



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

# SPOTLIGHT on animals

IN OUR 49th YEAR

FALL 1995

*Thanks to everyone who has responded to our annual solicitation letter. The League's adoption program is funded entirely by public donations, and every penny you send benefits the homeless and injured animals at our shelter.*

*Spaying and neutering pets is the only reliable way to control the tragedy of pet overpopulation. Allowing an animal to have even one litter of kittens or puppies ultimately compounds the problem exponentially. All too often, even animals bred by "responsible" breeders eventually wind up in a shelter. Please—ask your veterinarian about this simple, life-saving surgery today.*

*Pets need warmth and shelter during the winter, just as you do. Every year we are called to rescue animals whose owners see nothing wrong with leaving them exposed to the harsh elements. If you see such an animal, don't delay—call the Shelter at 838-4775. You just might save a life.*

*There are risks when you leave your pet in a fenced yard unsupervised. Meter readers, children, and others who may enter your yard (with or without your knowledge) can inadvertently leave the gate unlatched. If at all possible, please leave your pet inside when you're not there to supervise.*

**REMINDER:** Effective October 1, cat licenses are a requirement in Alexandria. Both dog and cat licenses are now available only at the Shelter. Call 838-4775 for more information.

*It's cruel—not to mention dangerous—to keep a dog chained up outdoors while you're away. The animal is subjected to harsh weather and the possibility of being stolen, and would be unable to escape or defend himself if threatened. If your dog is an "escape artist," there are far better ways to keep him safe at home. Please call the Shelter or an experienced animal trainer for advice.*

## Roger Caras, ASPCA President, To Address Annual Dinner

We are pleased to announce that the special keynote speaker at the League's 1995 Annual Dinner will be Roger A. Caras, a distinguished naturalist, author and broadcast correspondent who has spent a lifetime studying, and advocating for, animals, wildlife and the environment.

Mr. Caras, as President of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is a source of knowledge, experience, compassion and perspective in a field that is often volatile because it touches people's deepest emotions. He has long been active in promoting adoptions, numerous issues such as discouraging the killing of retired greyhounds, and fostering dialogue and communication among those with differing views in order to foster the humane treatment of animals.

Mr. Caras has been involved with animals all his life. In 1938, at the age of 10, he took his first job, cleaning the stables of abused horses seized by the Massachusetts SPCA. In ensuing years, he began to study and write about wild animals in their natural habitat.

Through a variety of forums, including his scores of books, hundreds of articles and as a contributor for all of the major television networks, as well as a regular correspondent on radio, he has been able to reach millions of people around the globe to advance his message of appreciation of and compassion for animals, as well as responsible pet ownership.

The League is proud to present what promises to be an exceptional Annual Dinner program, dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Vivian Willis, a long-time League Board member who passed away in June.

We anticipate a large crowd, and urge you to mark your calendars now for Thursday evening, October 19. The dinner will be



**Roger A. Caras, well-known author, naturalist, and advocate for animals, will deliver the keynote address at the League's Annual Dinner on October 19.**

held at the Ramada Hotel Old Town, 910 N. Fairfax St. Cocktails begin at 6:30, dinner at 7:30. Invitations were mailed in September, but if you do not receive one by October 5 and wish to attend, please call our Special Events Hotline at (703) 519-7230; leave your name, address and phone number so that we can contact you. NOTE: Reservations must be made in advance.

P.S.—And don't forget: We'll also announce the winner of the League's logo contest, and unveil our new emblem at the dinner. Other popular features will include photo displays, videos compiled from our special events, and "Shelter Success Stories" that underscore the value of your support for the League. Please join us!

# The Emotional Needs of Your Pet



by Andrea Tasi, VMD  
Kingstowne Cat Clinic

As a veterinarian, I routinely help people understand the physical needs of their pets: good diet, regular preventative health care, exercise, and proper treatment of illness. It has become increasingly clear in both human medicine and veterinary medicine that the mind and the body are linked to one's overall state of health, and that proper care involves addressing the emotional needs as well as the physical ones.

I see many physical disorders that are related to emotional states: overeating, skin problems, urinary tract inflammations in cats, and stress diarrhea, to name just a few. Three basic categories of emotional needs—and how they relate to our dogs and cats—will be addressed in this column.

**Companionship** is of primary importance. Dogs are evolved from pack animals, and need social interaction. A dog's owner usually plays the role of the "pack leader." That's why your dog thinks of you as the greatest thing on earth and wants to please you. A responsible pet owner is obliged to be there for his dog, to spend time together, to let the animal know he is cared for.

Dogs also benefit from the company of

other dogs. Single dogs usually will enjoy play groups or visits with other dogs. In many areas there are parks where people can bring their dogs together to play.

It is important that your dog be fully vaccinated if he is to visit with other dogs. Remember, too, that some dogs are of poorly socialized temperament and do not like to be around other dogs; they may be aggressive. Most spayed or neutered dogs, especially if they spend time around other dogs regularly, love to romp and play and just be together.

Companionship is different for cats. Cats

## Vet's Corner

live both solitary lives and in communities in their wild state. To someone considering getting a kitten or young cat, I usually recommend getting *two*; the sex of the pair doesn't matter if they are spayed or neutered (which I see as an absolute necessity for any pet). They will provide company for each other when their owner is away.

Single cats can be quite happy, too, but will need more attention from their owners. (The older single cat will probably be happier if you *don't* bring home a new kitten!) Cats thrive on attention and love; they will be bored and depressed without it. Simply filling up the food bowl and cleaning the litterbox does not make for a happy cat.

**Activity** is the second category of emotional need. All animals need to *do* things—to be stimulated, to maintain good physical condition, to simply be happy. Dogs need to run, play, fetch. Some working breeds, such as retrievers, will be "hyper" and difficult if they are not allowed outlets for their natural mental and physical energy.

All dogs can benefit from obedience training and, if it's done properly, they will enjoy it as well. Dogs want to please; they need to be given rules and activities that will allow them to do so.

Cats need to do things, too. Most own-

ers know all about what I call "the crazy hour"; it's that predictable time, often early evening, when a cat will run and pounce, meow, find something to play with. As hunting creatures in the wild, cats' energy is expended through the day chasing prey; for domestic cats, this energy is burned off through play. Proper channeling of energy will temper a cat's tendency to exhibit inappropriate behaviors, such as waking you at 2 a.m., howling, and overeating. Indoor cats should have a window (securely screened) to look out, toys to play with, and some kind of good scratching post.

**Security**, the third of the emotional needs, is knowing that things that are important and enjoyable will always be there and will be structured in a similar routine. Adoption of a pet should be a commitment for the entire life of that animal. While dogs and cats can adapt to new situations, they are happiest with a routine and a home that is free from major stresses and changes. When moving to a new house or introducing a new person into a home, the pet's feelings should be considered, and appropriate measures taken to reassure him and gently restructure routines. Kind words, gentle touch, and predictable presence will help any pet be more emotionally secure.

Whether we are humans, dogs, or cats, we all need someone to love who loves us in return, something to do, and the comfort that comes from knowing these things will not be taken away from us. Veterinary medicine continually reminds me that people who remember that all beings "work pretty much the same" will have the happiest—and the healthiest—pets.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria **SPOTLIGHT ON ANIMALS** (© 1995) is published four times a year and has a circulation of 24,000. Address all correspondence to The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 910 South Payne Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Jack Steele, *President*  
Joyce McDowell, *Editor*

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## Dash Over to Ft. Hunt Park for the League's Annual Canine Outing

The League's 5th Annual "Doggie Dash & Stroll," a 1.2-mile run/walk event, will be held at Ft. Hunt Park in southeast Fairfax County on Sunday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.

The registration fee of \$15 per canine entrant includes a T-shirt and dog treats for the first 300 registrants. All proceeds from this event will go toward helping homeless and injured animals.

You may use the convenient registration form below; additional forms are available at local animal hospitals or the Alexandria Animal Shelter at 910 S. Payne St.

Pre-registration for this event is required. **There will be no on-site registrations.** Registered contestants must collect their packets at P.T. Moran, 6612 Richmond Hwy., from noon until 4 p.m. Saturday, November 4.

Sponsor-donated prizes will be

awarded after the race. A veterinarian will be on the premises, and water will be provided to the dogs at various points along the race course.

A discjockey will be on hand to provide music throughout the event, and refreshments will be available at no charge.

Ft. Hunt Park is located off the George Washington Parkway about five miles south of Alexandria and about one mile before the Mt. Vernon mansion.

Last year's Doggie Dash & Stroll was a huge success, with over 300 dedicated pet owners turning out to show their support for the League. This year's event promises to be just as exciting. Rain or shine, mark Sunday, November 5, on your calendar and dash (or stroll) on over to Ft. Hunt Park!

For more information, call our Hotline at (703) 519-7230 after October 19.



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Chris Cavaliere, Alexandria, VA

## 5th Annual Doggie Dash & Stroll

### REGISTRATION FORM

Owner's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Pet's name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F

Pet's age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last visit to veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify whether the dog is a: [ ] Walker [ ] Runner

### MANDATORY WAIVER

Knowing that participating in the Doggie Dash & Stroll (the Event) is a potentially hazardous activity, my dog and I enter and participate in this event certifying that we are medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a Doggie Dash & Stroll official relative to my ability and that of my dog to safely compete in the race. I also assume any and all other risks associated with competing in the Event including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other pets and their owners, the effects of weather, including heat and humidity, traffic and the conditions of the grounds. Knowing these facts, and in consideration of your acceptance of my entry, I hereby, for myself and my dog, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive, release, and covenant not to sue and forever discharge the Doggie Dash & Stroll sponsors and any and all parties associated with the event from any and all claims for damages, or liabilities of any kind arising out of our participation in this Event even though such liability may arise out of my own negligence or action or that of my dog. This release extends to all claims of every kind or nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown.

The undersigned further grants full permission to this Event and any organization conducting the Event and/or agents authorized by them to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings, or any other record of this Event for any purpose.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form, together with your \$15 check made payable to AWLA, to Doggie Dash & Stroll, 23-A E. Linden St., Alexandria, VA 22301*

## Yukon: A Sad Tale, A Happy Ending

by Randi Miller

In January 1994, our area experienced one of the most brutally cold winters on record. Ice covered just about everything, for days at a time. While nearly all humans were keeping warm in cozy houses, a dog was outside in the 14-degree morning, giving birth on a layer of ice in a ramshackle doghouse.

The phone call came early, from a neighbor who initially apologized for being "a busybody." She told us there were puppies born in her neighbor's yard three days earlier. We were grateful for her intervention—but if only it had come sooner.

Animal Control Officer Chris Caswell immediately went to the scene and found something that would change her life. After gingerly shuffling her way through the backyard across the ice, she came upon the doghouse. Inside, she found three mixed chow puppies. Tragically, two of them were dead. Chris carefully pried them off the ice, and as

she reached for the third she discovered that, incredibly, it was still alive.

You may have already guessed who adopted the tiny creature who narrowly survived. Chris felt that, because of the puppy's frigid start in life, a "chilly" name was appropriate. And so the miracle puppy became "Yukon."

Now almost two years old, Yukon bears few scars from her dramatic beginnings, although the tip of her right ear was taken by frostbite. Her bad hips, obvious when she was only six months old, are classic statements against backyard breeding. In spite of all that, Yukon is an active young dog who delights in playing with Honey Bear (a fellow Shelter graduate). She also has four cats to play with.

Yukon is a terrific addition to Chris's family, over whom she is extremely protective. Considering her background, it's small wonder that she wants to safeguard the only loving environment she's ever known.

And if you're wondering what ever happened to the people who owned Yukon's mom, they no longer have any animals.

**REMINDER:** Winter is coming and animals must be protected from the harsh weather. If you see a dog in a perilous situation, please call Animal Control immediately. You could well save a life. Our number is 838-4775.



Thanks to a phone call from a concerned neighbor, Yukon survived a perilous birth. She now lives with the Animal Control Officer who rescued her.

## Wish List

Many thanks to all the wonderful people who have responded to our Wish Lists in *Spotlight*. Here are some items we still need. If you'd like to donate any of these items, please drop them off at the Shelter, or call 838-4775 to arrange a pick-up.

Towels and blankets

Plastic cat toys

IAMS cat food/dog food (Lamb and Rice)

Storage barn (approx. 12' x 14') to store pet food, cat litter, and Shelter supplies  
(Please call Kate Pullen)

In addition, as we expand our outreach and community relations programs, we are finding a greater need for display materials. If you would like to donate easels, 3M Super 77 Spray Adhesive, Bienfang Foamboard, or other art supplies, please call Laura Kipp at 838-4852.

## Sunset Pet Services

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## Pet Photos With Santa Returns Dec. 1-3



This year, the League and the Olde Towne School for Dogs will offer Pet Photos With Santa sittings for three days. This popular event heralding the holiday season will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 1, 2, and 3, at the Olde Towne School for Dogs, 529 Oronoco Street in Alexandria.

Pet owners may bring their companion animals to the School to have their pictures taken with Santa Claus in front of a scenic seasonal backdrop. All pets are invited.

A professional photographer will be on hand to capture your pets—with or without human family members—on film. As always, Carlos Mejias and Ginger Noce of the Olde Towne School for Dogs will pose every animal to achieve the best effect possible. Several shots will be taken of each animal or group, and the best will be selected for you.

For a \$24.95 sitting fee, you will receive one beautiful 8" x 10" color photo, two 5" X 7"s, and eight wallet-sizes, as well as the negatives. You will be able to pick up your packet at the School just in time for the holidays. They make perfect Christmas gifts or cards. All proceeds will go to the League to help homeless and injured animals.

Sittings are by appointment only, and due to the popularity of this event you will want to make yours early to avoid disappointment. Please call (703) 836-7643 after November 13 to schedule your sitting.

### 1995 Canine Games: Better Than Ever!

There's just one thing to be said about the 1995 Canine Games held on Labor Day Weekend: WOW! Some 237 dogs and well over 500 people had a great time at Jones Point Park. Special thanks go to the following, who donated refreshments, t-shirts, equipment and services:

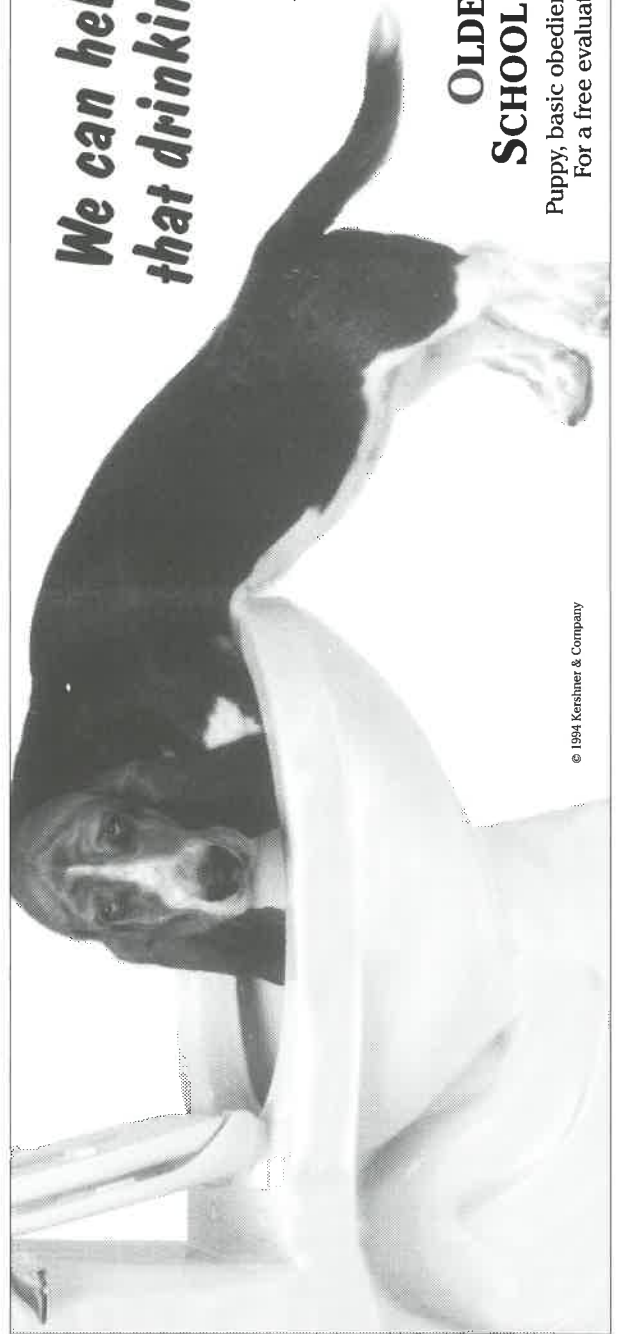
Alexandria Animal Hospital • Alexandria Bowling Center • Alexandria Coffee Company • Almost Anything Inc. Office Support Services • Annandale Millwork • Armand's Pizzeria • Backyard Boats • California Pizza Kitchen • Del Ray Animal Hospital • Elpaw Veterinary Clinic • Fast Signs • Ed Fetterolf • FINA Construction • For Pet's Sake Grooming • Larry and Yo Frommer • Ft. Hunt Animal Hospital • Hayfield Animal Hospital • The IAMS Co. • Kornblut Kanine Training • Old Town Veterinary Hospital • Olde Towne School for Dogs . . . and over 55 volunteers, many of whom arrived early and stayed till the end to make this event a great success

Thanks, also, to the scores of generous contributors who couldn't participate but wanted to help. Your donations will be put to good use for the Shelter animals.

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# Entertainment '96 Is Here!

Every year, League supporters throughout the area discover a fun way to save money on leisure activities and help homeless animals at the same time.

This year, the Entertainment Book has a new high-tech component: *Entertainment Gold*, a new electronic dining program that comes with every Entertainment '96 directory.

Once you purchase Entertainment '96, you need only register any VISA or MasterCard to activate your Entertainment

Gold membership. Then visit any of the restaurants listed in your directory and pay the bill with your registered credit card.

You will receive automatic savings on your next credit card statement. You save 25 percent off your total food and beverage bill (excluding tip and tax), and 10 percent off all subsequent visits to the same restaurant.

Entertainment '96 is a great way to enjoy hundreds of area restaurants. It can save you up to 50 percent on dining, travel,

shopping, moves, theatre, sports, and more. With a bargain price tag of \$35, it also makes a welcome holiday gift for practically anyone on your shopping list.

Best of all, a portion of your book purchase from the League will go directly to help homeless and injured animals at the Alexandria Animal Shelter. Everybody wins!


You can pick up your Entertainment '96 Directory at the Shelter or at selected veterinary hospitals and businesses. Just call (703) 838-4775 for the name of a location near you.

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**Call 838-4775 for more information.**

## Involvement Offers Rewards, Fulfillment

by Cindy Miles

Many people are impressed with the services the League offers. Often they say, "I'd love to volunteer for the League, but seeing all those animals would break my heart!" Maybe you've said the same thing yourself. But you can help the League and the animals in many different ways, depending on the amount of time and effort you are willing to devote.

Those who work at our special events find it a fun, rewarding way to help the homeless, abused and injured animals in temporary residence at the Shelter. The League sponsors events throughout the year where volunteers are true heroes: the Canine Games, the Doggie Dash, Pet Photos with Santa, the St. Patrick's Day Fun Dog Show, the Household Pet Cat Show, and others.

We need volunteers in various capacities in League programs, including our expanding Community Outreach Program and pet therapy.

If time is a problem, there are plenty of other ways you can contribute:

- **Humane Education.** Do "missionary work" in your everyday life by telling others about the benefits of spaying and neutering pets, ways to prevent cruelty and abuse, and responsible pet ownership. Children are

*Continued on page 8*

# JUST FOR DOGS

## Puppy Daycare: A Perfect Solution for Working Families

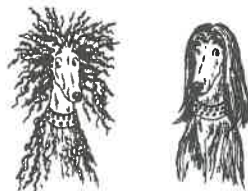
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## Two Cruelty Cases Resolved in Court

Two separate cruelty cases the League worked on this summer were finally brought to court recently. In both cases, the League worked closely with the Commonwealth's Attorney to develop the case and effect successful prosecution of the owners.

One case involved a dead pit bull found tied to a dog house. The dog had died over a 3- to 5-day period after swallowing a collar that created an obstruction in its stomach.

The dog's owner was found guilty of animal cruelty and sentenced to 90 days in jail (this was suspended), court costs, and 2 years' probation. She may not have more than one dog at her residence.

In June, our Animal Control Officers, investigating complaints of foul odors coming from an apartment, discovered 14 cats living in one bedroom. They had no food or water and were very sick.

The cats were seized by our officers, and taken to a veterinarian for treatment.

The owner was later charged and convicted as an unfit owner and with cruelty to animals. She had previously been convicted for animal cruelty in other Virginia jurisdictions.

The owner was sentenced to 6 months in jail (5 months suspended), and 2 years'

probation, during which time she cannot own any animals in the State of Virginia.

She was ordered to pay the League for veterinary and boarding costs incurred in caring for the cats, and agreed to seek psychological help. The cats, all of whom tested positive for Feline Leukemia and Feline AIDS, were humanely euthanized.

These cases underscore just how important it is for citizens to become involved when animals' lives and well-being are threatened. Sadly, there are animals in our community who suffer abuse and neglect every day. They can't ask for help—but you can.

If you have reason to believe an animal is being abused, please call 838-4775. Your call will be treated in strict confidence.

### Rabies/Microchip Clinic Oct. 15

On Sunday, Oct. 15, from 12 to 2 p.m., the League will hold a rabies clinic for dogs, cats, and ferrets at the Shelter. Cost: \$5. Also, a veterinarian will be on hand to implant microchips for identification purposes. All animals must be either leashed or in carriers. There will be a fee for this service. For information call 838-4775.

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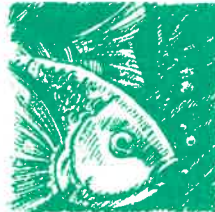
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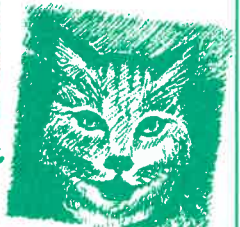
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# Involvement

from page 7

especially responsive to information about animals, and it is during childhood when compassion and respect for animals takes root and grows.

• **Watch for strays** in your neighborhood, and check the lost and found section in your daily paper. The stray you see could be someone's pet.

Call the Shelter (838-4775) to report stray animals. They will be safe there until they can be returned to their home or adopted into a new one.

• **Be alert to cruelty.** You'd be amazed how many once abused animals are now living happier lives, thanks to someone just like you who cared enough to call us. If you have reason to be concerned about the welfare of an animal, call 838-4775 right away.

• **Encourage others to neuter their pets** by giving a gift spray/neuter certificate to someone who cannot afford the cost.

• **Help raise funds for the League.** This can be a great project for your school, church group, business, school or club.

• **Do you have connections** who could help provide supplies, food, or prizes for our special events? If you would like to donate such items, or know of an organization or business that would like to become involved, please call 838-5042.

• **Donations of money or supplies** will go a long way. Your contributions can be used for purposes such as spay/neuter services for low-income families or the adoption program (which, incidentally, is supported entirely by contributions).

As you can see, it's easy to become involved. Whatever your skills, time, or level of commitment, you can play a role in bettering the lives of the animals and citizens in our community.

For more information, call 838-5042.



## Support the League Via CFC and United Way

For several years, area residents have been generously supporting the League by contributing through the Combined Federal Campaign.

This year, for the first time, you can earmark contributions through either CFC or United Way, by specifying the League, **account number 8372**, as your target recipient.

All contributions we receive through these important programs are designed to serve citizens in our community by supporting our adoption, outreach, and humane education programs.

## League Seeks 'Pet of the Week' Sponsors for Ads

Have you seen those eye-catching ads in the local newspapers featuring Shelter animals available for adoption?

We are indebted to the six wonderful sponsors who enable us to show six new animals every other week in the *Alexandria Gazette* and the *Mt. Vernon Gazette*. Thanks also are due Mary Wadland, director of advertising at the *Gazette*, for her assistance in creating the ads. Most of the animals featured in the ads have been adopted.

Our current sponsors are Armand's Pizzeria/Penalty Box, The British Connection, The London Bob, Olde Towne School for Dogs, Old Town Post Box, and For Pet's Sake Grooming.

If you would like to help us feature even more animals each month, we would love to hear from you. For \$50 a month, you too can be a "Pet of the Week" sponsor. For more information, please call Kate Pullen, Shelter Director, at 838-4861.

## 1995 Memorial Contributions: An Enduring Legacy to Animals

The following memorial donations, received over recent weeks, are being used to expand our adoption program and to develop our outreach efforts aimed at assisting pets and their owners in our community.

**From:**

- Gay Pirozzi
- Patricia Beckington
- Mary Jane Wrenn
- Joan Fleming
- J. J. McNally
- J.G.K. Miller
- Genean F. Longo
- Alice and Anna Ohanian
- Marcia Engel
- Georgie Holland and Terry Parsons
- USAir Customer Service Employee Club

**In Memory Of:**

- Pippin
- Monkey
- Reggie
- Mindy
- Ham
- Samson
- Satin
- Libby
- Boris
- Jason Lee Houston
- George Ross Herman



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