



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA, INC.

910 SOUTH PAYNE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA — KING 9-3959



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THE ANIMAL WELFARE

This issue of our (somewhat) quarterly bulletin is just to bring you up to date on recent League activities and to tell you about those planned for the fall. Since our March issue, which included our annual membership appeal, about 350 families or individuals have joined the League -- and applications continue to come in, as they do throughout the year.

We are deeply grateful to the old and new friends who have responded so generously with their support for the next year. Our extra thanks to those who renewed their membership early in the year and contributed a second time during the membership drive. Contributions and new memberships are always welcome. They may be sent to:

Mrs. Arthur Parsons, Treasurer
Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
4 E. Uhler Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia

ON THE FALL CALENDAR -- The Board of Directors is continuing to meet through the summer on the third Monday monthly at the Alexandria Library. Plans are in progress for the celebration of an ANIMAL WEEK centering on St. Francis Day, October 4. The Blessing-of-the-Animals, an ancient service which we were the first to sponsor in this area, under the guidance of the Reverend Edward Merrow of Grace Episcopal Church, will be held again.

The ANIMAL FAIR, postponed from last spring because of the press of other League activities, will be held at this time. You'll hear more about the Fair later. Meanwhile, save your "white elephants" for us (Esther Green has room in her stable for them) and let us know what you can contribute to our handiwork and bake sale.

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES begin Saturday, September 8, at the Little League Ball Field. If there is enough demand, a Wednesday evening class may also be scheduled. For information or registration, call Miss Patricia Walters at the Shelter. Thirty-eight dog-owner teams were graduated from the three spring classes.

ELECTIONS AND RE-ELECTIONS -- Stuart Morrison, after three years' outstanding leadership and prior service as building chairman, has resigned as League President. He was re-elected to the Board as corresponding secretary and is continuing to serve as advisor on building problems and the League's role in enforcement of the Dog Control Ordinance. Other officers for the next year are: Mrs. John Reichmann, President; Mrs. Evelyn P. Akerley, First Vice President; Mrs. Margaret E. Moore, Second Vice President; Mrs. Samuel Zeigler, Recording Secretary; and Miss Esther H. Green, Assistant Corresponding Secretary.

VOLUNTEERS ON "VACATION" -- Many have worked as hard as ever during the summer. Louise Simpson and Yolanda Coppola have been busy typing and addressing for the League. Mrs. John D. Lee and Miss Walters arranged the Alexandria Days PET SHOW, where many members served as judges and stewards.

THE SHELTER has been busier than ever. These are the June statistics -- the latest available:

Strays picked up --	Dogs 31;	Cats	4
Released -----	Dogs 66;	Cats	216
Claimed -----	Dogs 14;	Cats	3
Placed -----	Dogs 44;	Cats	17
Put to sleep -----	Dogs 41;	Cats	249
Emergency calls (night)-----			26
Lost and found reports -----			43
Dead and injured picked up -----			44
Bite investigations -----			26
Cruelty investigations -----			24
Cats rescued from trees -----			9
Opossums rescued form trash cans --			3
Dog ordinance violations reported -			16

RELEASED DOGS AND CATS are those turned over to the Shelter by the owner. At this time of year most are puppies and kittens, often with mother. The "placed" and "put-to-sleep" figures show clearly that our placement efforts cannot begin to keep up with the supply of surplus animals in this season. YOU CAN HELP by referring your pet-hunting friends to the Shelter, where they can find many pets to choose from. In addition, a new owner has the benefit of professional advice on care of the new pet from Miss Walters. We have a few minimum requirements: Animals are not placed in homes where there are children under six years of age; female animals must be spayed; dogs must have an enclosed yard.

You can HELP EVEN MORE effectively by understanding the seriousness of the surplus animal problem and the reasons why we so urgently recommend spaying. We are enclosing a leaflet from the Humane Society of the United States describing the results of the "10,000-an-hour" birth rate of puppies and kittens in the United States. It is not pleasant reading. But we would not be a responsible humane organization if we were among those who shut their eyes to these realities.

NEW EQUIPMENT, costing the League about \$800, has just been installed at the Shelter to assure the most humane euthanasia believed possible. It was purchased on the recommendation of other Shelters and with the assistance of the HSUS.

DOG ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS -- this new entry on the Shelter report refers to complaints referred to the City for enforcement. As we explained in an earlier "Animal Welfarer", the Dog Control law was amended last year to impose penalties on owners who permit their dogs to run at-large, whether or not the dogs are impounded.

The City assigned Robert Evans, in the new General Services Department, to investigate reported violations. In the first case prosecuted, the dog-owner was fined \$5 each for two violations. The fines were suspended on condition that the owner repair a fence through which his dogs were escaping.

NEW SHELTER HOURS -- The Shelter is now open to the public from 10 to 4 every day. The Shelter staff will be on duty and can be reached by telephone from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday. It was necessary to curtail the visiting hours to permit uninterrupted time for cleaning and animal care.

Willie Mudd, the night supervisor, is on call after 5 P.M. His number is King 9-7058 FOR NIGHTTIME EMERGENCIES. You might want to know that the truck is available 24 hours a day to take injured animals to the hospital.

THANKS to all the members who answered our appeal for a radio. The first TWO arrived simultaneously from Miss Rebecca Welch and Mr. A. L. Green. We now have one in the office and one in the kennels to catch the lost-and-found broadcasts. It is especially convenient, since Miss Walters, who keeps a record of all lost and found animals in the area, is often working in the kennel rooms at broadcast time.

We deeply regret the loss of Miss Welch's mother, Mrs. Helen C. Peyton, at whose request donations were made to the League in lieu of flowers.

Current SHELTER NEEDS include a workable standard typewriter (we've been using a series of borrowed machines) and a sturdy table, about 4 x 8, that can hold about 50 pounds.

We hope to see you at our Fall programs. Meanwhile, we hope you and your pets are having a happy, healthy summer.