Volunteer of the Year 2010: Beth Stevens

Each year the staff nominates several outstanding volunteers, and our Board of Directors selects a Volunteer of the Year. It is always a difficult choice because we have so many volunteers worthy of recognition. This year’s honoree is Beth Stevens, who has volunteered with the League since 2007. She is a regular weekend front desk volunteer and she has also fostered 108 kittens and cats through our fostering program. Beth is dependable, cheerful, upbeat and exceptionally flexible. She is very capable at the front desk and easy to work with. In addition, she will often volunteer to fill in during open shifts when we cannot find cover.

As a foster parent, she has often adjusted her schedule to meet the needs of her fosterlings including shopping for special food, agreeing to experimental medications when the usual treatment is not working and assisting in setting up surgery for one of her charges. She has even taken more than one litter at a time when needed, going through the extra effort of sequestering one litter from another. Beth has been unusually generous with her time and in opening up her home to so many animals in need. Beth’s contributions to the welfare of our animals have been invaluable, and we hope to keep her in our volunteer program for many years to come.

On March 29 the League hosted our Volunteer Appreciation event at the county building next door. We had delicious food from Lebanese Taverna, a terrific slide show about volunteering created by Viviane Silverman, exciting prizes, and the announcement of the Volunteer of the Year. About 80 volunteers and 20 staff attended. All volunteers received a keepsake mug with the AWLA logo, and many won prizes including an Amazon kindle. Everyone met our new Volunteer and Foster Coordinator, Kristin Johnson. Neil Trent, Executive Director, awarded the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award to

Beth Stevens receives the Volunteer of the Year plaque from Neil Trent, Executive Director
Volunteer Appreciation Continued

Beth Stevens, a front desk volunteer and foster parent. After the event several volunteers took tours of the dog intake facility that opened in Sept. 2010. If you are a volunteer and missed the event, be sure to watch for announcements about next year’s appreciation dinner.

The League Thanks our Veterinary Partners

On Sunday, May 1, the League hosted a brunch for the local veterinarians who devote many hours of their free time to treating animals in the shelter. Our Animal Care Managers, Ed Maher and Kim O’Keefe, organized the event to say thank you to these dedicated volunteers. We had veterinarians and staff from Ballston Animal Hospital, Caring Hands Animal Hospital, Del Ray Animal Hospital, and Fairfax Animal Hospital. We also invited Julie Gould and Percy Ivy, the generous donors who founded our Woody and Mickey Healthy Pet Fund. This fund pays for treatment that would otherwise be unaffordable, such as orthopedic surgery and dental extractions. Even some of the animals treated from this fund showed up! Secret, a 13-year-old Pomeranian needed blood tests, urinalysis, and dental cleaning with tooth extractions. She is now healthy and she attended the brunch with her new loving family.

Right: Veterinarians enjoy the brunch with AWLA staff

League volunteers enjoyed food, fun and companionship at the annual volunteer appreciation dinner on March 29.

Left: Neil Trent with Julie Gould and Percy Ivy, founders of the Woody and Mickey Healthy Pet Fund

Below: Secret attended the brunch with her new family.
AWLA Hosts International Interns

Each year Humane Society International (HSI) places interns with host agencies in the week prior to the Humane Society of the United States Animal Care Expo. The interns spend a week with the host agency learning and exchanging information and then they attend the expo. This year the League hosted two international interns from April 26-May 2.

AWLA’s two interns were Jessica Gonzales, a volunteer from ARCA in Cuenca, Ecuador and Mariana Issa, the Adoption and Rescue Program Coordinator of Fundación Luca, an animal welfare association in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Both organizations are nonprofits dedicated to the protection and rescue of animals, specifically dogs and cats in the streets. Both organizations also have low-cost sterilization programs.

While at AWLA the interns observed all operations at our shelter (including animal control, vaccinating, record keeping, health screening, cleaning, behavior modification, adoption, fund raising, and volunteering) and, when appropriate worked alongside our staff. Jessica and Mariana scrubbed cages, gave medications, sat in on behavior evaluations and adoption interviews, and rode along on animal control calls.

Both interns were grateful for the experience they had. Jessica said, “I was very interested in animal care and behavioral training procedures because in Ecuador there is no professional who could advise us on the subject.” Mariana mentioned that the two most important lessons she will take back to Mexico are the cleaning and vaccination protocols and the fundraising ideas, especially the Woody and Mickey Healthy Pet Fund.

The year HSI has placed 21 interns out of 40 internship applications received. The intern(s) came from Puerto Rico, Philippines, Africa, Mexico, Egypt, Ecuador, Chile, Panama, Tanzania, India, China, Kenya, Peru, Portugal, Brazil and Cote D’Ivoire. We hope to host international interns again next year.

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) has become the first humane society in the Washington, DC Metro area to launch an iPhone application to enhance its mission. The “Arlington Pets” application provides mobile access to the latest information about homeless animals at AWLA. The application provides a current list of cats, dogs, and other companion animals that are available for adoption. The application is intuitive and easy to use, for instance:

• Touch “DOGS” to get a list of all available dogs.
• When you see one you like, touch it to review a detailed description including personality characteristics and exercise needs.
• When you’ve fallen in love, touch CALL or E-MAIL to contact AWLA immediately to inquire about adoption!

The free application is compatible with both the iPhone and iPad and will be enhanced with new features and functionality, so watch for free updates in the App Store!
There’s More to Sheltering Than Dogs and Cats

One of our organization’s biggest challenges is finding homes for small companion animals. We always have more coming in than we have potential adopters. Our transfers to breed specific rescue groups over the past several years have helped with the constant influx of unwanted pets, however, we still need many more people to adopt rabbits, chinchillas, ferrets, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, and birds. Here are some of our adorable small pets in need of homes.

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.

Thanks To Our Donors

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the League between January and March 2011. To see a complete list of donors, please visit our Web site at http://awla.org/donate.shtml.
Adopted


Despite the rain, animal lovers throughout the region came together on Saturday morning, May 14 for a fantastic 16th Annual Walk for the Animals. This event drew almost 500 people who walked, volunteered, sponsored, and collectively raised over $92,000 for the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. This money will help the League feed, shelter, and care for 3,000 homeless animals and wildlife and continue to provide low-cost and free spay/neuter programs and community outreach and education.

The Walk kicked off at 9:00am at Bluemont Park, where walkers enjoyed coffee and food provided by Java Shack and Great Harvest Bread. The morning was filled with excitement as WOOF! Dog Training Center entertained everyone with their agility skills. Of course, it wouldn’t be fair for only two-legged participants to get a treat, so dogs enjoyed bobbing for biscuits and treats at the sponsors’ booths. Exercise, doggie friends, and treats made for a lot of happy dogs!

Enthusiastic participants included dogs of all sizes and breeds. Even a few dogs that are up for adoption at the League joined in on the three-mile and one-mile trails. Volunteers provided water and assistance along the trail, and three County officials helped direct walkers across Wilson Boulevard.

After walking, participants enjoyed music provided by Washington Talent and more demonstrations by Fort Myer Kennels Military Working Dog Team and the Arlington County Sheriff’s Department K9 Unit. The dogs were incredible, showing off their ability for finding narcotics and showing how they take down the bad guys!

The League would like to extend a very big thank you to all the walkers, volunteers, donors and sponsors who participated in this year’s Walk. We are especially grateful to Pro Feed, Inc. and Time for a Walk, our Top Cat sponsors. Your support enables us to help thousands of dogs, cats and small companion animals every year.

1st: photo courtesy of Ryan Turpenhoff; 2nd: photo courtesy of Ryan Turpenhoff; 3rd: photo courtesy of Barry Altman
Walk for the Animals Sponsors

Grand Prize VIP Raffle Winner
Keely Fahoum

Top Pledge Winners
Jonathan Discount
Debra Rose
Lisa Mattison

Top Adult Team Winner
2 Street Crew

Top Junior Pledge Winner
Isabelle Schneiderman

Top Junior/Kids Team Winner
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Upcoming Events

The Cause for Paws
August 20, 2011
12:00 - 4:00 PM
Join Us for a Fun Event at
The Bungalow in Shirlington

Catsino Night
Save the Date for our Fall Event
Saturday, November 5, 2011

Rabies Clinics
Please bring dogs on leashes and cats and ferrets in carriers.

Rabies Shot: $10
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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