



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

# SPOTLIGHT on animals

IN OUR 45th YEAR

SPRING 1991

*You've seen the pictures in veterinary hospitals, pet supply shops, and many local retail stores. They're small Polaroid photos of Shelter animals who desperately need homes. We are delighted to report that all three animals whose pictures were placed in these various locations during February have been adopted by people who saw their pictures. So, "Daisy," "Bobby" and "Honey-Rose" will spend the rest of their lives in good, loving homes because of one volunteer who regularly takes the time to photograph the animals and then post the pictures around town.*

*Community support of League programs enables us to offer the animals at the Shelter the best possible care. Your monetary donations are always welcome and appreciated, of course, but we also have a "wish list" of things our animals can use. Following is a list of items most needed at the Animal Shelter. The animals and staff will sincerely appreciate any donations you are able to make:*

- Animal treats and toys
- Science diet animal food
  - Bird seed
- Guinea pig, rabbit, hamster, and gerbil food
  - cat litter
- IBM self-correcting typewriter
- Advertising/marketing services
  - 35mm camera for cruelty investigations
- TV and VCR for educational purposes

*Has your pet been spayed or neutered? If not, please ask your veterinarian about the many health benefits that will result from this very safe surgical procedure. The chances of your dog or cat having many types of cancer and infection are greatly reduced or even eliminated by spaying or neutering. Talk to your veterinarian today!*

## Fifth Annual Fun Dog Show Set for March 9

It's seldom that pet owners are invited—even encouraged—to bring their four-legged friends to one of the season's hottest social events, but a happy exception will be the Fifth Annual St. Patrick's Day Fun Dog Show, sponsored by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) and the Ballyshaners, a local Irish-American organization.

This year's event will begin at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, March 9 (one week before St. Paddy's Day), at Market Square, 301 King Street, Old Town, Alexandria. All dogs are welcome. Whether they're purebreds or Heinz-57s, whether or not they know "sit" from "come," no matter what their size, they're invited.

This year, WGMS Radio personality Judy Gruber will again be the special guest emcee for the festivities, which include a just-for-fun "competition" in a dozen categories. First, second, third and fourth place ribbons will be presented to the dogs with the most spots, the most "Irish" dogs, the dogs with the longest tail, the blackest and whitest dogs, the dogs who look most like their owners, the dogs with the "best dressed" owners, and many other categories. Every dog entered will receive a certificate from the League.

To add to the fun, a photographer will be on hand to take pictures of dogs and their owners and to capture their favorite moments. Coffee, soft drinks and doughnuts will be available as well.

One of the highlights of the morning will be the presentation of five of the Shelter's most eligible candidates, homeless dogs for whom adoption applications will be accepted.

Also featured at the 1991 event will be an "Ask the Vet" booth, manned by a local veterinarian who will answer questions on pet care.

This event is always a lot of fun for everyone—including the animals. Last year around 2,000 people attended, and this year we're expecting even more.



Judy Gruber  
Guest Emcee

## League to Raffle Romantic Weekend

Imagine a glamorous and exciting weekend in a private hotel room, complete with champagne, a stretch limousine and dinner for two at an elegant restaurant. It can be yours—if you win the League's Spring Weekend Raffle.

The luxurious Marriott Suites in Alexandria has reserved a room for two, complete with champagne. Arrive on a Saturday afternoon, enjoy the large indoor pool, the cocktail lounge, or just relax in a spacious room overlooking Old Town. Then, at 6:30 p.m., you and your companion

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## Transfusions: A Lifesaving Technology

by Fern Beauchamp Crist, D.V.M.

Dr. Crist is an Associate at the Alexandria Animal Hospital.

- Your Irish setter, King, has just been hit by a passing car. He is losing consciousness and bleeding rapidly from a large wound.
- Your new kitten suddenly seems very weak. She is covered with fleas and you notice that her gums are extremely pale.
- Your new Doberman puppy began vomiting shortly after you got him home. He is now in the hospital, very sick, with bloody diarrhea. His immune system is just not strong enough to fight off this overwhelming infection without help.

What do these three pets have in common? They are all likely to need a *blood transfusion* as part of their treatment.

Blood transfusions have been practiced on humans since the early 19th century, but they were often fatal until the advent of blood typing, which was discovered in the early 1900s. Around the same time, transfusion reactions were documented in cats, but blood types were not yet identified. Much more recently, researchers have found eight blood types in dogs and three in cats. There are some animals, such as ferrets, that have only one blood type. It is essential to ensure that patient and donor blood types are compatible before an anemic patient receives a transfusion.

In veterinary medicine, as in human medicine, transfusions require expensive and highly specialized equipment like blood banks, where blood is stored under conditions that will keep it fresh for as long as possible. Therefore, not every veterinary hospital can offer this service.

For dogs and cats, blood for transfusions is often difficult to obtain. The average cost to a patient for a single unit of blood is usually \$100 to \$150, due to the cost of obtaining, processing and storing the blood.

Not just any animal can be a blood donor. The ideal donor dog is at least 50 pounds but not fat; is not on any medication except regular heartworm preventive; is healthy, well-fed, vaccinated annually and disease-free. Donor candidates are often tested for a variety of diseases to ensure against transmitting any diseases along with their blood. It is very important that they be of a cooperative tem-

perament, as they must stand still for several minutes at a time in order to give blood.

Feline blood donors should also be large (over 10 pounds) and fit the same criteria as dog donors. They should test negative for feline leukemia, feline AIDS and other diseases. Almost all cats must be sedated in order to give blood.

Both canine and feline donors should donate no more than once every six weeks or so. The process is completely safe as long as it is not done too frequently.

It is not essential to know the blood types of animal donors. Usually when a transfusion might be necessary we do not know the blood type of the recipient, nor are there facilities to discover it with the necessary speed. Instead, we perform a crossmatching test between donor and recipient blood before the transfusion, to see if the two are compatible or if the mixture causes a bad reaction. This test can be performed quickly, and is a good guide to predicting how the transfusion



will be tolerated.

A blood transfusion usually involves not an exchange of *whole* blood, but rather one or more *blood components*. Whole blood can be separated into red and white blood cells, platelets, and plasma. The component that is given depends on the particular need of the patient.

Blood and blood component transfusion, given in a cautious and safe manner, can mean the difference between life and death for many a critically ill patient. Your pet may need one someday; somewhere close to you, someone else's pet needs one right now. Look around and find a place where your dog or cat can give, and help keep someone else's beloved companion alive.



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## Summer Fun and Learning for Kids

For the first time, in conjunction with the Arlington Animal Welfare League, the Alexandria Animal Welfare League is offering limited enrollment in "Kids 'n Critters Camp." This program will be held in two separate one-week sessions and will feature crafts, working with animals, and guest speakers.

Session I is from June 24-28, and is for six-, seven- and eight-year-olds. Session II, from July 15-19, is for nine through eleven. Each camp session is \$50 (or \$45 for members of either League) and will be held at the Arlington Shelter, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington. Sessions are weekdays only and are held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All participants will receive a League t-shirt.

Please call the Alexandria Animal Welfare League at (703) 838-5042 for applications *after* March 15. Remember, enrollment is limited, so register early.

### League to Sponsor Wildlife Lecture On March 27

Anyone interested in nature and area animal life will enjoy "A Walk Through Huntley Meadows Park," a look at a local wildlife habitat as seen through the eyes and lens of naturalist Ken Howard.

Mr. Howard will present his popular slide show and lecture on March 27 at 7:30 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Potowmack Landing Restaurant in Alexandria. The one-hour program is sponsored by the League. Price of admission is \$15, and due to limited seating, advance reservations are required.

Ample parking will be provided.

To register, call the Shelter at (703) 838-4775, or fill out and return the form on page 3 of this issue.

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

# The Role of the Humane Educator

by Elizabeth Singleton

A humane educator's job is to teach about kindness, caring and love for animals. Some people have never experienced owning and caring for a pet, while others cannot imagine their lives without a cat or dog scurrying about at home. A humane educator teaches children and adults about caring for an animal at home, about the purposes of an animal shelter, what an animal control officer is and does, and what happens when there are too many animals and not enough homes to go around. Depending on the age group, the humane educator can bring up subjects on spaying and neutering of pets, regular medical attention for animals, and aspects of euthanasia, such as why it is used and under what circumstances.

Children can make a powerful difference in the quality of life for our animals. The more children know about loving and respecting animals and about responsible

pet care, the more they will be able to influence what happens to the animals in their homes and neighborhoods. The bond between the humane educator and our children is an essential life link. Together, we *can* and *will* make a difference.

If you would like to have a humane educator speak to your class about animals and responsible pet care, please contact Elizabeth Singleton at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 838-5042.

## Raffle

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will be driven in a private limousine to the Washington area's newest, most elegant restaurant, The Gaslight—recently described by the *Washington Post's* Phyllis Richman as the "gas lit, silk wallpapered lap of luxury." After dinner, your limousine will return you to the Marriott.

Raffle tickets are on sale now at the Shelter, and you'll be seeing League volunteers selling them at various locations around town. Tickets are priced at \$2 each or three for \$5. All proceeds go to help the League find homes for abandoned animals. The drawing will be held at the Shelter at 12 noon on Saturday, May 18. You need not be present to win.

Our special thanks go to the wonderful people at the Old Town Marriott, and to the Gaslight's Mr. Ray Giavonnoni and Ms. Carol Huebner for their generous support in making our raffle possible.

## Shelter Focus

### Hedy Wuthrich Kennel Assistant



Quality animal caretaking is the Alexandria Animal Shelter's highest priority. The key to good animal care is having dedicated, humane, hard-working kennel assistants. These

are the people who daily feed, clean, examine, medicate, exercise, and just play with our animals. The Shelter is very fortunate to have Hedy Wuthrich on our kennel staff. Hedy, who is a longtime resident of Alexandria and has two cats of her own, has worked at the Shelter since 1990. She was previously employed at an animal hospital where she acquired extensive experience in animal care.

We believe that the exceptionally high quality care that our Shelter animals receive is directly attributable to Hedy Wuthrich and the other members of our professional kennel staff.



**KIMBERLY McANENY**  
Interior Designer

(703) 273-7800      10390 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22030

### Wildlife Lecture Registration

**YES! I want to attend the League's Wildlife Lecture on March 27.**

Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) at \$15 each. Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend the lecture, but please accept my contribution for \$\_\_\_\_\_. My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. no. \_\_\_\_\_

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

*The League is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization established in 1946.*

Please return this form, with any registration fees and/or contributions, to:  
Animal Welfare League of Alexandria  
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# Be Kind to Animals Week, May 5-11

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will participate in the nationwide recognition of "Be Kind to Animals Week," May 5-11, 1991.

The League is planning a series of

events designed to heighten public awareness regarding the humane treatment of animals.

One activity already scheduled is three days of photo sessions for people and their pets (see box). Other events are being planned, so watch for more information in the near future.

## Pet Portraits

The Animal Welfare Leagues of Alexandria and Arlington again have selected Mr. Michael Joseph, the renowned pet photographer, for their annual three-day spring Pet Portrait session.

The event will be cosponsored by the two Leagues and will be held at the Alexandria Animal Shelter on May 10, 11 and 12, 1991. Mr. Joseph is one of the most outstanding photographers in the United States, with decades of experience specializing in pets. Michael and his wife, Deborah, have photographed over 30,000 pets in 15 states.

There will be a \$9.95 sitting fee, all of which will be donated to both Leagues. At each sitting Michael will take six to eight pictures of you and your pet, or your pet alone. He and Deborah use techniques developed over 20 years to get the perfect post from your pet. Approximately 10 days after your sitting, you will have the opportunity to view your proofs, and at that time you will have the option of ordering finished pictures in a variety of sizes and styles.

Appointments are necessary and can be scheduled by calling "Pet Portraits by Michael" at 1-800-822-1379. Last year we scheduled Mr. Joseph for three days; appointments for those days were quickly filled, and we had to ask him to stay for a fourth day. Please call early to avoid disappointment.

## Benefit the League Whenever You Travel!

Did you know that each time you travel, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria can benefit?

Longtime Alexandria residents and Shelter volunteers Yo and Larry Frommer of Frommer Travel Service are donating to the League 20 percent of the applicable commission on travel that League members book through the agency. These donations will apply not only to League members who book through Frommer Travel Service, but to relatives or friends traveling with them. A few restrictions apply; please inquire when you make your bookings.

What a perfectly painless way to make a financial contribution to the League, every time you take a trip! So the next time you plan to travel, phone Yo or Larry at (202) 296-5220 and identify yourself as a League member; this will secure the donation.

*Did you know that the Alexandria Animal Shelter is open seven days a week? We are the only shelter that we know of in this region which is open every day of the week. AND we are open Wednesday and Friday evenings as well.*

## 'Pet Portraits with Santa' Brightens Holidays for Pets and Their Owners

The League's second annual "Pet Portraits with Santa" event was held December 1-2 at the Old Towne School for Dogs.

Some 250 sittings were reserved over the two-day session, with professional and League volunteers contributing their time and talents to make the event an overwhelming success.

Special thanks go to Carlos Mejias, who donated a room at the Olde Towne School for Dogs for the photographs to be taken, and who managed to coax just the right poses and expressions from even the most nervous animals. Without his generous offer of his time and facilities, "Pet Portraits with Santa" would not have been possible.

The League is also indebted to Carol Harrison and Tel Zeiler, two hardworking professionals who were able to photograph hundreds of people and animals in five-minute sittings over a two-day period, and to Kimberly McAneny, a local interior designer who decorated the set for Santa and the animals.

Finally, thanks to all the volunteers and friends of the League who willingly gave their time and energy to make "Pet Portraits with Santa" work.

It is hoped that "Pet Portraits with Santa" will continue to be an annual tradition for area residents.

### CAROL HARRISON PHOTOGRAPHER

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