

Original kennels used from 1925 - 1928



FOUNDING MISSION

In 1924, a small group of passionate women gathered on a Palm Beach porch to address a growing concern: pets left behind after winter visitors returned north. Determined to find a lasting solution, they officially incorporated the **Animal Rescue League** in 1925. *Palm Beach Post* columnist, and original founder of the League, **Amy Lyman Phillips** (left) helped ignite the movement by writing about the plight of abandoned animals. Her call to action inspired the community to donate funds to build and staff a modest shelter (pictured above).



Founder, Amy Lyman Phillips

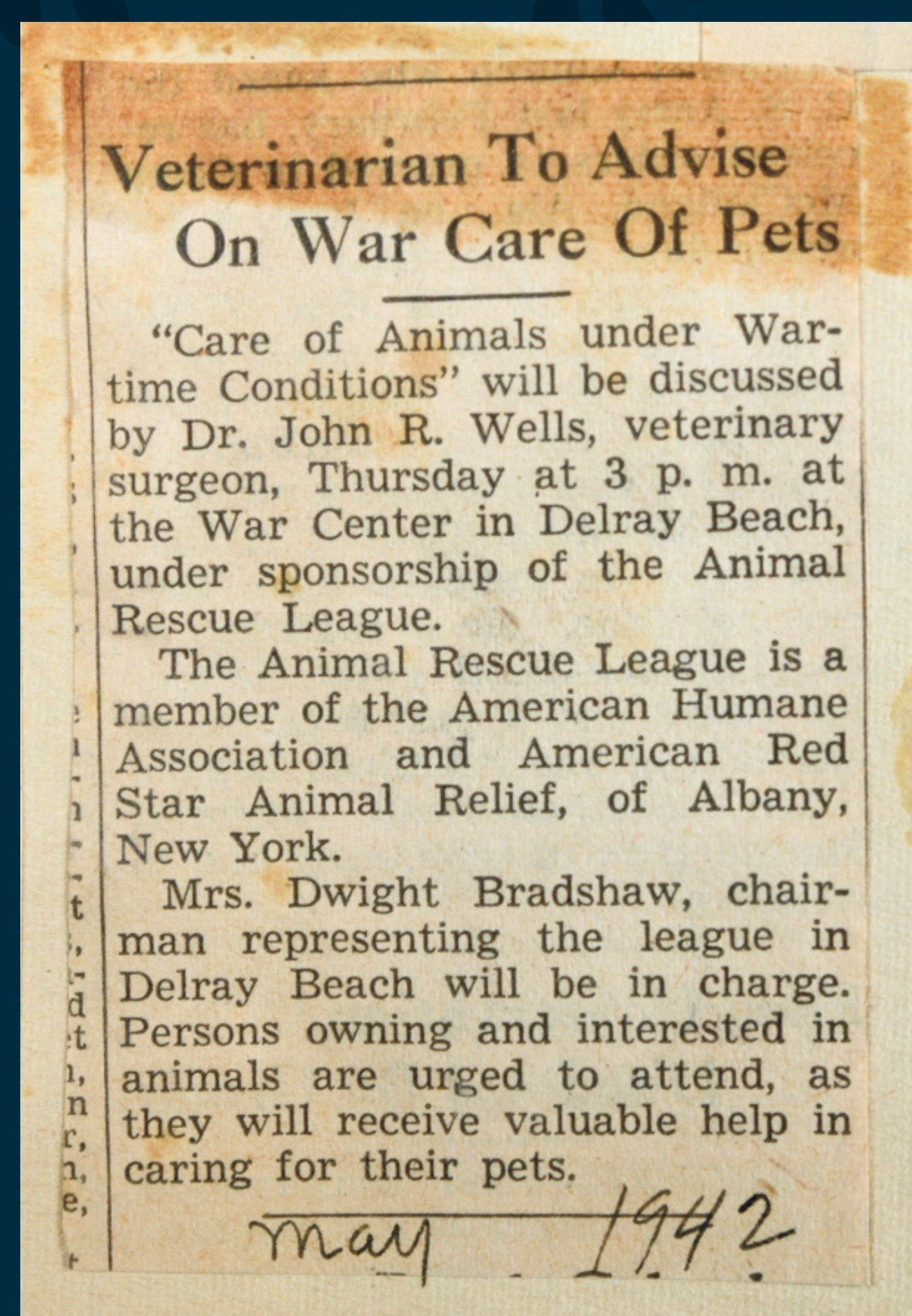
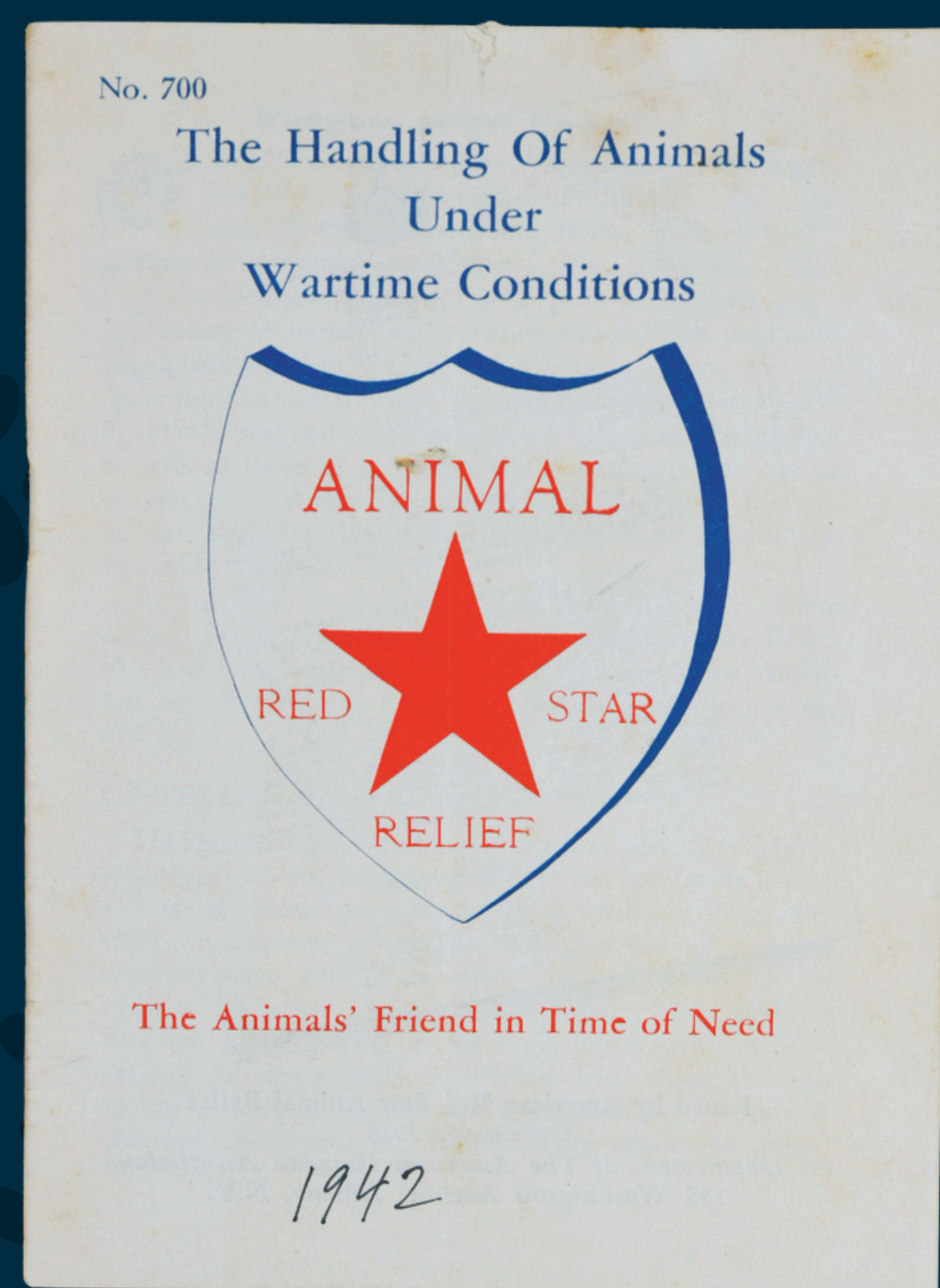
The League quickly expanded its reach across Palm Beach County, providing emergency animal rescue, sheltering, lost-and-found services, and veterinary care. After the Okeechobee Hurricane of 1928 destroyed its first building, the League relocated to Belvedere Road. It operated there until World War II, when the city expanded the airport onto the property. In an agreement with the city, the League exchanged land and moved to a larger site at 23rd Street and North Tamarind Avenue, continuing its lifesaving mission.



Before establishing its home on 23rd Street and Tamarind Avenue (above), the League was forced to move or rebuild several times. With each challenge, the community came together to help, like raising funds and purchasing “tags” to show their support (above right). No matter the setback, the League never wavered in its mission to care for abandoned animals throughout the county (left).



Second location of the League on Belvedere Road



Wartime conditions made life difficult for everyone, and many families struggled to care for themselves, let alone their beloved pets. The Animal Rescue League responded with education and outreach, distributing a booklet titled, "The Handling of Animals Under Wartime Conditions" (top right), and hosting talks by the League's veterinarian on pet care during the war (above).

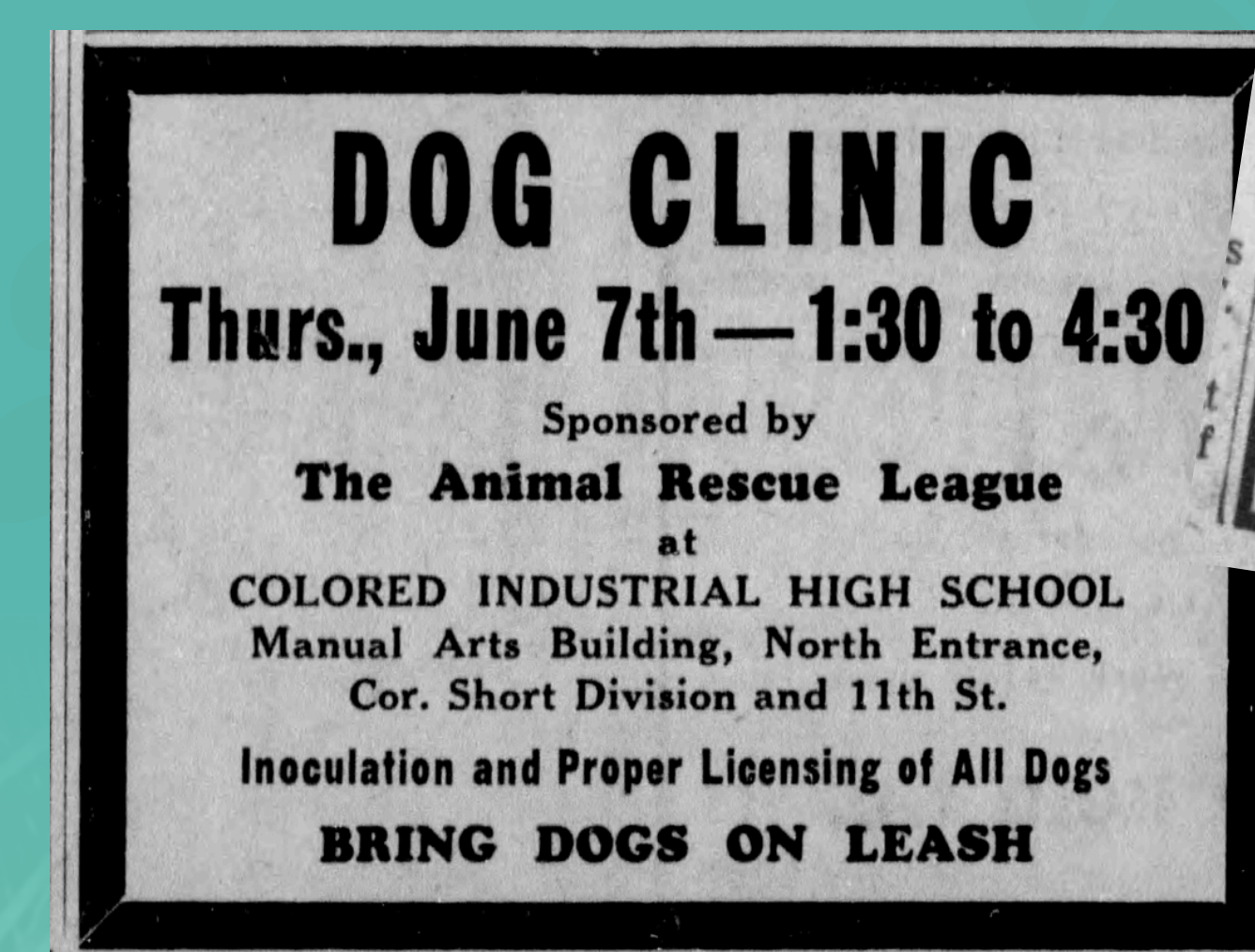
During this period, the League also launched its beloved publication, Four Paws magazine. The first issue in 1942 featured practical advice, such as "A Non-Rationed Diet for Pets" (left). The magazine became a lasting fixture, continuing publication well into the 1970s.

ADVOCACY FOR THE ANIMALS

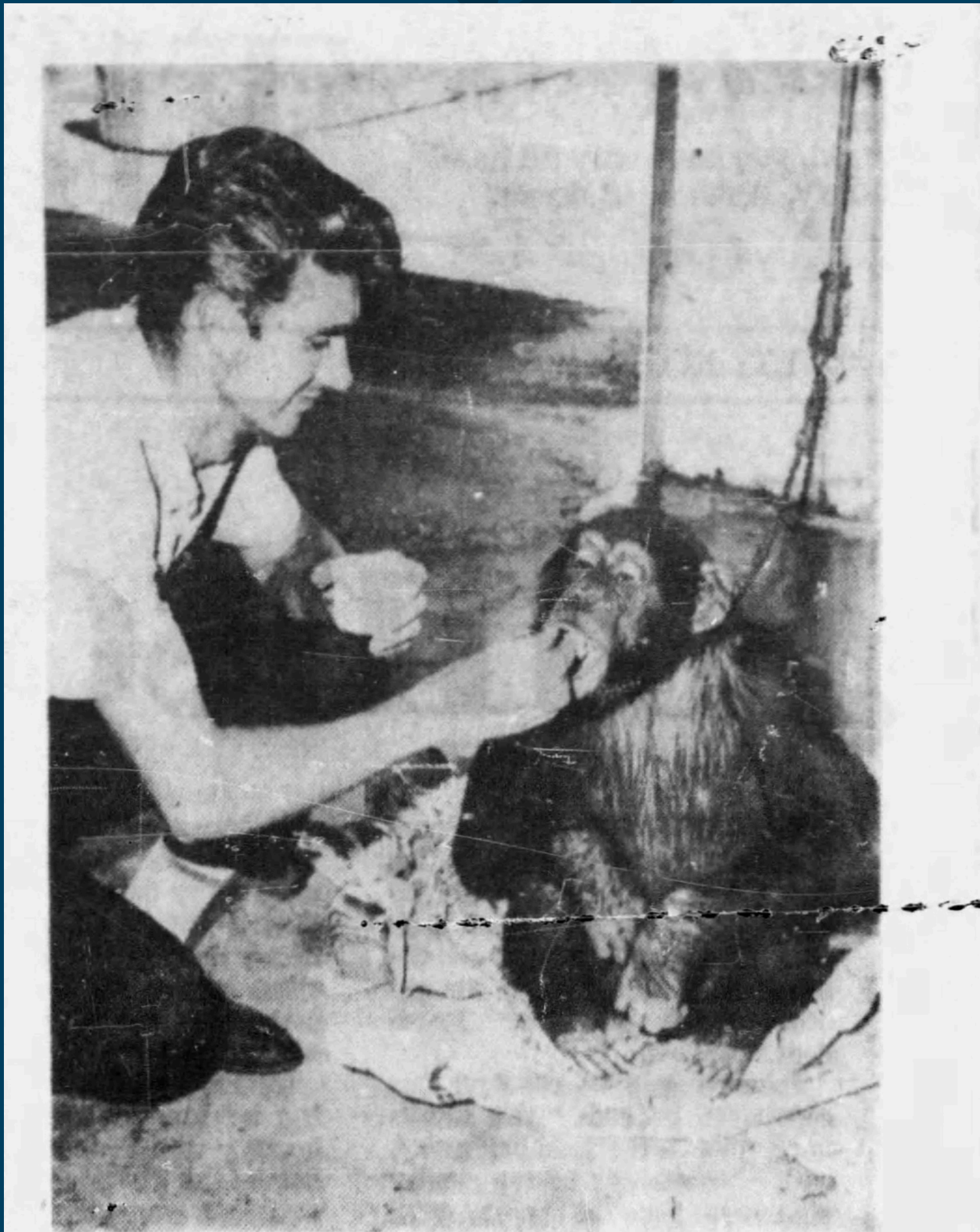
During the hardships of World War II, the Animal Rescue League remained steadfast in its mission to protect animals and support the families who loved them. Even as resources were strained and daily life was upended, the League doubled its efforts to keep pets safe and at home.

Newspaper advertisements, like the 1942 notice shown at far right, offered practical guidance for caring for pets during nightly blackouts. The League organized free clinics in underserved neighborhoods (bottom right), ensuring access to veterinary care when many could no longer afford it. A growing fleet of animal ambulances (below) extended the League's reach across Palm Beach County, rescuing injured and abandoned animals and providing vital transportation to its shelter.

Through innovation, compassion, and tireless community support, the League became an essential lifeline during wartime and beyond; a symbol of hope and humanity when both were needed most.



Shelter Manager LeBlanc, with a new ambulance in the 1950s



(Staff Photo by Johnny Nickles)

PAMPERED CHIMP — Thomas Bowman spoon-feeds cole slaw to Charley, the adventurous chimpanzee owned by John Raynor of West Palm Beach. While Raynor was out of town, Charley went AWOL and wound up in his favorite bar, from which unlikely environment he was swooped up by the Animal Rescue League, which, among other things, is dedicated to uplifting the morals of delinquent chimps.



ZSA ZSA PEEKS OUT FROM BEHIND BARS
... He (Yeah, He's A He) Would Like A Friend
Staff Photo by Bill Allison

**Maj. Halligan
Graduates From
Command School**

LAKE WORTH — Maj. Arthur Halligan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph V. Jacobs, 1225 S. E. St., graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., earlier this month.

The college is the Army's senior tactical school and was established in 1881 to prepare selected officers for duty as commanders and general staff officers at division, corps and field army levels.

Maj. Halligan has been assigned to the U.S. Army Intelligence School, Fort Holabird, Md. He is a 1960 graduate of Pace College, New York.

Mid-Summer

**Orphan Zsa Zsa
Looks For A Home**

Zsa Zsa is looking for a home. Conclusion jumpers would assume this would pose no problem, but this particular Zsa Zsa is having trouble. You see, Zsa Zsa is a skunk—a year-old male of the large northern variety. An orphan—his former owners were unable to care for him properly in their new home—Zsa Zsa is currently staying at the Animal Rescue League as guest of Marion LeBlanc, but he needs a new home. LeBlanc says that Zsa Zsa has been docile and will make some family a clean, friendly pet. "He won't be much trouble to care for either," the ARL director commented. "You can feed him almost anything a human eats."

He added, however, that the eight-pound animal has a particular fondness for poultry and eggs.

Anyone interested in adopting Zsa Zsa can contact LeBlanc at the Animal Rescue League, 2401 S. Tamiami Trail, or phone him at TE 2-3636.

Birds Given Haven During Cold Snaps

Nurses at Pine Ridge Hospital, in response to the appeal made by Keith R. Chinn, chemist at the West Palm Beach Water Company, opened a vacant house near the hospital as a temporary abode for birds suffering from the cool weather.

Water Company employees found about 300 purple martins in the house and took them to the Animal Rescue League where they were given hospitalization. A number of birds, noted stumbling and falling in walking about were taken to the Water Company grounds Friday where an "emergency hospital" was set up for them. An additional 300 birds were taken there Saturday by children and local residents.

People finding or having birds affected by the cold are requested to take them to the Water Company grounds, where a warm place will be provided for them before they are transferred to the Animal Rescue League.

Lose A Monkey?

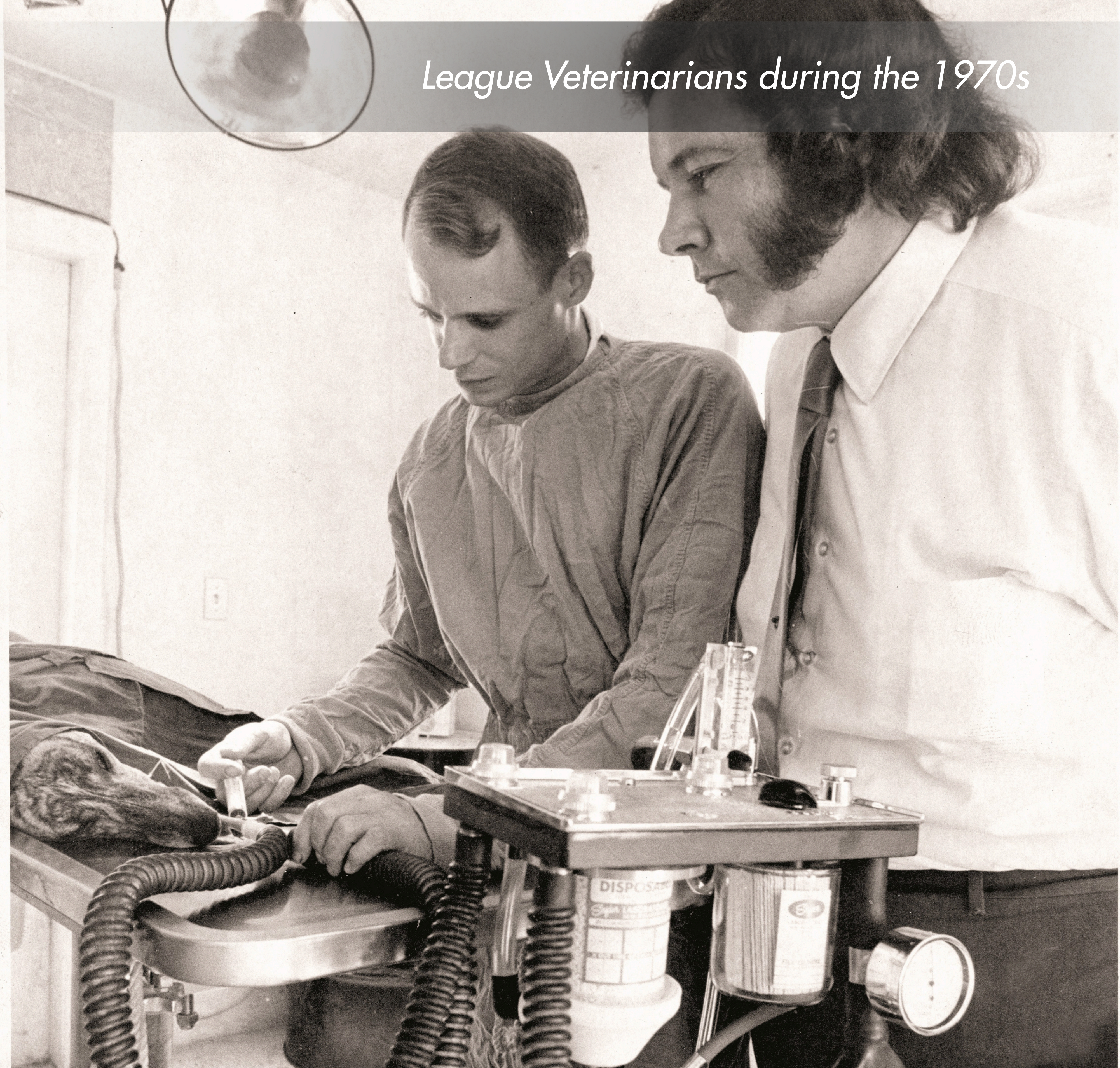
The Animal Rescue League is searching for the owner of a half-starved monkey picked up Wednesday afternoon at Edmore Ave. and the Lake, according to Mrs. Russell Scott, co-manager of the ARL.

Monkeys, Birds, and Skunks, Oh My!

Before the 1970s, the Animal Rescue League received funding from the county and local cities to provide animal services across the region. This support allowed the League to operate an ambulance service, rescuing animals from Riviera Beach to Boca Raton, a service that continued until the county established its own animal services department in 1970.

In the decades that followed, as more nonprofit organizations arrived in the area, the League narrowed its focus to cats and dogs. But in its earlier days, the League cared for a remarkable menagerie, including monkeys, skunks, countless birds, reptiles, and even farm animals, truly a little bit of everything!

League Veterinarians during the 1970s



A MISSION ON THE MOVE

The 1970s marked a defining chapter in the history of the Animal Rescue League and the broader animal welfare movement. As national attention turned toward the growing crisis of pet overpopulation, the League recognized that compassion alone could not solve the problem. Prevention was essential.

At the start of the decade, Palm Beach County established its first animal services department, expanding public resources but leaving an urgent need unmet.

In response, the League took a visionary step that set it apart from other shelters of the time: the creation of **the area's first Spay and Neuter Clinic.**

Made possible through the generosity of philanthropist John D. MacArthur (pictured below), the clinic opened in 1971 and represented a transformative moment for both the League and the community. This ushered in a new era for the Animal Rescue League, one focused not only on treating suffering, but preventing it.





UNWAVERING SUPPORT



Support for the League has come in all shapes and sizes. From craft fairs and animal shows (right) to the beloved **Noah's Ark Thrift Store**, opened in 1972 (below) and run by dedicated staff and volunteers for over 30 years, the community has always stepped up. Alongside elegant society events, these efforts helped the League raise funds and build lasting connections with the people and pets it serves.

The Animal Rescue League has grown and thrived thanks to the extraordinary support of donors and advocates, a tradition that began with the League's original porch meeting in 1924. Over the years, teas, bridge parties, recitals, and lectures were held to raise funds for the League's expanding operations (*original tickets above right*). Members graciously opened their beautiful homes for these events, but no venue was more eagerly anticipated than Marjorie Merriweather Post's estate (below)

which was used on and off from the 1930's through the end of the 1960's.

In the 1970s, the League launched its most enduring fundraising tradition, the annual **Christmas Ball** (above left and large image). Originally chaired by Palm Beach socialite and philanthropist Margo Holder, the ball has become a beloved seasonal tradition, raising millions of dollars over more than 50 years to care for animals in need.



TEA AT MAR-A-LAGO — A capacity crowd spilled into the grand salon and out into the garden of Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post's home Wednesday for the annual Animal Rescue League tea and card party. At left Mrs. Bedford Davie presides at the tea table. More than 400 guests attended.





The domes were originally painted a brilliant white (right), highlighting their smooth, futuristic design. The large western dome housed the adoption and shelter facilities (below). The expansive eastern dome contained the League's clinics, surgical suites, and more. These innovative structures captured the community's imagination, inspiring the next generation of animal welfare advocates (below right).



GROUND BREAKING FOR NEW ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE SHELTER AND CLINIC

FUTURE FORWARD THINKING

Since its founding, the Animal Rescue League has been a pioneer in animal welfare, and the 1980s marked another bold leap forward under the leadership of **George Hulme**. The League purchased its current site at 3200 North Military Trail and broke ground on a unique architectural innovation: two monolithic domes (above). Constructed using the inflation of a large air form (large photo), these domes represented a bold vision for a modern, functional animal care facility. The east dome was dedicated to **Catherine Hyland MacArthur**, whose 1981 bequest helped fund its construction.

By the end of the decade, the League received another transformative gift—an endowment in honor of **Peggy Adams** (below). This support propelled the League into a new era, expanding its services far beyond the curved walls of its innovative domes and cementing its role as a leader in modern animal welfare.





BEST IN CLASS

In the 2000s, Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League experienced rapid growth, and the original domes could no longer accommodate its expanding operations. Recognizing the need for a modern facility, the League broke ground in 2011 on the **Jane & Robert Grace Pavilion**, which would serve as the hub for most operations for nearly a decade.



In 2013, a transformative endowment from **Eunice J. Gardner** paved the way for further expansion, leading to the dedication of the Gardner Campus in 2021. That same year, the **Lesly S. Smith Adoption Center** was brought to life - a welcoming space designed for both animals and families.



The addition of this center allowed the League to renovate the Grace Pavilion in 2023, creating a state-of-the-art veterinary facility for shelter and owned pets alike. These bold steps have enabled the League to meet the evolving needs of the community. Today, the modern, sprawling campus (below) features a **bone-shaped lake**, the **Raber Training Pavilion**, and the **Berman Columbarium and Memorial Gardens**, reflecting the League's commitment to care, innovation, and excellence in animal welfare.



With each expansion and renovation, the League has followed the latest industry guidelines to create safe, comfortable, and stress-free environments for animals. Dogs and cats enjoy spaces designed to be calming, engaging, and free from the sensory stresses often associated with shelters. A dedicated team of volunteers and animal care staff provide enrichment, affection, and expert care while the animals await their new families.

