Fosters Needed!

We are in the middle of kitten season and need fosters to temporarily care for litters of kitten until they are big enough to be adopted! If you are interested in fostering or learning more about the program, please email foster@alexandriaanimals.org Thank you!

Baby Wildlife

Often, particularly in spring, concerned people pick up animals that they think are orphaned. More than 75 percent of such orphans “rescued” every spring should have been left alone. Most wild animals are dedicated parents and will not abandon their young, but they do leave them alone for long periods of time while looking for food. Additionally, many behaviors that people may view as abnormal actually are not in wildlife, and people may do much more harm than good by attempting to catch them for rehabilitation. Unless one of these guidelines applies, leave wildlife alone.

For example, a few days ago, Animal Services Officer Howes was dispatched out to Fox Haven Lane to respond to a report of a fawn left by itself (see photo). Officer Howes found the cute little fawn tucked away in a garden. Although it looked helpless, it was decided to leave the fawn in the garden overnight. By the morning the fawn had been spirited away by its parent and was nowhere to be found. It’s not uncommon for fawns to be left alone while their parent forages for food, so it’s important to remember that if you see an unattended fawn, it’s best to leave it be, as mom is probably close by!
Pet Licensing Now Online!

You can now license your pet online! We have worked closely with the City of Alexandria to expand the animal licensing program to include a new online option. Pet owners may now register dogs or cats, or renew existing licenses, by visiting www.alexandriaanimals.org/licensing. Citizens can also call a new toll free number 855-844-9553 for all of their pet licensing questions. These changes were made possible by using a third-party processor.

City of Alexandria Code requires all dogs and cats over the age of four months to be licensed, and requires each owner to obtain a license within 30 days of acquiring the pet or moving it into the City of Alexandria.

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Dogs from South Korea

DONATE to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

Where are the dogs from the meat farm?

23 Dogs to Begin Year With New Leash on Life from South Korea

Humane Society International rescued twenty-three dogs from a dog meat farm in Seoul, South Korea transported them to Washington, D.C. area on Monday and Tuesday. The dogs range in age, including 12 puppies, have been through the quarantine process, and will arrive at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWL of Alexandria) for an initial holding period and then transferred to additional partners: Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Loudon County Animal Services and City of Manassas Animal Control and Adoption Shelter, The Washington Animal Rescue League. This is a great collaboration among all of us.
The Humane Society International (HSI), the international affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States, is working to reduce the dog meat trade in Asia, including South Korea where dogs are farmed for the meat trade. This group of South Korean dogs is the first to come to the United States through this partnership.

DONATE to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria to help us care for these and many other animals.

The dogs have arrived and are experiencing the joys of being a loved dog for the first time.
Ready for Adoption This Month

Get familiar to these cuties ready for adoption! Nam libero tempore, cum soluta nobis est eligendi optio cumque nihil impedit quo minus id quod maxime placeat facere possimus, omnis voluptas assumenda est, omnis dolor repellendus. Temporibus autem quibusdam et aut officiis debitis aut rerum necessitatibus saepe eveniet ut et voluptates repudiandae sint et molestiae non recusandae. Itaque earum rerum hic tenetur a sapiente delectus, ut aut reiciendis voluptatibus maiores alias consequatur aut perferendis doloribus asperiores repellat.

M is for Merry

M is for Merry and the M-Dogs from Mississippi

This is a holiday story about the power of networking, relationships and
what it means to be a part of the AWLA.

In August, the AWLA received a call from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). They had gone in to a hoarding situation in Mississippi and could AWLA take 11 dogs? We said yes – we moved dogs around and into foster homes to make room for the incoming dogs. WE are now an official “Emergency Placement Partner” for HSUS – we help them with animals and they will help us with animal related crisis.

What arrived was a motley crew of puppies and young dogs in various states of physical and mental health.

Abbie Hubbard, AWLA staff member, comforting one of the puppies on arrival.

The puppies, Morris, Maria, Molly and Marigold, all four months old, were easy to place. The other dogs had seen too much and needed some tender loving care and time to adjust to being around people and even being inside.

The conditions these dogs came from in Mississippi were deplorable. The dogs had dug dirt holes in the ground to stay cool in the southern heat. There was a barn-like structure on the property that some dogs would use to shield themselves from the elements, and inside HSUS found old, empty bags of food. Certain dogs had formed packs to make sure their group got whatever food was tossed into the enclosure. The dogs not part of the packs had to fend for themselves.
With this knowledge, AWLA began working with seven dogs who lived through this terrible experience. **Mable**, a 2 year-old was a very shy and sweet girl and was adopted. **Missi**, a 1 year-old, hid under her kennel bed for many weeks while up for adoption, then came out of her shell - something just clicked. **Mitch**, a 4 year-old who demonstrated a tremendous love for other dogs recently went home and has a new dog-sibling to play with. **Marky-Mark**, a 2 year-old is still available for adoption. He is a shy guy, pretty overwhelmed with the turn his life has taken, but with patience and time, he shows a very sweet side. **Mac**, 2 years-old, and **Matty**, 4 years-old, are both still at the shelter receiving behavioral support.
Mable going home with her new family!

Mitch playing with his new brother.

And for the final update, there is Marilyn, a 4 year-old, orange coated beautiful girl who has demonstrated the power of change and how lemons to lemonade is not an overnight process. When Marilyn arrived at AWLA she curled up in her kennel and did not move for three full days. That involved no eating, stretching or normal dog-like movement. Marilyn was moved into Abbie Hubbard, ALWA’s Deputy Director’s, office. There she slowly started to trust Abbie. Abbie could get Marilyn to go outside on business, and get her to eat, drink and take treats. Over the next seven weeks, Abbie became Marilyn’s “person.”

Marilyn in her life in Mississippi – trying to take refuge in a hole.
Marilyn in her new life in Virginia learning the comforts of a couch.

When foster volunteer Carrie met Marilyn, she was shy but open to receiving treats and a few pets. Over three days Carrie, and her husband, Chad, came back
to see Marilyn. And on a Saturday in early November, Marilyn left the shelter for a foster stay in Alexandria. With a cone around her head, from her recent spaying, Marilyn sat behind a living room chair for two days. To go out, all fifty-pounds of her needed to be carried. Week one in the foster home, Marilyn learned to sit on her bed and eat and drink. It took her two weeks to walk to the yard by herself. Week three she found the living room sofa, which we hear is now half-hers. Marilyn has been in foster for almost seven weeks now and is a whole new dog. Life outside can still be scary for Marilyn, she jumps at noises, and birds and squirrels are still subject to puzzling looks, or sometimes a chase. She loves watching football and prefers light classical to play as she goes to sleep. She has yet to master stairs and people ringing the doorbell elicits a low howl, but Marilyn is a playful, silly girl.

While we will never know exactly what these dogs experienced in Mississippi, we do know that the M-Dogs are now happy Virginia residents thanks to caring, supportive people like you who allow us at AWLA to do our jobs and bring some peace, love and holiday joy to our animals.

Marilyn when she was first rescued.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

Thank you for your donation to help more animals in need.

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Gracie, Zara and Officer Escobar

The Story of Gracie, Zara and Officer Escobar

Zara, a Belgian Malinois, was surrendered to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria in the Fall of 2013. We soon realized that Zara was not your ordinary family dog – she had intense drive. Her extremely high energy and intensity would make her very difficult to successfully place into a home. We had an idea; we contacted the Alexandria Police Department to see if they would evaluate her
as a police dog candidate. They agreed and she passed with flying colors! Zara was partnered with K9 Officer Steve Escobar. His K9 partner of five years, Gracie, had just been diagnosed with kidney cancer and given only two to three months to live.

Gracie defied all odds and survived for more than a year. Gracie loved to work and spend time with Officer Escobar and continued to work up until her recent death on Christmas Eve.

Officer Escobar is extremely saddened by the loss of Gracie and has asked for donations to be made in her memory to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and Alexandria Police Foundations Health and Welfare Program for Retired Police Dogs.

Zara, former AWLA shelter dog, will continue in Gracie’s large paw prints, helping to protect the City of Alexandria with Officer Escobar.

Thank you to the Alexandria Police Foundation for these photos and for their work to care for Alexandria’s K9 heros.
Harvey Heals with Lots of Help

In April, our Animal Resources Officers responded to a call of an injured puppy. The puppy had been brought to a local veterinary clinic with a severe injury down the side of his right hind leg – exposed flesh down to the bone and over his... abdomen. The little pup was in severe pain and was shaking, whimpering and unable to stand. He was also very thin. The officers transported the puppy (now named Harvey) to VCA Old Town Animal Hospital for urgent care. The veterinarians there provided Harvey with antibiotics, pain medication and other treatment for his injury. They believed his injury was some type of severe burn.

After Harvey was stabilized, we transferred him to a wonderful foster home - a veterinarian with the Regional Veterinary Referral Center. She was able to bring him to work everyday and they donated the therapeutical care he needed - including daily hydrotherapy and cold laser therapy. With months of treatment, Harvey was able to heal incredibly well and has now been adopted into a loving, caring home. (If you would like to learn more about the incredible treatment provided by Regional Veterinary Referral Center, see the following link - warning it is graphic: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=717584178284875&id=174826955893936)

We want to thank VCA Old Town Animal Hospital, the Regional Veterinary Referral Center, Harvey’s foster, and his adopter for getting him through this difficult time.

Our Animal Resources Officers investigated the case and worked with the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office to bring criminal charges against the owner. She was arrested and the case was heard and continued for two years, during which time the defendant is not allowed to have any animals.
Art Gallery at the Animal Shelter

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria has opened the “Alexandria Animal Art Gallery” at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter at 4101 Eisenhower Ave. The first exhibit, “All Creatures Great and Small” is a partnership between AWLA and Del Ray Artisans.

The Del Ray Artisans, founded in 1992, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote visual arts for the benefit of artists and the community. DRA regularly supports local charities through proceeds from exhibits and other events. In December 2013, they raised $700 from their Holiday Market Bake Sale for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria to provide food and supplies for the animal shelter, adoption, and foster programs.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria worked with the City of Alexandria to transform the shelter’s adoption hallway into the “Alexandria Animal Art Gallery”. The “All Creatures Great & Small” exhibit will run from **August 3rd through October 26th** and can be viewed during adoption hours.

For more information on this and other Del Ray Artisans events, visit their web page at thedelrayartisans.org and the gallery can be viewed during shelter open “adoption”.

If you are interested in helping AWLA, please click [Donate](#) and make a donation and make a difference.

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Click here to see other adoptable [dogs](#), [cats](#), and [small animals](#).
Guinea Pigs for Adoption

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria helps all animals, including guinea pigs! Guinea pigs are cute, communicative, have distinct personalities and live longer than many other small pets (5-7 years on average). These South American rodents can be wonderful pets, but often end up in our shelter due to accidental litters or owners underestimating how much care guinea pigs require. We encourage anyone looking to add a guinea pig (or two) to their household to consider adopting a guinea pig in need of a home instead of purchasing from a pet store.

Click here to view our adoptable guinea pigs!

Click here to find out more about our adoption process and fees!