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NEWS RELEASE: For Immediate Release



Animal advocates head to Frankfort on FEB 18th for Kentucky Animal Action Day

Adults and teen advocates will gather to discuss animal welfare in Kentucky, pending legislation, animal cruelty laws, and to rally outside the Capitol Building

FRANKFORT, KY (February 2025)—At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, February 18, almost 40 teens from the Humane Action Team at Assumption High School will gather in the Capitol Rotunda Building, 700 Capital Ave., in Frankfort, Ky., along with leaders from [The Arrow Fund](#) and other animal advocates from around the Bluegrass state to speak up on behalf of the voiceless victims of animal abuse during [Kentucky Animal Action Day \(KAAD\)](#).



Penny at Intake

Penny, who was rescued by The Arrow Fund in 2020 after her abuser broke three of her legs and threw her out of a moving vehicle two weeks later, will be there to stand on three legs beside the students and animal advocates during their Rotunda press conference at 9 a.m. on Feb. 18th.

*Penny, rescued by The Arrow Fund from horrific abuse, was named an American Hero Dog finalist, and recently featured on the **Today Show** and **The Kelly Clarkson Show** for her resilience in the face of human cruelty.*

KAAD at the Ky. State Capital, Frankfort, Ky., on Tuesday, February 18th:

9-11 AM—KAAD PRESS CONFERENCE, (including student speakers and Penny)
Capitol ROTUNDA, 700 Capital Ave., Frankfort, Ky.

12-1:30 PM—RALLY IN SUPPORT OF STRONGER ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS in KY
Animal advocates will gather in the Green Space between the Capitol buildings.

2-4 PM—Meet with legislators, in the Capitol Annex, 702 Capital Ave.

KAAD was created in part because Kentucky has ranked among the worst for animal welfare in the United States—dropping to the [FOURTH WORST STATE for animal protection laws in 2024](#). Felony charges for animal abuse only cover a limited number of species, and abusers are not prohibited from owning animals again, perpetuating the cycle of abuse, as well as the costs associated with it.

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Kentucky Animal Action founder, **Mychell Lawson**, hopes to pass a bill she helped craft with former Louisville Metro Police Officer **Joye Keeley**, the Kentucky Animal Action team, and **Senator Julie Raque Adams (R)**. The former police officer has been working to expose the link between animal abuse and crimes against humans. **Research shows that there is an 80 percent correlation between animal and child abuse.**

“Half of all children are exposed to animal cruelty at some point in their lives. Children who are exposed to interpersonal violence at home are 60 times more likely to suffer emotional maltreatment and physical abuse or neglect. These circumstances place children at an increased risk of perpetuating the cycle of violence in the future due to desensitization and the belief that violence is an acceptable way to resolve interpersonal conflict.” (As reported by the Behavioral Analysis Unit of the FBI)

“Abusers will often threaten or harm companion animals as a way of controlling and intimidating their human victims. It is vital that the law recognize this link so that both humans and animals can access the resources they need to get to safety, such as obtaining domestic violence protection orders.” (As reported by the national Animal Legal Defense Fund)

KAAD hopes to make a difference in Kentucky:

Lawson said pending legislation would help make the animal abuser responsible for the cost of the animal’s medical needs and care. Right now, Kentucky taxpayers shoulder the costs associated with abuse of animals. The new bill will help save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Another bill up for consideration will increase awareness for pet spays/neuters generated from **PSA license plates**. Increases in pet spays/neuters across the Commonwealth will offer much-needed relief for Kentucky’s overburdened animal shelters, as well as decrease the number of pets euthanized from at-capacity conditions. “This bill will also save money for taxpayers across the state, who ultimately shoulder the costs when our animal shelters overflow with unwanted pets,” Lawson said.

For more information, email: KentuckyAnimalAction@gmail.com.



PENNY NOW!

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The Arrow Fund is a Kentuckiana-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to providing medical treatment, rehabilitation, and safe homes for animals that have been the victims of torture, abuse, and extreme neglect. The Arrow Fund strives to educate the public regarding the on-going problem of animal cruelty and advocate strengthening our local, state, and national animal welfare laws.

For more information or to make a donation, please find us online at www.thearrowfund.org or find all of our current animal cases at www.facebook.com/TheArrowFund or on Instagram @thearrowfund.

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