



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA, INC.

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



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THE ANIMAL WELFARER

It's time again for our year-end pause to send Holiday GREETINGS and our heartfelt THANKS to our human friends who are extending a helping hand, through the League, to our animal friends.

As you know, we've had a busy Fall. Our ANIMAL FAIR in September brought out hundreds of old and new friends, gave the public a rare chance to see the Canine Corps in action and added more than \$300 to our funds for the care of injured, lost and homeless animals. In October, the Reverend Edward L. Merrow once more conducted the unusually heart-warming BLESSING-OF-THE-ANIMALS, commemorating St. Francis, patron saint of the birds and beasts.

Shelter Manager Patricia Walters taught three League-sponsored DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES. We hoped to continue these popular courses -- especially needed to assist dogs and owners in complying with the City dog-control law -- but have been unable to locate a suitable place for indoor training through the winter. League President Jean Reichmann attended the Humane Society Leadership Conference sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States at the Lake-of-the-Ozarks, Missouri, in October. Talks by leaders of the national humane movement, workshop sessions on Shelter management and swap-sessions with humane society representatives from all parts of the country inspired many ideas now being put to work in our Alexandria society.

MEANWHILE, DOWN AT THE SHELTER there have been few idle moments. The past few months have been a peak season for new litters of puppies and kittens to be placed and for roaming animals. The City's enforcement of the dog-control law has added to the animal care and bookkeeping duties of the Shelter employees. We are attempting to share some of this burden by encouraging more volunteer Shelter activity. Two of our Board members are supplementing the work of the Shelter staff -- Mrs. Lavinia Lee as Volunteers Chairman and Miss Elise Roberts as Shelter Secretary. Mrs. Carrie Marshall gave us a splendid typewriter just in time to meet the Fall work load.

THANKS TO THE CITY the Shelter interior has gleaming, newly painted walls and woodwork. And thanks to Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Ann Hendricks and Mrs. Helen Carstophen, the cat cages have also been painted and other finishing touches applied to the interior. Exterior refurbishing and more improvements inside have priority in our planning for next year. We plan to hold an "open house" when the work is finished, but our members and friends are always welcome to see the improvements made to date.

It's become a custom with several Alexandrians to visit the Shelter during the Holiday season with gifts of food or money for our guests. We especially appreciate this thoughtfulness at such a busy and expensive time of year for all of us. The Shelter is closed to the public on Christmas and New Year's Day and will close early Christmas Eve so that our employees may have their holidays. The animals will receive their daily care, however, and our twenty-four-hour service for emergencies will be available.