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**ANIMAL RESCUE FUND OF THE HAMPTONS TO SUPPORT BEST FRIENDS PUPPY MILL RESCUE ON  
MARCH 29TH**

*ARF Will Take in Approximately 30 Dogs on the East End of Long Island*

**New York, NY** (March 28, 2011) – The **Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons** (ARF, [www.arfhamptons.org](http://www.arfhamptons.org)), a leading animal adoption center on the East End of Long Island, announces plans to take part in its seventh **puppy mill rescue on March 29th**. ARF will be one of 13 rescue groups to receive the dogs from Best Friends Animal Society's *Pup My Ride* program, which rescues dogs from large scale breeding operations known as puppy mills in the Midwest. On this rescue, Best Friends will bring **more than 160 dogs to safety**, of which **ARF will take more than 30 into its care**. For the first time, these dogs will have an opportunity to be placed up for adoption with a new family and receive the proper medical and emotional care they need and deserve.

The situation found at many puppy mills in the Midwest is alarming. In order to satisfy the demands of pet stores and online consumers across the country, puppy mill operations churn out dogs in excessive numbers. Breeder dogs can spend their entire lives in wire cages, forced to reproduce without a proper amount of time between breeding cycles. The dogs receive limited human contact, poor veterinary care, and often suffer from psychological and medical complications. Breeder dogs that are deemed no longer useful and younger dogs that have medical issues as a result of over breeding are typically killed. Instead, because of this rescue mission, a number of these dogs will soon be on their way to New York to find a new home and loving family.

"The statistics are shocking – more than 40% of all puppies sold in pet stores nationwide come from puppy mills in the Midwest. Of these, 68% are imported to the tri-state area where the demand is extremely high," said **Sara Davison, Executive Director at ARF**. "At ARF, our goal is to educate the public and reduce the demand for puppy mill dogs. By encouraging people to adopt from shelters instead of buying from pet stores, we can help break the cycle," she added.

The dogs will arrive at a special staging facility hosted by Adopt-A-Dog in Armonk, New York, at mid-morning. ARF, along with the other shelters from the New York-New Jersey metro area, will be ready and waiting to receive the dogs after the long 24-hour journey. ARF Operations Director, Michele Forrester, who has seen first-hand the conditions at the puppy mills in the Midwest, will then transport the 30+ dogs back to ARF's state-of-the-art Adoption Center to immediately begin the rehabilitation process.

At the Adoption Center, the dogs are bathed and groomed, then spayed or neutered. Many of the dogs utilized for breeding have never been outside of their cages so this will be their first introduction to human care and affection, walking, and playing. Once medically cleared and socialized, an amazing transformation that usually takes only a couple of weeks, the dogs will be put up for adoption at ARF to find loving new homes.

To date, Best Friends has rescued more than 1,200 dogs from puppy mills. After this rescue ARF will have taken in and found new adoptive homes for more than 200 of those dogs. Longtime ARF supporter and celebrity talk show host **Dick Cavett** adopted Riley, a puppy mill rescue dog, from ARF last summer.

“Riley is a great little dog – very loving and inquisitive, making up for a lifetime of pent up curiosity, with a devotion to new smells and experiences. He has bonded surprisingly well and his little personality is adorable. We feel so lucky that he’s come to live with us and encourage others to visit ARF and do the same,” said Mr. Cavett.

**All media is invited to attend and cover the puppy mill rescue effort.** Please register in advance. Details and instructions below:

**UNLOADING OF THE DOGS AT STAGING CENTER:**

Date: Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
Time: Between 10:00 - 11:00am (Call 917-991-1266 for exact ETA day of)  
Unloading of dogs: 10:30am – 12:30pm  
Location: Adopt-A-Dog  
23 Cox Avenue  
Armonk, NY 10504  
[www.adopt-a-dog.org](http://www.adopt-a-dog.org)  
Parking: Will be available at the church next door

**ARRIVAL OF THE DOGS AT ARF IN WAINSCOTT, NY:**

Date: Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
Time: Between 5:00 – 6:00pm (Call for exact ETA day of)  
Location: Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons  
90 Daniels Hole Road  
Wainscott, NY 11975  
[www.arfhamptons.org](http://www.arfhamptons.org)

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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**About ARF:**

The Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons provides for the health and welfare of dogs and cats on the South Fork of Long Island and Shelter Island through shelter and adoption services, medical care, spaying and neutering programs, community outreach and humane education. Founded in 1974, ARF is the leading animal adoption center on the East End. For more information, please visit [www.arfhamptons.org](http://www.arfhamptons.org)