

THE ANIMAL WELFARE

WELFARE

December 1961

No. 1

Dear Friends of the League:

During this season of remembering the many kindnesses of the past year, we want to thank you for your help, through us, to animals -- the homeless dogs and cats that have been adopted from our Shelter, those we have been able to rescue or protect from man's cruelty, the errant 'possums and other wild ones we have returned to the woodland from the bewildering city into which they wandered, the lost pets who have found a temporary haven at the Shelter and a safe return home, and all of Alexandria's pets, who benefit from our efforts to improve the well-being of all animals.

Sometimes we are so busy with the animals, it may seem that we have forgotten our human friends. We hope it won't be so in the future. The Board has resolved that in 1962 we're going to make a special effort to keep in touch with you. We need your continuing help, and we think you might like to know more about the activities your help is making possible. We also want to share our needs with you in the hope that some of you will give us a little more time, talent and interest than we've asked in the past.

We're starting the "ANIMAL WELFARE" with this issue on an approximate quarterly basis. We also have plans for more programs of interest to the general membership in the spring.

Meanwhile, you have our deep appreciation and our warmest wishes for everything good during the holidays and in the New Year for you and your pets.

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

* Stuart Morrison, President; S. Nicholson and Mrs. John Reichmann, Vice Presidents; Mrs. Arthur Parsons, Treasurer; Mrs. Samuel Zeigler, Miss Isabella Diamond, and Miss Esther H. Green, Secretaries; Miss Patricia Walters, SHELTER Supervisor; Willie Mudd, Night Supervisor

THE SHELTER REPORTS . . .

Our major activity, as you know, is operation of the ANIMAL SHELTER. You help us meet this responsibility. As an example of the amount and variety of SHELTER activity, this is the report for October, a fairly typical month:

107 stray dogs, 9 cats picked up
33 dogs, 139 cats released by owners
21 dogs, 1 cat claimed by owners
48 emergencies answered (after hours)
95 lost or found reported
37 dogs, 20 cats placed in new homes
82 dogs, 128 cats humanely destroyed
54 dead and injured picked up
15 dog bite reports investigated
22 cruelty complaints investigated

IN ADDITION The SHELTER rescued 3 cats from trees, 2 cats from washers, 2 'possums from basements, and 1 pigeon from POLICE Headquarters! To add to the variety, the SHELTER took a chipmunk to Arlington for a rabies test (after it had bitten a person); researched snake-bite remedies for a neighborhood overrun with crawlers displaced by a construction project. (ANSWER: Cottonmouth only poisonous snake in this area. In case of bite, go immediately to Alexandria Hospital

which has serum available.)

NO BEVE PETS * Incidentally, we do not release pets for Christmas Day-giving. FOR CHRISTMAS SHELTER experience throughout the country has shown that puppies and kittens are often injured or become sick in the excitement of Christmas Day in a new home. And once the glow of giving a live pet for Christmas wears off, the animal is often returned to the SHELTER, all the worse for wear, a day or so later. If you want to give an animal this Christmas, the SHELTER will give you a GIFT CERTIFICATE in place of the animal. You may choose the puppy or kitten and have it reserved until after Christmas; or you may allow the recipient to choose his own animal later. As a substitute gift for Christmas morning we suggest a dog collar, feed bowl, comb and brush, pet food or any other accessory to make the animal welcome and at home when he arrives.

WANTED! ! !

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SPEAKERS AND AUDIENCES

ANOTHER of the Board's NEW YEAR'S Resolutions is to expand the League's educational program. To get started we need: Speakers and Audiences. So far, our efforts have been limited primarily to youth groups. But animal welfare is an interesting subject for all ages. SHELTER operation and the problems of animals in urban areas should be of interest to all citizens. We would like to tell our story to service clubs, civic organizations, church groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and anyone else who will listen. We have a wealth of literature on animals and are working on a slide program.

VOLUNTEER NOW If you have had some experience in humane work or are willing to do a little research on the subject -- WON'T YOU HELP us with our program? If you would speak for us or if you have a potential audience for us -- PLEASE leave your name at the SHELTER (King 9-3959).

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS!

CITY COUNCIL has approved two amendments to the DOG CONTROL Ordinance. As you may recall, the language adopted in the spring of 1958, in response to public demand, made it illegal for a dog to run at large. Dogs picked up for violating the Ordinance were held at the SHELTER until redeemed by the owner upon payment of \$3 for the first day plus \$1.50 for each day thereafter. If not repossessed at the end of five days, the dog could be either destroyed or given in adoption to a new owner. As the law was written, the DOG was the law-breaker and often paid the greater penalty, while the owner responsible for his delinquency incurred a relatively light penalty -- so light in some cases that owners continually allowed their pets to run loose and repeatedly "posted bail". These repeaters were tying up the SHELTER trucks and personnel when they were needed for emergency calls.

OWNER RESTRAINED One amendment prohibits AN OWNER from ALLOWING his dog to run at large. If the dog continues to run loose, after the owner has been notified of an infraction, the OWNER can be fined at least \$5 and not more than \$25 for each violation. NOTE that the dog must not necessarily be impounded. The Second Change in the Ordinance corrects an oversight in the original language. Previously anyone wishing to adopt a dog held under the ordinance had to pay the same charges as those incurred by the owner (\$3 plus \$1.50 a day). Since the dog could not be released for at least five days, it cost a minimum of \$9 to adopt such a dog. Now a new owner is required to pay only \$3 -- the same as the SHELTER's placement fee for other dogs.

WARNING TO PET OWNERS*

Animal-nappers are active in the Metropolitan area and are acquiring give-away pets under false pretenses for sale to research laboratories. Keep your dogs and cats under surveillance at all times. When placing pets, verify before releasing give-aways to new homes.

** THE ALEXANDRIA LEAGUE has joined with others in the D. C. area in sponsoring the above ad. NO SUCH OFFENSES have been reported in this city, but please heed the warning. REPORT any evidence of ANIMAL-NAPPING to the SHELTER immediately.

SEASONAL REMINDERS

IF YOU DON'T HAVE a good supply of wild bird seed, get it NOW. Stores are often sold out after a long cold wave when FEED THE BIRDS appeals are published.

WINTER is particularly hard on homeless animals. If you can't take them in, call the SHELTER. Be sure your own pet is well fed and protected from wind, snow and rain.

HANDSOME 1962 engagement calendars are for sale at the SHELTER for \$1.50. They contain a photograph for each WEEK of dogs or horses (SORRY! Cats are sold out.)

WE HOPE too that you can find room on your Christmas list for Alexandria's animals. Contributions may be added to the LEAGUE.

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA,
910 North Payne Street
King - 9-3959