

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **NEGLECTED DOG FOUND COVERED IN WOUNDS AT LOCAL PARK**

**TACOMA, WA** – On May 11, a community member found a severely emaciated dog with several wounds on its legs and paws at Celebration Park in Federal Way.



*Ari was found severely emaciated with several wounds on his legs and paws.*

The 3-year-old pit bull, now named Ari, was found with deep, bleeding wounds on his legs with one paw pad hanging off his foot.

He weighs 30 pounds, which is half the weight needed to be considered healthy for this age and breed.

“We found him laying right next to the trail,” says Shannice Johnson, the community member who found Ari. “He was so skinny and was having a hard time walking. He could barely lift up his head. I knew we couldn’t leave him there and he needed help.”

Ari was brought to the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County where he is currently receiving care.

Ari arrived to the shelter exhausted and cold due to a lack of body fat and muscle atrophy. The shelter’s veterinary staff immediately started cleaning his wounds and wrapping them to avoid infection.

“This is amongst one of the worst cases I have ever seen,” says Jennifer Bennett, chief veterinary officer at the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County. “The dog remained in this condition for far too long. This does not happen overnight. It occurs after weeks or months of neglect.”

Ari is now on a refeeding program to ensure he does not become sick and is receiving regular bandage changes for his wounds.

Donations are urgently needed from the community to help the shelter provide the daily lifesaving care needed for Ari and the many other pets in need of urgent medical care. Donations can be made on the shelter’s website at: [www.thehumanesociety.org/ari/](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/ari/).

**About the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County**

As one of the oldest animal welfare organizations in the nation, the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County cares for around 10,000 animals every year and maintains multiple humane programs. Dedicated to "Making Happy Happen," the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County works tirelessly to protect animals, support pet owners, and enhance relationships between animals and people. Learn more at [www.thehumanesociety.org](http://www.thehumanesociety.org).

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