

The Humane Society of Jackson County-ARF is excited to announce several new changes in 2024.



As of January 2, 2024, Rebecca Stevens has been named the inaugural executive director of ARF. Stevens brings a wealth of experience to ARF, including over 25 years of working with dogs. Her background in law enforcement and emergency services has allowed her to be able to train with some of the most professional animals in the country. Stevens also has experience working with various non-profits, including numerous animal rescues, transporting, and fostering dogs until they are adopted. Her passion for saving animals is evident from the moment you meet her. "I've been rescuing animals since I was young. My parents never knew what I was going to bring home next, whether it was a stray dog, or a hermit crab that needed to be rehomed" Stevens said. During the last two years, she has become involved with assisting the Western Carolina University Cadaver Dog Training program. This

internationally recognized program has elite instructors that have allowed her to expand her experience in search and rescue/recovery. Stevens stated "I am excited to see ARF's history throughout the years and how much it has already grown. The hard work and countless hours the volunteers have contributed over the years has made ARF what it is today. Due to our exponential growth, we need more volunteers, especially fosters."

Stevens has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from UNC-Wilmington and a Master of Arts in Management and Communication from Bellevue University. She resides in Jackson County with her spouse, Reggie, and 2 dogs: A 15-year-old beagle mix named Bailey and 4-year-old pit bull named Chessie.

Another exciting announcement for ARF is the recent move to the Jackson County Animal Rescue Center located at the Green Energy Park in Dillsboro. The county graciously agreed for the rescue to have an office located to the left front doors of the shelter. ARF is generally open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stevens will be there getting the office up and running, so stop by for more information on volunteering, fostering, adopting, and/or spay/neuter trips.