Adoption Success Stories

Ben

Ben, a seven-month-old male brown tabby, came to the League because of an owner problem in June 2010. Staff vaccinated him and put him on view for adoption. He was sent for neutering surgery soon after. But a few days after his neuter, Ben began having the eye and nose discharge typical of feline upper respiratory infection. One of our volunteer visiting veterinarians prescribed a course of antibiotics, and we moved Ben into cat sick bay. Ben soon stopped eating, and staff had to give him subcutaneous fluids. The vet prescribed an appetite stimulant.

When this treatment did not result in any improvement, we sent Ben to a local animal hospital. Blood tests were done, and Ben was given an injectable antibiotic, fluids, and nursing care. After three days of hospitalization Ben started eating on his own, and the veterinarian decided that he was well enough to return to the shelter. Ben stayed in sick bay on medication until he was symptom-free and gaining weight. We then moved him back to the adoption area. During all of Ben’s many medical examinations, an umbilical hernia was found but he was too ill to have surgery. Therefore, when he had recovered sufficiently we sent him for a surgical hernia repair made possible by the Woody and Mickey Healthy Pet Fund. After all of his extensive medical treatment, Ben went to his new home at the end of July.

Buddy & Squirt

Buddy and Squirt’s owner brought the dogs to the League from Virginia Beach in April 2010 because she was moving and couldn’t take them. Buddy is a bluetick hound and Squirt is a boxer mix. Together they weigh almost 200 lbs. Both are extremely friendly. We were thrilled when an adopter took them both in June. Less than a month later, however, the adopter brought them back because they were reactive to other dogs when on leash and reactive toward people who entered the home.

Since they had always lived together and seemed to depend on one another, we wanted to find another adopter who would take them both. Many shelter visitors liked them but did not want to take two such large dogs. We took them to an adoption event at Dogma Bakery on North Harrison Street in Arlington, and bakery owner, Sheila
Adoption Success Stories

Raebel, fell in love with them. She promoted them to her customers and even offered reduced price food for their lifetimes to anyone who would adopt them. She held a party for them and another one of our dogs, Mya, at the bakery and invited us to bring them to an event in Delaplane, Virginia, in hopes of attracting someone living in a more rural area. We also showed them off at two Arlington events, Dogtober Day at Lacey Woods Park and Wags ‘n’ Whiskers in Shirlington. Still no one applied to adopt them.

Then one Saturday a visitor who already had one dog met them at the shelter and said she would love to adopt Squirt, but she couldn’t take both dogs. So we decided to try a trial separation. We moved them into separate kennels to see how they would manage apart, and they did very well. We called the visitor back and she adopted Squirt at the end of October as a friend for her current dog. Only about a week later a person who works from home adopted Buddy. So after almost a seven-month saga, both dogs have happy homes, one with a dog friend and one with a constant human companion. Although shelter staff and volunteers miss them, we were overjoyed to see Buddy and Squirt enter their new lives.

**Firefly**

An Arlington resident found a female Lhasa apso running loose in Washington, DC and brought her to the League. We named her Firefly and estimated that she was about five years old. Staff noticed that she urinated frequently and were concerned about her overall condition including eyes, skin, coat, teeth, and unkempt appearance. We had her examined by one of our volunteer visiting vets who thought that the dog might have mild pyometra (an infection of the uterus) which may cause more urination. The vet advised that we spay her, do a dental cleaning with possible extractions, remove a mammary tumor, and groom her.

Muddy Mutt groomed Firefly, and then we sent her to Ballston Animal Hospital where she was spayed, had a dental cleaning, and had the tumor removed and biopsied. Dr. Snow at Ballston consulted with a veterinary oncologist on the biopsy results and recommended that we watch and monitor for any further problems. Firefly’s risk of future masses would be the same as for any female dog that was spayed at an older age. The cost for Firefly’s treatment was covered by the Healthy Pet fund. Six weeks after she came to the shelter, Firefly was healthy and happy and adopted into a loving home.

**Above: Firefly, adopted in 2010.**

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**Above: Firefly, adopted in 2010.**

**Sophie, adopted in 2006 and Diesel, adopted in 2009.**

**Penny, adopted in 2009.**

**Ulee, adopted in 2009.**
Feral cats don’t belong in shelters, and trap-neuter-return can reduce their numbers and eliminate nuisance behaviors. That was the message on November 17, 2010, when the League hosted a workshop on “Helping Community Cats” conducted by representatives of Alley Cat Allies, a national organization that has advocated for cats for 20 years. League staff, volunteers, Board members, and local residents learned about the trap-neuter-return philosophy, trapping techniques, and deterrents. The workshop will be repeated regularly to educate people concerned about wild cats in our community.

The ASPCA states that “TNR [trap-neuter-return] helps the community by stabilizing the population of the feral colony and, over time, reducing it. At the same time, nuisance behaviors such as spraying, loud noise and fighting are largely eliminated and no more kittens are born.”

In late 2009 the League Board of Directors began considering supporting trap-neuter-return efforts. The Board subsequently decided that supporting these efforts was consistent with our work as a progressive humane society. The Board also considered the large influx of stray kittens that we receive every summer. Caring for these sometimes unweaned and often sick kittens strains the League’s foster home capacity and medical resources as well as making the adult cats in our shelter less likely to attract adopters’ interest. We also sometimes receive adult feral cats that people have trapped on their property. These cats cannot be adopted into homes, and while they are in the shelter they are miserable as well as posing a danger to staff trying to care for them. We hope that facilitating trap-neuter-return will reduce the number of stray kittens as well as adult feral cats coming into the shelter. Both the Arlington County health department and representatives of the Arlington County Board have endorsed the program.

The League sends our cats and dogs to the National Capital Spay/Neuter Center prior to adoption and can make this resource available to feral cat caretakers in Arlington. We will set aside one day per month when caretakers can bring feral cats in traps to the League for transport to the center for surgery. All cats will also be inoculated for rabies and distemper, and be ear-tipped for future identification. The League will cover all costs for cats trapped in Arlington County.

Caretakers will be responsible for trapping, delivery to and from the League, and post-surgery care. The program is available to caretakers in Arlington County and the City of Falls Church only. The League will provide information on feral cat trapping but will not set or monitor any traps.

For more information, e-mail tnr@awla.org or call 703-931-9241 ext.222. The next Helping Community Cats workshop will be held at the League on January 25, 2011, at 7:00 pm.

In September 2010 the construction of our 4,000 square foot addition for dog intake was completed. The addition includes 10 new double dog kennels, examination room, grooming and laundry room, kennel supplies storage, and an upstairs space for dog behavior evaluations. All new dogs entering the shelter are housed in the addition until they have been vaccinated and evaluated. Then they move into our main kennels for adoption. The dog intake center also allows us to house dogs that are in the shelter for quarantine, protective custody, or safekeeping. The addition has greatly reduced crowding in our main dog kennel so that each dog can have an entire double run.
Once again this year the Animal Welfare League of Arlington will participate in Spay Day USA, the only national day of action to promote spaying and neutering of pets. Last year our partnership with the National Capital Spay Neuter Center and Fairfax Animal Hospital resulted in the spaying and neutering of 74 dogs and cats for just $25 each. Your generous donations to the Hantke Memorial Fund help support our mission to offer low income pet owners, earning less than $40,000 a year, the opportunity to get their pets neutered at this bargain price. For many with low incomes this provides the only opportunity to get their pets spayed or neutered. In addition, they can also get discounted rabies and distemper vaccinations and microchips.

Why: Perhaps no one knows better than those who work at shelters the tragedy of unwanted pets and the importance of promoting spaying and neutering to the public. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100 percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats and a proven way to reduce the vast numbers of homeless animals. In addition to reducing the number of homeless pets on our streets and in our shelters, spaying and neutering provides significant benefits for pets and their owners:

- Neutered pets are less likely to run away.
- Male cats will be less likely to spray and male dogs will be less inclined to bite and get in fights with other dogs.
- Spaying eliminates heat cycles in female dogs and cats.
- Spaying and neutering has been shown to reduce the occurrence of certain forms of cancer.
- In addition, neutered pets tend to have better temperaments and are less likely to develop behavior problems – all of which makes for a better companion for you!

How You Can Help or Register for this event: Please help promote this event to those requiring financial assistance and please consider donating to the Hantke Memorial Spay/Neuter Fund. Use the postage paid envelope in this newsletter to make a donation and designate this fund. Please check our Web site www.awla.org for up-to-date Spay Day 2011 plans starting in February!

Kids’ Camps

Each July the League offers summer camp sessions for children ages 6-13. Please mark your calendars now: camp descriptions and registration will be available on our Web site at www.awla.org on February 1, 2011. Don’t hesitate. Camps fill up quickly.
Thanks To Our Donors

Thank you to the League supporters who donated $250 or more between July and September 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 x 220 or e-mail donate@awla.org.

Volunteer Donates Bench

Kirsten Sides, League volunteer, donated a bench for our dog yard in memory of her dog Marley that passed away late last year. She is sharing the bench with Kane, one of our dogs for adoption.
This year’s Catsino Night was our most successful ever, raising $70,000 in support of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. More than 250 animal lovers enjoyed an elegant evening at the Historic Lobby A at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on November 13 for the League’s annual fall fundraiser.

The glamorous, 1940s era art deco atmosphere of the Historic Lobby A was the perfect backdrop for an evening of live music, casino-style gaming, and competitive silent and live auctions. The Bobcats jazz combo entertained while guests tried their luck at blackjack, craps, and Texas Hold’Em poker.

“This year’s Catsino Night was another huge success,” said Joanne DelToro, President of the League’s Board of Directors. “It was great to see so many supporters. Everyone who attended or donated to the evening has made an important contribution to helping animals.”

Guests enjoyed delicious hors d’oeuvres from Lebanese Taverna and had a choice of wine, beer, soft drinks, or a martini bar. The silent auction drew enthusiastic bidding on 135 items donated by individuals and businesses in the community including tickets to Redskins games, a package of presidential home tours, and a weekend getaway to the Shenandoah Valley.

This year we added a live auction which drew fast bidding on our five items: an introductory flight lesson, two seven-night stays at an Elite Island Resort, dinner with the Fairlington Firefighters, and a five-night stay at any Hilton Hotel or Resort. Our biggest seller of the evening was the stay at the Hilton Hotels or Resorts. A special thank you to ABC7/WJLA-TV’s Greta Kreuz for emceeing the evening and being the live auction auctioneer.

Money raised from ticket sales and auction proceeds was significantly supported by the generous sponsorship of several local businesses including Ayrshire Farm; Pro Feed, Inc.; and Your Dog’s Best Friends. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for making Catsino Night and Silent Auction a tremendous success. All proceeds from the event will help the League protect animals and educate people in our community about animal welfare.
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) 913-9241 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.

Catsino Night Donors & Sponsors

The League is grateful to the following donors who gave financial support to make this event a great success.

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League Hours

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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

Rabies Clinics

Please bring dogs on leashes and cats and ferrets in carriers.
Rabies Shot: $10
January 27 • 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.

Save the Date
16th Annual Walk for the Animals
Saturday May 14, 2011
Look for more info online at www.awla.org

Pawpourri

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Susan Sherman & Jen McFarland

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