



THE ANIMAL WELFARE



December 1964

No. 6

TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

At this time of remembering the many kindnesses of the past year, we 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 lost pets who have found a temporary haven with us and a safe return home, and all the others that have benefited in some measure from our efforts, and yours, to improve the welfare of all animals.

We are often so busy with the animals that we seem to forget our human friends. That's why we've revived our all too infrequent "Animal Welfarer" -- to tell you a little about what the League is doing and of some of the things that you are making possible.

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.

THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

CHRISTMAS AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER. Attractive gift certificates will be available at the Shelter after December 19 to reserve a puppy or kitten to be picked up on December 26. Animals will not be released to new homes between those dates. Our shelter and others have learned that unfortunately a pet selected as a last-minute gift is often injured or becomes sick in the excitement of Christmas Day in a new home. And once the excitement of giving or receiving a live animal wears off, the animal is frequently returned to the Shelter.

To avoid these experiences, we recommend giving one of our certificates, packaged with a collar, brush, or other pet accessory as a token of the best yet to come. Our year-round adoption rules require that an animal must be at least four months old if it is going to a home with children under five years old. And persons adopting dogs must have a fenced yard or other humane means of confining the pet. All female animals must be spayed, the League contributing part of the cost.

Dog-and-cat-silhouetted note paper is also on sale at the Shelter for 50 cents a pack. Ideal stocking-stuffers for children or adults who would appreciate a gift that is also helping animals.

Although the Shelter will be closed on Christmas and New Year's day, 24-hour emergency service will be available and the animals will receive their regular care plus special Christmas dinners.

It's the thoughtful holiday custom of many Alexandrians to visit the Shelter with gifts of special delicacies or money to help provide some "extras" for the homeless or lost animals in our care.

THE 19TH ANNUAL CAT SHOW, sponsored by the Cat Fanciers of Washington, will be held March 6 and 7, 1965, at the Sheraton-Park Hotel. Proceeds from the show go to area humane societies. We have received \$500 from the show in the past two years. The Cat Fanciers encourage humane society participation and promotion at the show. Cats adopted from area animal shelters are most welcome to enter the Household Pet class. Entry blanks and information will be available soon at the Shelter or from Mrs. Jane Williams, CFA Secretary, 5822 North 19th Street, Arlington 22205.

We get letters, speaking of cats, in response to our routine inquiries about animals adopted from the Shelter. About Scooter, in a Georgetown home: "So far, all he's done is claw a set of curtains to shreds, knock over a plant off a bookcase, broke two lamps, knocked over a glass cabinet . . ., broke some glasses and a mirror. This isn't a bad record for a Siamese cat for a one month period, do you think? . . . I love him dearly, and I think secretly my other cat does too. Thank you for having him."

A white kitten "has received top honors" and her black companion "is a jolly addition" in an exceptionally fine home in Bowie, Md. They are Lady Melissa Whitford, the Marchioness of Pink Nose, and Sir Percy Blackmore, the Earl of Purr, making their home with an eight-year-old "spaniel type" dog, Princess Muttilda, the Duchess of Beaverdale.

These are just two amusing excerpts from the many warm notes we receive letting us know that our animals have found truly loving homes.

THE LEAGUE'S JUNIOR MEMBERS were entertained and educated at their fall meeting by Moses, a two-year-old spider monkey and his friend, Phyllis Wright, of the Washington Animal Rescue League. Their message: Don't ask for a pet unless you will take the time to give it the care and affection it needs. We now have an all-time high of 80 junior members, largely as a result of Mrs. Thomas A. Hendricks' unceasing efforts as junior program chairman. If someone in your house is between the ages of 5 and 18, be sure they're on our junior roll.

More than a junior -- in fact a really professional humane worker is Jill Fredericks, on duty every Saturday morning on the Shelter desk. Jill came to us through the Senior Girl Scouts Animal Care Aide program and has stayed another year on her own.

AWL NEWS NOTES. . . . Almost 1,000 dogs were innoculated at the fall rabies clinics, where League members were on duty. League-sponsored obedience classes graduated 36 dog-owner teams. Two Board Members attended the Humane Society of the United States conference at Airlie, Va. The Board meets the third Monday every month at 8 P.M., Rm. 202 City Hall. League members welcome to sit in.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 910 S. Payne St., Alexandria, Va. Miss Elise Roberts, President; Miss Patricia Walters, Shelter Supervisor. "Animal Welfarer" editor, Mrs. John A. Reichmann; circulation manager, Mrs. Benjamin Holstein.