Roxbury-based academy using the power of sports to engage urban youth, and provide programs focused on college access, career development, and health and wellness.

ARL's Spay Waggin'<sup>®</sup> is also visiting the Roxbury location today, providing subsidized spay/neuter surgeries for over 20 pets for residents in the Roxbury community. Today's visit not only brings vital veterinary services directly where they're needed most, but will also provide an opportunity for The BASE student-athletes to observe animal welfare in action.

ARL and The BASE invite members of the media to learn more about this exciting partnership, and how it is impacting community youth.

Media Availability When: Tuesday, June 18, 1:30-2 p.m. Where: The BASE, 150 Shirley Street, Roxbury Interview Opportunities: The BASE President & CEO Steph Lewis, ARL President & CEO Dr. Edward Schettino ARL's partnership with The BASE began in 2021, when ARL began offering paid summer internships to student-athletes interested in a possible career in animal welfare. One summer intern enjoyed their internship experience so much, that they became a part-time employee at ARL. ARL has also participated in The BASE's annual career fair, and staff from different departments have presented to students on their respective jobs, to engage those who are interested in animals but may have never considered animal welfare as a career path.

"The world of animal welfare is an extremely rewarding career," stated Dr. Edward Schettino, ARL President and CEO. "While many young people today may have a love of animals, they may not be aware of the career options that are available to them. ARL is privileged to partner with The BASE and to be able to offer insight, guidance and encouragement for the next generation of animal advocates."

BASE President and CEO, Steph Lewis, praised the growing partnership between the two organizations. "The BASE is proud to partner with the Animal Rescue League and we appreciate the role they have played in introducing our student-athletes to career paths in the field of animal welfare. With the Spay Waggin at our site today, we are expanding our partnership and impacting the local community in a new way, bringing ARL's critical veterinary services to the heart of Roxbury", said Lewis.

Today marks the Spay Waggin's first visit to Roxbury, and ARL looks forward to further opportunities in this community to keep animals healthy, happy, and in homes where they belong.

## ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes. Founded in 1899, ARL provides high-quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2023, ARL served 20,964 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The Animal Rescue League of Boston does not receive government grants or public funding and relies on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at arlboston.org; and be sure to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

## ABOUT THE BASE

Founded in 2013, The BASE is an urban academy in Roxbury, MA, that uses the power and passion of sports to engage young people and prepare them for life success. With high-quality athletic training and competition, paired with college, career, and wellness programming, The BASE helps student-athletes develop the skills and mindsets needed to achieve their full potential. BASE programs are grounded in a culture of excellence and belief, creating a community in which young people thrive.

