Why Is That Doggie in the Window?
V.I.P. Lounge Spotlights Deserving Pets

We are always looking for ways to promote adoption of our shelter animals. Our Executive Director, Neil Trent, brought an idea from another shelter to create an area in our front lobby to show animals that may not have attracted much adoption interest. We relocated our retail display to the side and back walls of our lobby and created a small animal viewing/meeting area right at our front window. A generous donation allowed us to build a partial wall with a door to enclose an area for a dog bed or cat or rabbit cage and a bench where visitors can sit. Each week a dog, cat, or small companion animal will be in our new Very Important Pet Lounge during our adoption hours. As visitors approach our front door we hope they will notice a pet that they might otherwise overlook.

Some of our first VIPs were pit bulls since they tend to take longer to be adopted. Memphis and Champ have both enjoyed the spotlight in the VIP Lounge. At this writing Memphis has gone to her new home and Champ is still available for adoption. We also offered a special incentive for people to adopt pit bulls in February and March—free obedience classes. Anyone who adopted a pit bull during that time is eligible for a completely free seven-week obedience class taught at the League by Opportunity Barks!

The V.I.P. Lounge is just one of the initiatives we are taking to enrich shelter animals’ lives and speed their adoption. With trainer Darren Sellers, our Adoptions Manager, Rebecca Yoo and her staff are training volunteer dog walkers to use positive reinforcement techniques to modify certain behaviors such as jumping up, pulling on the leash, and reactivity to other dogs. Changing these kinds of behaviors can help a dog show better to potential adopters and settle more easily into a new home. So far we have 25 dog walkers participating. Volunteers will also supervise dog play groups so that dogs can get needed playtime and work off more of their boundless energy. We hope that these initiatives will put some polish on our “diamonds in the rough” and get them into new homes as quickly as possible.
Sharing Our World with Wildlife

Above: a nestling; left: a fledgling on the ground while it is learning to fly.

In Northern Virginia we share our environment with an abundance of wildlife, catching glimpses of opossums, turtles, deer, birds, even snakes. Watching the progress of just-hatched robins or a fox and her kits play in the sun is exciting and educational. Wild animals seem to be very bold these days, but this is because their territories are shrinking. Wooded areas that wildlife inhabit have been destroyed to make way for humans. As a result, animals are forced into the open to search for food and shelter which they find in abundance near people. Our litter, garbage cans, sheds, and decks provide a free buffet and cozy shelter for wild animals.

The League promotes harmonious coexistence with our wild neighbors. Understanding wild creatures’ habits and behavior will go a long way to reduce conflict between animals and humans. Our Web site (http://awla.org/wildlife-prevention.shtml) provides information on preventing wildlife from entering living spaces, on wildlife typically found in Arlington, and on what to do if you find a baby bird.

A tremendous amount of League staff and volunteer time each spring and summer is taken up with handling calls about baby birds. Most people want to help when they see a baby bird, but often the best way to help is to leave the bird alone. The most important thing to determine is whether the bird is a nestling or a fledgling.

A nestling is a baby bird that is pink with very few or no feathers. It still needs to be in the nest. A fledgling is a baby bird that has some feathers and can hop around. Its parents have pushed it out of the nest on purpose to help it learn how to fly. If you find a nestling, please try to locate the nest and put it back. Or if the bird is a fledgling, please do not disturb it; it is probably learning how to fly. Following this one piece of advice will do a great deal to allow not only League staff and volunteers, but also wildlife rehabilitators to focus on wild animals that actually do need our help.

Animal Welfare League Receives PetSmart Charities Grant

The League is excited to announce a new $10,000 PetSmart Charities® grant to help feral cats in our community. This grant will assist the League in trapping and spaying/neutering feral cats. Each year the League receives a large number of stray kittens and feral cats. The goal of this program is to decrease the number of stray kittens and feral cats in our community and therefore brought to the shelter each year. “The Animal Welfare League of Arlington’s spay/neuter program is a great example of taking the initiative to improve the local community,” said Susana Della Maddalena, executive director of PetSmart Charities, Inc. “Targeted programs like these are the key to successful, low-cost spay/neuter in local communities. Cumulatively, they are making a huge impact on pet overpopulation nationwide.”

For more information, e-mail tnr@awla.org or call 703-931-9241 ext 222.
Shelter Staff Conquer Ringworm

In July 2010 a little orange kitten with a few patches of missing fur was brought into the shelter as a stray. She was about two months old, and we named her Mia Bella. She had an upper respiratory infection in addition to the patchy fur loss. Then another cat came in with patchy fur loss, and another. We began treating Mia Bella for her cold, and in early August a test confirmed that the fur loss was a result of ringworm.

Ringworm is not caused by a worm. It is an infection of the skin caused by a highly contagious fungus. It spreads through skin-to-skin contact with a person or animal that has it. It can also spread on things like towels and clothing. So we began weekly lime sulfur dips and systemic treatment with an oral antifungal medication. Finally, we had 21 cats with confirmed ringworm that were all undergoing weekly dipping, weekly testing, and systemic treatment. The cats also had to be quarantined from all other animals and people. We converted our cat sick bay room and our former dog receiving room into ringworm quarantine rooms.

Animal care technicians had to wear protective clothing including hair and shoe covers to go in these rooms to clean and care for the quarantined cats. Of course, this is in addition to caring for the 60-80 other cats in the shelter. Our administrative staff all pitched in to help with regular kennel cleaning so that the animal care staff could do the extra work required to care for the quarantined cats. We also began completely stripping, cleaning, and disinfecting the quarantine rooms with a bleach solution once a week. Some animal care staff, led by Kim O’Keefe, Assistant Manager of Animal Care, came in late at night to disinfect after everyone else was gone. Even with precautions, a few staff members caught the fungus themselves. We also instituted some new cleaning protocols in our other cat areas to reduce the possibility of contamination.

After five months of treatment and a set-back with a serious jaw infection that required surgery, Mia Bella finally became healthy enough for adoption. She moved out of quarantine into our main cat room and was soon adopted into a loving home. By January 2011 all of our 21 quarantined cats had fully recovered and been adopted. This episode reminds us of the dedication of our staff and their willingness to work all hours of the day and night and even risk their own health to help the animals in our care.

Above: Kim O’Keefe, Assistant Manager of Animal Care, prepares to scrub and disinfect a ringworm room; left: Mia Bella when she arrived at the shelter and five months later.

Adopted

Buddy, adopted in December of 2010.
Every year the League receives generous donations in honor of people, pets, special occasions, and in memory of loved ones. The reasons for these donations are endless but they all have the same purpose – to help the homeless animals in our community. But did you know that the League offers a special way to honor your loved ones? Animal lovers can now create their own personalized fundraising Web pages to support the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. It’s simple, fast, and free!

If you are celebrating a special occasion such as a birthday or a wedding, or even participating in an exciting event like a marathon, simply go to the League’s Web site at http://www.awla.org/donate-personal-pages.shtml and create your own personalized Web page. You can even add a picture and a personal message. Once your page is created, you can e-mail it to your family and friends and ask them to make a donation to the League in lieu of traditional gifts. Donations can be made quickly and easily online with a credit or a Visa or Mastercard debit card, 24 hours a day.

You can also create a memorial to a beloved person or pet. You can honor a special animal friend or an important person in your life by creating a memorial Web page and inviting friends to make a donation to the League. To see a sample of a memorial page, go to http://www.firstgiving.com/rockyroo.

This is an exciting opportunity to spread awareness and raise important funds and it is effective. A team of climbers who scaled Mt. Everest raised $17,000 for breast cancer research using the same feature! Please feel free to try this new service for your next special occasion, holiday, or memorial. For more information, visit our Web site, email us at donate@awla.org or call the Development Office at (703) 931-9241 x 220.

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**Thanks To Our Donors**

*Thank you to the League supporters who donated $250 or more between October and December 2010.*

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If your name is not included on the above list and it should be, please contact the Development Office at 703-931-9241 x220 or e-mail donate@awla.org.

For a complete list of donors for fiscal year 2010, see our Web site at http://awla.org/FY10donorlist.pdf.
75 Pets Neutered for Spay Day 2011

For Spay Day 2011 the League subsidized neuter surgery for 75 dogs and cats for low-income owners. Pet owners paid only $25 for surgery and also had the choice of reduced cost vaccinations and microchipping for $10. Funds for subsidizing surgeries once again came from the League’s Hantke Memorial Spay/Neuter Fund.

The League thanks veterinarians at the National Capital Spay/Neuter Center, Fairfax Animal Hospital, and Paws, Purrs, and Exotics for making these surgeries possible. Although we make a special push each February for Spay Day, the League helps low-income owners with neutering all year round. You can help reduce pet overpopulation and the resulting animal suffering by donating to the Hantke Fund.

Paws Applause

Arlington Junior Girl Scout Troup 438 brought in tons of donations for our shelter animals.

League Services

Emergencies in Arlington
We respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day.

Adoptions
We always have animals who need good homes. If you live in Virginia, DC, or Maryland call us about adopting a companion.

Animal Control & Cruelty Investigation
Animal control officers pick up stray dogs and respond to citizen complaints about animals in Arlington.

Community Services
The League sponsors community services that help people and animals. Visit our Web site at www.awla.org or call (703) 931-9241 x 200 for information.

Lost & Found
Call (703) 931-9241 x 200 or visit our Web site at www.awla.org to report all lost and found animals. We can help find animals’ owners and return lost pets home again.

Wildlife Rescue & Problems
We’ll help get injured or abandoned wildlife to a licensed rehabilitator whenever possible. We’ll also help you discourage wildlife from moving into your home.

Rabies Control
See the calendar on the back cover for clinic dates and times.

Speakers & Humane Education
If your neighborhood is having animal problems or problems with irresponsible animal owners, you might want a League representative to address your civic association. We also present educational programs on many topics to schools and clubs. Visit our website at www.awla.org or call (703) 931-9241 x 213 for information.

Pawpourri, the newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr., Arlington, VA 22206, http://www.awla.org, is published quarterly and mailed to League supporters. If you receive multiple copies, please notify us and pass them along to friends.

A COPY OF THE LATEST FINANCIAL REPORT AND REGISTRATION FILED BY THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING the State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
Adopted


Right: Sasha, adopted in December of 2010.

Left: Quinn, adopted in December of 2010.

Looking for a way to start off the dog days of summer? How about a walk with your dog and 500 animal lovers? On Saturday, May 14, 2011, the League will host its 16th annual Walk for the Animals! Animal lovers from across the DC-metro area will come together to kick-off Arlington’s Neighborhood Day. This is the League’s biggest fundraiser of the year. Thanks to the support of generous people like you, last year’s Walk was one of our most successful to date – raising over $100,000!

The Walk begins and ends in Arlington’s Bluemont Park (329 N. Manchester Street, Arlington, VA 22203). Owner-accompanied dogs older than four months and humans of all ages are invited to participate. For their safety, cats and other pets must remain at home. Information on how to register or donate can be found at www.awla.kintera.org/walk2011, where you can create your own personalized fundraising Web page. From your page you can spread the word and collect pledges from friends and family around the world!

Registration is $25 per person in advance and $40 on the day of the Walk. All pre-registered walkers receive a Walk t-shirt, and participating dogs receive their very own bandana. In addition, walkers who earn $75 or $150 in pledges will receive great prizes.

On May 14th check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the Walk kicks off at 9:30 a.m. Walkers can choose between a three-mile walk or a one-mile stroll through the park. Before and after the Walk, Bluemont Park will come alive with exciting demonstrations, entertainment, and displays at our various sponsors’ booths. K-9 units, the Department of Agriculture’s Beagle Brigade, and agility demonstrations have all put on exciting shows in past years.

Sponsoring the Walk is another great way to participate. Sponsors benefit by promoting their businesses while showing...
16th Annual Walk for the Animals

Photos, opposite page and right: Walk teams enjoy last year’s 15th annual Walk.

community support. There are a number of sponsorship levels available to businesses of all types who want to help make a direct impact on homeless animals. For more information on Walk sponsorship, contact Sally Harte at (703) 931-9241 x 216 or sharte@awla.org.

All proceeds from the Walk will help the League to continue its important work with the community’s homeless and neglected animals. For more information about the event and to register visit www.awla.kintera.org/walk2011 or call (703) 931-9241 x 216. We hope to see you in Bluemont Park on May 14th!
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For information call 703.738.6832 or visit TimeforaWalk.com
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For a complete list of sponsors please visit http://awla.kintera.org/walk2011.

Look for more info online at http://www.awla.org

Rabies Clinics
Please bring dogs on leashes and cats and ferrets in carriers.
Rabies Shot: $10
March 24 • May 26 • June 23 • Aug 25
Sept 22 • Oct 27 • Dec 1 (1st Thurs)
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Please bring proof of a prior rabies shot (a rabies certificate, not a tag) to get a three-year rabies shot.
Without it, your pet will receive a one-year shot.

League Hours
Visiting:
Noon – 7:00 p.m. Monday
Closed Tuesday
Noon – 7:00 p.m. Wed. - Fri.
Noon – 4:00 p.m. Sat. - Sun.
Receiving Incoming Animals:
8:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. daily
Emergencies: 24 hours a day

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