

# Spotlight on animals

The Newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

Fall 1996

## Join Us for the League's 1996 Pet Fête, October 17

Congressdog "Dusty" Moran and City Manadog "Jack" Lawson, along with their owners, Congressman Jim Moran and Alexandria City Manager Vola Lawson (pictured at right), cordially invite you to help commemorate the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's 50th Anniversary on October 17. These two prominent pets, along with a score of other local politipets, celibripets, Redskin-pets, and entrepetneurs, have worked all summer long to put together a great evening to celebrate the League's 50 years of service to the community.

The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites at 625 First Street in Alexandria. (This hotel, formerly known as the Old Colony Inn, has convenient wheelchair access, and there is plenty of free street-level and underground parking. The underground lot is accessible from Second Street.)

The Pet Fête will feature a jazz reception with the John Brown Trio, a silent auction, and a program highlighting the League's first 50 years. Pet Fête Chaircat "Chewbacca," the League's Himalayan mascot, will be on hand to meet and greet guests. His committee members, including Mayordog "Shamus" Donley, Entertainercat "H.R.H. Sefi Usu" Gaye, Redskin-pets Winston and Fergie Frerotte, and Weathercat "Misha" Ryan, will be joining us in spirit only, due to City health code regulations.

We are honored to have as our keynote speaker Alexandria City Manager Vola Lawson, whose longtime



support of the League and its programs give her a unique perspective on the partnership between the League and City government. Other special invited guests include State and City officials.

The silent auction items up for grabs are sure to prompt some spirited bidding. They include original paintings and other works donated by local artists; a golf outing at the

*Continued on page 6*

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

1946 **50** 1996

Fifty Years of Helping Animals

*care • concern • commitment*



**Dash on over to Ft. Hunt Park  
on Sunday, November 3  
for the League's  
6th Annual Doggie Dash & Stroll**

For details, turn to page 5.

## Some Good News About Flea Control



by Andrea Tasi, DVM  
Kingstowne Cat Clinic

Every year from the warm summer months through mid-fall, fleas cause great discomfort for pets and frustration for their owners. There are, however, several new products available that have dramatically improved the odds in the war against fleas. Used properly, they can really enhance quality of life for both pet and owner.

Adult fleas live outside, especially in shady areas, and jump onto pets, whose blood they drink for food, causing itchy bites and possible allergic reactions. Adult fleas mate and lay small eggs on the pet's body. The eggs are not sticky, so they fall onto your carpet or lawn and will hatch into tiny caterpillar-like larvae.

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

For advertising information call (703) 820-6639.

A flea larva feeds off various debris and build a cocoon to become a pupa, which eventually hatches into an adult, and the whole nasty cycle begins again. In ideal conditions, the flea life cycle is about two weeks. New flea products are designed to interrupt this cycle. If a current flea infestation is present, any of these products will need to be used along with some environmental/household treatment for fastest results.

**Program**, introduced in 1995, is often the cornerstone recommendation for preventive flea control. This *oral* product (pills for dogs, liquid for cats) is given once a month with a meal. The active ingredient, which is ingested by the flea when it bites the pet and prevents the insect from effectively completing its life cycle, is essentially non-toxic to pets. This "flea birth control" approach prevents fleas from colonizing the home, so it is best used before the flea season is in full swing, and must be given to all pets in the household.

In the Virginia area, veterinarians usually recommend starting the product in April or May and continuing at least through the first frosts of late fall. It is important to understand that **Program** does not repel fleas or kill the individual adult fleas. During flea "prime time" (August through October), concurrent use of a product with adulticide and/or repellent properties may be necessary. **Program alone** is also not the best choice for the flea-allergic pet, as the flea must bite the animal for it to be effective.

**Advantage**, introduced this year, is a topical product with residual flea adulticide action. The contents of a small tube are squeezed onto the skin at the base of the pet's head, and the active ingredient distributed over the pet's entire body. The flea-killing action lasts from two to four weeks, but the product is inactivated by bathing or swimming. This product is a good

choice for flea-allergic animals, especially cats, due to its ease of application. **Advantage** appears to be relatively safe when used properly on healthy pets. It is not recommended for pets under four months old.

**Frontline**, also introduced this year, comes in spray form. When applied over a dog or cat's entire coat, it provides from one to three months of protection against fleas and ticks. It is not inactivated by swimming or routine bathing. This product also seems quite safe, and is a great choice for flea-allergic dogs and dogs who swim regularly. Although it works well on cats, some owners find it difficult to apply any spray product over a cat's entire body. **Frontline** works by concentrating in skin glands and releasing itself over time; it is labeled safe for pets over eight weeks old.

These new products can be used alone or in combination. Flea collars, flea powders, and non-residual flea sprays and dips have been made virtually obsolete by this new generation of flea control, and you will get more "bang for your buck" with these more effective new products. Flea shampoos are useful for getting a pet cleaned up before applying **Advantage** or **Frontline**, and are my only safe choice for very young puppies and kittens.

If you have a flea problem, or want to prevent one, talk with your veterinarian or veterinary technician to decide what products might be best for your pets. They can help instruct you on proper and safe use of flea control products for your pet and your home. There is no need for any pet to suffer the misery of fleas again!



**REMEMBER:**  
Next to you, your  
pet's best friend is  
his veterinarian!

## Casting Call for Adopted Pets

Your pet could be a star in our new note card collection! If you have adopted a pet from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, you are invited to submit a photo of your four-legged friend for possible inclusion in a note card set that will be offered for sale as a fundraiser next year, as early as spring 1997.

All submissions will be given to the artist, who will select the animals best suited for the note cards. The back of each card will carry the pet's name and when the animal was adopted from the League.

Don't forget to put the pet's name, your name and address, and a daytime phone number on the back of the photo (we suggest a typed label to prevent ink smearing onto other pictures).

We'll do our best to ensure that your photos are returned to you unharmed, but encourage you *not* to send your only copy of a treasured photograph.

The photos must arrive at the Shelter no later than November 30 in order to be considered for this project. They must be addressed to **AWLA Note Cards, ATTN: Kate Pullen, 910 S. Payne St., Alexandria, VA 22314.**

## Thanks for Caring!

The League is indebted to everyone who has supported us through the United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign. Last year, your generous support enabled us to add a new service: the Vivian Willis Assistance Program. Through this outreach service, the League provides assistance to persons who are unable to care for a pet due to an illness or temporary disability.

Our designation for the upcoming United Way and Combined Federal Campaign is **8372**. Please continue to show your support through this important program.

## Pet Therapy Program Thrives

Since being featured in the *Washington Post* in early August, the League's pet therapy program has been growing by leaps and bounds. The *Post's* volunteer column attracted the interest of over 75 pet owners eager to share their extra-friendly dogs and cats with others.

Is your pet a candidate for this worthy volunteer effort? You can find out by requesting our information packet detailing the requirements. In addition, each pet undergoes a thorough temperament evaluation, and dogs must also pass the American Kennel Club's Good Citizen Test, which emphasizes good manners. The pet's owners must also attend a League volunteer orientation before entering the program.

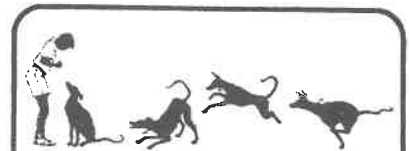
The benefits of pet therapy are numerous. Not only do facility residents enjoy the company of four-legged visitors, but there are proven medical benefits, such as lower blood pressure, derived from petting an animal. Mary Beth Michael, the volunteer coordinator for Woodbine Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, says, "Some of our residents had pets at home and miss the companionship. Another benefit is that people who have difficulty speaking, perhaps due to a stroke or cognitive impairment, are still able to interact with pets and enjoy it immensely."

The volunteers benefit nearly as much as the facility residents. Pet therapy provides volunteers an opportunity to spend time with their pets while making a positive difference

in someone's day. Even the pets, while basking in the extra attention and petting, seem to sense they're doing something special.

If you have an extra-special pet you feel would enjoy visiting nursing home residents, please call the League's Volunteer Coordinator, Megan Brooks, at (703) 838-4387. In general, animals need to be friendly, easygoing, people-oriented, and easily controlled in public settings. Dogs also need to have had some formal obedience training.

Our thanks to Cavaliere Dog Training for administering the canine portion of the evaluation and to Woodbine Rehabilitation and Health Care Center for providing the facility and equipment for our evaluations.



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Chris Cavaliere, Alexandria, VA

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# Wish List

Your donations of the following new or gently used items will help us care for animals at the Shelter. If you'd like to donate any of these items, please drop them off at: 910 S. Payne St. or call (703) 838-4775 to arrange for a pickup.

- Towels • Blankets • Ping pong balls (for cats) • Tennis balls (for dogs) • • Storage shed (please contact Kate at 838-4861) • Animal sweaters
- Foam board • Velcro strips
- Assorted neon-colored copy paper
- 35mm film (100 and 400 speed film)

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For more information call  
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- One-Year Written Guarantee
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- Recommended by Veterinarians
- No Bombs or Sprays

## Slithery Shelter Guest Finds Permanent Home in Texas



Last winter the League rescued a 12-foot Burmese python, a pet that had been abandoned in an Alexandria apartment. The League felt strongly that since the snake was so large, keeping him confined to a tank would be inhumane.

After contacting several national organizations, the League found a way for the snake to live in a cageless

environment resembling a natural niche. A group in San Antonio—one of the few nationally accredited organizations providing refuge for exotic animals—agreed to accept our snake. He was flown to Texas August 27 and by all reports is doing fine.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria discourages ownership of snakes and other exotic animals. They often grow to be very large, and become impossible to house appropriately or humanely. So if you're thinking of adding a pet to your family, by all means come to the Shelter to meet the wonderful, healthy cats and dogs who need good homes. But whatever you do, please leave the snakes and other wild creatures in their natural habitat.

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# Doggie Dash & Stroll Returns November 3

The League's 6th 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 3, at 9:00 a.m. 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.

The registration fee of \$15 per canine entrant includes a hat, bandanna, and dog treats for the first 375 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 and 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 Petco, 6612 Richmond Hwy., between noon and 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 2. Last-minute registrations also will be accepted at Petco at that time.

There will be separate categories for walkers and

runners, with sponsor-donated prizes awarded after the race. A disc jockey will be on hand to provide music throughout the event, and free coffee, hot chocolate, and doughnuts will be available both before and after the race.

Sponsor-donated prizes will be awarded after the race. In addition, there will be a random drawing for two Redskins tickets, one month's membership at the Old Town Athletic Club, and other great prizes. As always, a veterinarian will be on the premises, and water will be provided to the dogs at various points along the race course.

Last year's Doggie Dash & Stroll drew a record crowd, with 380 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 3, on your calendar and dash—or stroll—over to Ft. Hunt Park for a great outing with your best four-legged friend.

For more information, call our Special Events Hotline at (703) 519-7230 after October 17.



## 6th 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.*

## Memorial Contributions: An Enduring Legacy to Animals

The following memorial donations, received between May 1 and September 16, 1996, are being used to expand our adoption program and humane education program, as well as to develop our outreach efforts. These names will be added to our permanent memorial plaque in the lobby at the Shelter:

Donor	In Honor of/In Memory Of
Ruth Ammons	Lucy Anderson Wenner
Stephen A. Bai	Anita Bai
Elizabeth Barnes	Nikita
William Bishop	Bilbo
Robert Bolger	Surf
Kathleen M. Burke	Tasha
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Butler	Taffy
Mary Cascio	Ripley
Bert Crystal, Herb Cohen, Irving Sandler, George Kessler, and Bernie Morris	Mildred Kolb
James M. Connell	Princess
Craig Dixon	Edith Burke
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Drews	Belinda & Amy
Mark L. Elkin	Ned the Cairn Terrier
Margery Fawcett	Lucy Anderson Wenner
Diana Garmus	Boo-Boo
Susan Gerson	Mrs. Jane Hieta
Margaret Goodell	Bucky, April & Puffy
George & Minna Gough	Hette Ream
The Hon. & Mrs. Lee Hamilton	The pets we have loved
Dr. Andrew Han/Elpaw Vet Clinic	Belinda
Dr. Andrew Han/Elpaw Vet Clinic	Sammy
Dr. Andrew Han/Elpaw Vet Clinic	Charney & Nora
Colby Hatch	Lucy Green, Trixie & The Kitties
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hartley	Belinda
Joan Higginbotham	Ned
Margaret Hodges	Tux & Kid Curry
Jean Holt	Maise & Murdock
Rick & Judy Joyce	Betsy Moller
Sandra C. Lee	Linus & Boo
Sharon Leibetreu	Magnolia Camille Shanks
J. C. Ligor	Queenie
Dr. & Mrs. Richard McConaughy	Bows
Ashby McDonald	Bear
Shirley Newman	Bete Noire
Marilyn Patton	Coco
Ann Perkins	Hedge
Pet Care by Kaye Brown	Lois Swartzberg
Gay Pirozzi	Kate
Carolyn Reece	Brandy
Barbara & Terry Reideler	Catta
Emily Scheuer	Rosie
Jack Steele	Sammy
Dean Stephanides	"Yul" Stephanides
Harry R. Stevenson III	Dudley & Millie
Harry Westbay III	Helen A. Westbay
Walter Willis	Vivian Willis
Cicely Woodrow & Chet Migdalski	Bert & Scout
Joan Wrather	Maggie
Joseph Zelinka	Oscar Hobbs

We also wish to gratefully acknowledge the following contributors:

Donor	In Honor Of/In Memory Of
Nadine Bacaj	Pretty Dog
Barbara J. Bell	Amber Leigh Bell
Jean Belton	Benji
James Bennett	Keyboard (Norma Jean)
Charles H. Bridgewater	Kahlua
Bob & Kathy Cassel	Aunt Mil
Ellen U. Flynn	Fifi
Jessica & Bruce Freedman & cats	Al Battis
Stuart T. Greene	Mary Alford
Andrea Hamilton	Mrs. Jane Hieta
Landon Holden	Kevin McCaffrey
Jerry Jennings	Smokey
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Krown	Gina and AWLA
George Loewy	Mrs. Eva Marer
The Mullen Family	Francis Mardula
Elise Passentino	Mrs. Perlman
April Reyes	Kitch
Karin Stack	Sue Reemsnyder

If you would like to make a memorial contribution to the League, you may send it to AWLA, 910 S. Payne St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

## Pet Fête/Annual Dinner

from page 1

Tides Inn; a weekday getaway for two at the Red Fox Inn; dinner for two at several of the area's most popular restaurants; and a variety of pet-related products and services.

Dinner options include marinated free-range chicken, wild mushroom streudel (vegetarian), and vegetable terrine (vegan). Invitations to the Pet Fête/Annual Dinner were mailed in mid-September. If you did not receive yours and wish to attend, call (703) 836-2251. Please make your reservation by October 7.

All proceeds from the Pet Fête will be used to help homeless, injured, and abused animals. Please join us!



Thursday, October 17, 1996

Old Town Holiday Inn & Suites

(Formerly the Old Colony Inn)

625 First Street • Hotel Phone: (703) 548-6300

Jazz Reception and Silent Auction: 6 p.m.

Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

Pet Fête Information: (703) 836-2251

## Visit the Shelter Soon!

Are you thinking of adding a pet to your family? There are many bright, beautiful animals at the Shelter who need loving homes. We're the only shelter in the area open seven days a week for your convenience.

### Hours of Operation

#### Business:

Tue., Thu., Sat.	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri.	8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sun. and Holidays	12 noon-4 p.m.

#### Animal Visiting:

Tue., Thu., Sat.	11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri.	11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Sun. and Holidays	12 noon-4 p.m.

Alexandria Animal Shelter  
910 South Payne Street • Alexandria  
(703) 838-4775

## Honorary Committee

Chaircat Chewbacca  
Congressdog Dusty Moran  
State Senecat Ciji Ticer  
State Deledogs Hubert  
Horatio & Sola Mia Van  
Landingham  
Mayordog Shamus Donley  
Councildogs Kofi Rich &  
Dillard Walker  
Sheriffdog Jacko Dunning  
City Manadog Jack Lawson  
Asst. City Manadog  
Fiona Rose Evans  
COPdogs Rambo & Lindy  
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Troubadog Cal Carpenter  
Entertainercat  
H.R.H. Sefi Uso Gaye  
Showdog  
Reilly Noce Carpenter  
Television Celebripets Topi &  
Dutch Chocolate Caras  
Weathercat Misha Ryan  
Newshound Beau Ty Presutti  
Trafficat Gus Binn  
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Ebony & Onyx Johnson  
Boss, Lady & King Mitchell  
*Entrepetneurs:*  
Molly, Art FX  
George & Ginger  
Barchesky, For Pet's Sake  
Fern Darkow, Why Not  
Sunny Elmendorf, Misha's  
Master & Alex Mc Mahon,  
The Pineapple Brass Shop  
Bubbles & Star Mejias,  
Olde Towne School for  
Dogs  
Jackson Noce, Noce In-  
Home Training  
Alice B. Retriever, Art &  
Soul  
Chester Andrew Riley,  
Unique  
Rocky Seward, Misha's

**AWLA's 50th Anniversary Pet Fete Honorary Committee  
cordially invites you to attend our**



**Thursday, October 17, 1996**

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**  
*(formerly the Old Colony Inn)*  
**625 First Street, Alexandria, VA**

### **Silent Auction Donors**

*To commemorate the League's half-century of helping animals, the following businesses have generously donated items for the Pet Fete Silent Auction. More donations are coming in every day! All funds raised from the Silent Auction will support Animal Welfare League of Alexandria programs and services.*

#### **Original Artworks**

Rob Chestnut  
Solveig Cox  
Geraldine Eaker  
Jacqueline Ehle  
Nancy Garcia  
Matthew Johnston  
Amelia Rosenthal  
Diane M. Smith  
Marian Van Landingham

#### **Restaurants**

219  
Bistro Bistro  
Bombay Curry Company  
Carlyle Grand Cafe  
Chadwick's-Old Town  
Cool Hands Cafe  
LeGaulois Cafe  
South Austin Grill

#### **Gifts & Home Decor**

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Art & Soul  
Fast Signs  
Fern Street Gourmet  
Lockhart Entertainment Group  
The Pineapple Brass Shop  
The Roderique Gallery of New Orleans

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Cineplex Odeon Theatres  
The Dandy Restaurant Cruise Ship  
Embassy Row Hotel  
Old Town Athletic Club  
The Red Fox Inn  
The Tides Inn

#### **Pet Services & Products**

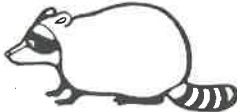
ASPCA  
Bone Voyage, Inc.  
Cavaliere Dog Training  
Dulles Executive Pet Center  
Mt. Vernon Dog Training  
Old Mill Boarding Kennels  
Weasel Watchers



## When Wild Animals Call Your House Home

Each year, as our community grows, wild animals are forced to live closer and closer to humans or to compete with them for food, shelter, and space. Some people try for a “quick fix” to problems, and to many that means trapping and relocating wildlife. But even a successful relocation is a stopgap measure, because there are always other animals waiting to fill the vacancy created. Moreover, relocation causes stress for the animals, not to mention any young who might be left behind.

There are, however, some common-sense solutions that are very effective in deterring wild animals from settling near you, and don't upset your household or theirs in the bargain.

**Raccoons.** The idea is to make the outside of your home “unfriendly” to raccoons, but in a humane way. Your trash container must be secure— simply placing a brick on the lid won't keep out a determined raccoon. If it's not possible to put your trash container in a secure garage, fasten the lid with heavy rubber bungee cords; also, pour ammonia over the garbage each time you add to it, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

If you have an ornamental fish pond (which to raccoons is like a neon sign that says “All-Night Diner”), place U-shaped ceramic tiles along the bottom of the pond to form a tunnel. This gives the fish a place to hide when the raccoons come calling, and the masked critters will soon tire of the game and move along.

Are there raccoons in your attic? Place a reflector light (with a flasher disk) and a radio tuned on a talk station in that area. When you think

the animal is gone, stuff a plastic bag in the entry hole (leave the lights and radio on). If the plastic is undisturbed after three days, seal the hole. This method also works for squirrels, though you can add an inflated toy owl.

When you have raccoon lodgers in the chimney, put the light and radio inside the fireplace. It may take several days for the raccoons to leave, especially if there are young. Never use a fire to smoke them out. If you hear crying during the day, call your local animal control agency—it probably means there are orphaned young.

**Woodpeckers.** Suspend a plastic great horned owl from an overhang. Be sure to change its position every other day. You can lure woodpeckers away from the house by placing a suet feeder far from the home. Also, hanging aluminum pie pans from a strong outside the home will deter them.

**Roosting Birds.** Place double-sided tape along areas used by birds; also, stretching a slinky toy along the area makes the roosting spot very unstable and will encourage them to move along.

But please remember: *It is illegal to move or interfere in any way with bird nests and/or young.*

**Bats.** In the attic, use flashing lights and music as described above. Sprinkle naphthalene flakes (about 1 lb. per 400 sq.ft.). Caulk all cracks and screen openings. If you encounter a bat in a living space (or outside on the ground or not moving), do not touch it or attempt to remove it on your own. Call your local animal control agency, who will remove the bat.



**Animals in the Garden.** The only solution is to fence the plot, with the fence extending partially underground. Plastic inflatable snakes and owls are effective, as are aluminum pie plates strung above the garden; the light and noise they create acts as a deterrent. For persistent animals, try putting apples, vegetable and fruit parings outside the fence.

**And remember:** Wild animals who appear sick, wildlife in the living space of a home, or injured wild animals require the help of your local animal control agency. *Never* try to intervene yourself, no matter how tame the animal appears.

Also, you should ensure that all your pets are current on rabies vaccinations—even strictly indoor cats, who could be exposed to rabies if wild animals get inside your home.

Please call the League at (703) 838-4775 for answers to questions and for more humane solutions to wildlife problems.

### Spaying/Neutering: A Lifesaver for Your Pet

Wouldn't it be great if there were a simple way to make your pet immune to a number of life-threatening diseases? Actually, there is. Spaying/neutering your pet can add years to his life and life to his years.

Don't fall prey to myths surrounding this life-enhancing surgery. Speak with your veterinarian soon, and learn how altering your pet can protect him or her against certain diseases. The surgery is simple, painless, and can increase the odds that

*Continued on page 11*



## Canine Games Brings Out the Stuff of Champions

On August 31, over 260 canine competitors and their owners "went for the gold" at the 5th Annual Canine Games at Jones Point Park. A perfect summer day, some new events, and lots of friendly competition ensured that everyone had a terrific time. Whether or not they went home with a medal, every one of the four-legged athletes was a true champion!

Many thanks also to the following wonderful businesses and individuals, whose generous sponsorships and contributions ensured our success:

Armand's Pizza and  
The Penalty Box—Old Town  
Art & Soul  
Bilbo Baggins  
Travis Brooks  
Ed Fetterolf

Fina Construction  
Larry and Yo Frommer  
Susan and Fran Mardula  
Carlos Mejias  
Misha's Coffee House  
Old Town Holiday Inn Select  
Old Town Post Box  
South Austin Grill

...and the more than 85 volunteers who helped make this year's Games the best yet!



A canine competitor tries her skill at dog bowling.

### Phone Numbers You Should Know

Alexandria Animal Shelter  
(703) 838-4775

- Adoption Information
- Animal Control
- To Report Suspected Cruelty
- Wildlife Questions/Information

Humane Education  
(703) 838-5042

Volunteer Coordinator  
(703) 838-4387

*If you ever have reason to believe an animal's life is in danger, don't delay—call 838-4775 immediately.*

### 'Oh, we had a dog . . . but we gave it to a good home'

How can you really tell what is a good home? We at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria do our very best to effectively screen potential adopters. Thanks to our conscientious, specially trained adoption counselors, we find homes for about 100 animals every month. Would you like to become an adoption counselor? We have a part-time position available for an individual with good communications skills who:

- can work two evenings and one weekend day (about 15-20 hours a week);
- has transportation and a good driving record;
- has a good knowledge of cats or dogs;
- is genuinely concerned about the welfare of animals; and
- would be able, when necessary, to deny adoptions to inappropriate homes.

If you think you would make a good adoption counselor, please send us your resume with a cover letter describing your qualifications and why you are interested in this position. Fax to (703) 838-5042, ATTN: Laura Kipp, or mail to her at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, 910 S. Payne St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

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**The following area veterinarians are proud to sponsor this ad in support of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria as it commemorates 50 years of helping animals.**

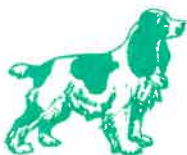
- Alexandria Animal Hospital (751-2022)
- Barcroft Cat Clinic (941-2852)
- Burke Veterinary Clinic (455-6222)
- Companion Animal Hospital (866-4100)
- Del Ray Animal Hospital (739-0000)
- Elpaw Veterinary Clinic (751-3707)
- Ft. Hunt Animal Hospital (360-6100)
- Gunston Animal Hospital (339-7725)
- Hayfield Animal Hospital (971-2127)
- Kingsview Animal Hospital (971-9292)
- Sacramento Veterinary Hospital (780-2808)
- VA-MD Veterinary Emergency Service (823-3601)
- VCA—Beacon Hill Cat Hospital (765-2287)
- VCA—Old Town Veterinary Hospital (549-3647)
- Village Veterinary Clinic (978-8655)
- Woodbridge Animal Hospital (494-5191)

**Spaying/neutering can prolong your pet's life and safeguard his health by preventing some types of cancer. Speak with your veterinarian about the many benefits of this important life-saving surgery soon!**



**REMEMBER:**  
**Next to you, your pet's best friend is his veterinarian!**

For the addresses of the veterinarians who participate in the League's reduced-cost spay/neuter program, call (703) 838-4775.



**Are You Sentimental about Spaniels?**

**Daffy for Dalmatians? Hyped over Huskies?**

We think mixed-breed pets are the greatest—and thousands of satisfied adopters agree with us. But you should know that over 40 percent of the dogs brought to the Shelter last year were purebreds. When you're ready to adopt, please call us at (703) 838-4775. If we don't have your preferred breed of cat or dog in residence, we'll be happy to take your name and let you know when such an animal becomes available.

A Shelter Success Story

**Shelter Dog Was 'Major' Find For Young Married Couple**

When Rick and Dana Hutson came to the Shelter looking for a dog, they weren't exactly sure what they wanted. This was their first dog as a couple, and they wanted a pet who would suit their lifestyle well.



When they went back into our dog kennels, they were somewhat overwhelmed by the choices available. We had a number of dogs at the time, all of them excited and begging for attention—except for one.

Major sat calmly in his kennel and watched them in his noble manner. Dana, noting that he was four years old, was instantly taken with his good looks and dignity. Upon taking him for his walk, she soon discovered that he had the spirit and energy they liked—and excellent manners. "While he was full of energy," Dana recalls, "he wasn't a hyper puppy who would exhaust us, but he was more than able to keep up with us." The chemistry among the three of them began to build, and Rick and Dana soon decided this was the dog they'd been waiting for.

As a puppy, Major had been rescued from an abusive situation by our Animal Control Officers. He was adopted by a family who kept him for three years but returned him to the Shelter when they moved. This time, it appears Major is home to stay.

Dana and Rick have had Major for two months now and can't say enough good things about him. They point out that older dogs do adapt to new households easily; there are many advantages to having an older dog who is housebroken and who can be trusted to have free run of the house. They've also found that the old adage, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" certainly isn't true.

Major approaches new challenges with vigor. He is learning to play frisbee, and was a quick study in learning to swim. As many of Rick and Dana's friends have children, it was wonderful to adopt a dog who was used to kids. They're also glad to have a companion who can keep up with their very active lifestyle. Almost every weekend the three of them go somewhere new and exciting. A while back, the Hutsons brought their new pet to a friend's barbecue, where he had a great time—Major was paid the high compliment of being invited back.

It's obvious that Major has finally found the perfect home. As the Hutsons say, they "make a great team."



## Attention: All Teachers, Scout Leaders, and Students

During the past year, the League conducted humane education classes and other programs for thousands of area residents at schools, club meetings, and summer camps.

Our programs can be tailored to any age group, and are a fun and entertaining way to impress on everyone the importance of responsible pet care (including spaying and neutering) and respect for all living creatures.

To learn more about our curriculum and to schedule a program for your group, please call the League's Humane Education Coordinator, Jeanine Larsen, at (703) 838-5042.

## A Message from President Bill Clinton



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 21, 1996

Greetings to all those celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

Our nation's strength always has depended on the unselfish acts of generosity and community action of our citizens. Over the years, the members of your organization have devoted themselves to fostering humane care of animals and responsible pet ownership. You are making your own contribution to the spirit of service that is such an integral part of the American character.

The members of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria can take great pride in their dedication over the past five decades. I commend you for your commitment to service and send best wishes for a memorable event.

*Bill Clinton*

## Spay/Neuter

from page 8

your pet will happily share your life for many years to come.

Thirty area veterinarians who understand the importance of spaying/neutering pets and are committed to addressing the tragedy of pet

overpopulation support the League's reduced-cost spay/neuter program. Certificates for reduced-cost surgery, and a list of the local veterinarians who honor them, are available at the Shelter, at 910 S. Payne Street. For more information, call (703) 838-4775.



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We support the League and its adoption programs

Conveniently located at 2 E. Glebe & Commonwealth Ave.  
(2 blocks from Cora Kelly School)

For more information, call (703) 836-5965 today!

## Pet Photos with Santa Returns, December 6-8

The League continues a popular tradition with its annual Pet Photos with Santa event at the Olde Towne School for Dogs, Friday, December 6 through Sunday, December 8.

Every year, at least 300 pet owners bring in their four-legged companions for a photo op with Santa to support the League as they get themselves into the holiday spirit.

You can have your pets photographed alone or with the family. For a \$24.95 sitting fee, you will receive one 8" x 10", two 5" x 7"s, and eight wallet-size photos, all in beautiful color.

As always, Carlos Mejias of the Olde Towne School for Dogs will work with each animal to achieve just the right pose.

You can make your sitting appointment after November 22 by calling 836-7643. Booking times fill up fast, so call early to avoid disappointment.

All proceeds from this event will go to help injured and homeless animals at the Alexandria Animal Shelter.



For area resident and country music star Mary Chapin Carpenter and her four-legged companion, Cal, the League's Pet Photos with Santa is an annual tradition. This year's event will be held December 6-8 at the Olde Towne School for Dogs.

**Is your pet licensed? City law requires annual licensing of all cats and dogs. For more information, call (703) 838-4775.**



**Balmy Fall Days  
Can Mean Danger  
For Pets in Cars!**

Love that balmy fall weather—but your car can still turn into an oven in a hurry, resulting in brain damage or death for your pet. Don't take chances—leave him home!



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