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## **ANIMAL RESCUE FUND OF THE HAMPTONS TAKES PART IN TENTH PUPPY MILL RESCUE AND BRINGS 30 DOGS TO SAFETY ON LONG ISLAND**

**New York, NY** (October 19, 2011) – The **Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons** (ARF, [www.arfhampsons.org](http://www.arfhampsons.org)), a leading animal adoption center on the East End of Long Island, took part in its **tenth puppy mill rescue yesterday on Tuesday, October 18th**. ARF was one of 15 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 brought **more than 150 dogs to safety**, of which **ARF took 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 – **98%** of all puppies sold in pet stores nationwide come from puppy mills. A large percentage of these puppies are imported to the tri-state area where the demand is extremely high," said **Sara Davison, Executive Director at ARF**. "As the holiday season approaches the demand for puppies increases and it's discouraging how many people turn to pet stores. By educating the public and reducing the demand for puppy mill dogs, we hope to encourage people to adopt from shelters instead of buying from pet stores."

The dogs arrived at mid-morning on Tuesday, October 18th at a special staging facility hosted by **Adopt-A-Dog in Armonk, New York**. ARF, along with the other shelters from the New York-New Jersey metro area, were 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, then transported the 30 dogs safely back to ARF's state-of-the-art Adoption Center to immediately begin the rehabilitation process. The breeds ARF rescued yesterday include **cocker spaniels, chihuahuas, brussels griffon, Italian greyhounds** and many more. The age range of the rescue dogs is 4 months to 7 years. After this rescue ARF will have taken in and found new adoptive homes for more than **200** puppy mill rescue dogs.

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 only takes a couple of weeks, the dogs will be put up for adoption at ARF to find loving new homes.

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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)