



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

SPOTLIGHT on animals

IN OUR 47th YEAR

SPRING 1993

More pets are turned in to the Shelter during the summer than at any other time of year. Unfortunately, there are far more homeless animals than families to adopt them. If you're considering adding a four-legged companion to your family, please come to the Shelter first. Whether you're looking for a purebred or a mixed breed, you can make all the difference for an animal who will return your love and companionship tenfold!

Thanks to humane education and greater public awareness, citizens of our community have been alert to instances of abuse and cruelty to animals. If you see or suspect abuse, please don't wait—report it immediately to the Animal Shelter at (703) 838-4775. You could save an animal's life.

It bears repeating: City law requires that you pick up after your pet. Please—be a responsible owner and keep our community clean.

The League relies heavily on public contributions to fulfill its mission of caring for homeless and injured animals, and providing humane education programs. You can continue to help even after you're gone, by considering a bequest to the League. For more information, please call (703) 838-4775 today.

Spaying/neutering not only helps to alleviate the tragedy of homeless and unwanted animals, but can prolong the life of your pet as well. Speak with your vet soon about the health benefits of this important surgery.

FUN Cat Show Set for June 27

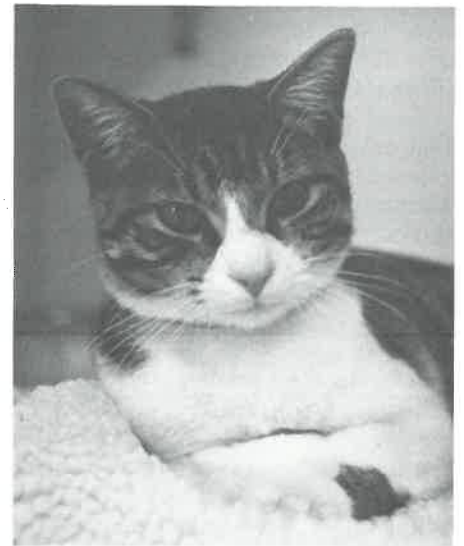
This purr-fect idea is bound to give you paws for thought.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is pleased to announce that, in response to the growing number of cat-lovers in our community who have been asking for an event just for felines, a FUN Cat Show will take place on Sunday afternoon, June 27, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street in Alexandria.

This event is sure to please all cat owners, for it will feature numerous special just-for-fun categories for judging, including Oldest Cat, Most Unusual Eyes, Most Toes, Longest Ear Tufts, and others. A special category will be reserved only for cats adopted from any animal shelter. Judging categories will be established for longhair and shorthair entrants, as well as by coat patterns and color. There will be division placings and finals. All cats—whether purebred or mixed breeds—are welcome. However, two requirements apply: **They must be spayed/neutered and they must be current on vaccinations.**

The entry fee is \$15 per cat. Ring sponsors include the Beacon Hill Cat Hospital, the Old Town Veterinary Hospital, Our Little Friends, and the P.T. Moran Company.

Vendors at the FUN Cat Show will offer food and beverages, as well as souvenirs and cat-related products. In addition, local veterinarians will conduct mini-seminars on Cat Care, Declawing Alternatives, Older Cats, and other health issues. The day-long event is sponsored by the League with the assistance of Dr. Nancy Suska, a



All cats are welcome at the Cat Show on June 27

veterinarian affiliated with the Beacon Hill Cat Hospital in Alexandria. All net proceeds from the event will benefit homeless and injured animals at the Alexandria Animal Shelter.

The deadline for entries has been extended to June 20. Entry forms are available at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, or by phoning Susan Earnhardt at (703) 971-0736. However, you can reserve an entry by completing the brief questionnaire on page 3 of this issue and returning it with your entry fee; an official form will be mailed to you before the show. (NOTE: Later and walk-in entries will be accepted, but those names will not appear in the pre-printed program which goes to press on June 21.)

13 Commandments For Summer Pet Care

by Erin Moore, DVM

Summertime is a joyous season for humans and animals alike. Warm-weather activities are fun for both you and your pet, but they also bring risks. Common sense is the primary ingredient in maintaining any companion animal's health and well-being this time of year. Here are a few tips to ensure that your pet enjoys a safe and happy summer:

1. Whatever you do, don't leave your pet alone in a car in the summer, even if you plan only to run quick errands. Although the weather may seem moderate outside, interior temperatures can shoot up to 150 degrees very quickly. Your only safe bet is to leave your animals at home.

2. This time of year, veterinarians treat all too many cases of heat stroke suffered by pets who have been left outdoors on hot days. Please—don't leave your pet outside on hot summer days, but if it's unavoidable, take care that he has access to plenty of shade and fresh water. Also, it is recommended that that pets not be tied up outside.

3. Older dogs, particularly those with arthritis, need special attention in hot weather. They are highly susceptible to heat stroke if they rest on hot pavement or slate, because they may have difficulty getting up to move to a shadier spot.

4. Pesticides can be deadly to your four-legged friend. Take great care that he is not exposed to any of the treatments you use on your lawn or plants. Always check with your lawn company or your veterinarian regarding possible toxicity of these chemicals.

5. Keep a sharp eye out for fleas and ticks. We seem to hear less about Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever these days, but they're definitely still around. Ticks can attach themselves to

dogs who walk through wooded areas, and they should be carefully removed with a tweezer.

6. Protect your pet against heartworm. Whether your vet recommends daily or monthly medications, use them religiously!

7. Fleas are more than a nuisance—they can be deadly in kittens and puppies, and can cause anemia or tapeworm. To prevent and get rid of flea problems, ask your veterinarian to recommend an ap-

Vet's Corner

propriate spray or other treatment. It is best not to rely on over-the-counter products, which can be very harmful to your pet. And if you use a flea spray, use it sparingly, and only as your vet recommends. This is one instance where more is not better!

8. Take care to avoid bringing your pets into contact with antifreeze and coolants. These substances are extremely toxic to your pets; unfortunately, they have a very sweet taste that animals find appealing.

9. Maggots are a recurring problem this time of year, particularly with dogs left outside. A dog with urinary inconti-

nence, for example, may get residues of urine on his fur, and this provides an ideal environment for flies to lay their eggs. Keep your dog clean, and indoors whenever possible.

10. Don't take your pet jogging with you during the day in the summertime, even if he's in great shape and runs with you all winter long. Unlike humans, dogs cannot sweat, so it is impossible for them to dissipate heat quickly. This makes them highly susceptible to heat stroke. As always, exercise is important to your dog, so try alternative activities for him, such as swimming or evening walks.

11. Like you, your pet may be allergic to pollens, molds, and other substances that are prevalent this time of year. Be alert to changes in his breathing, skin, energy levels and overall behavior that may signal a problem. When in doubt, check with your vet.

12. For animals which spend any time outdoors, it is especially important to ensure that they wear their identification tags at all times.

13. Contrary to popular belief, cats should not be allowed to roam outdoors. Even cats who are used to spending some of their time outside will adjust rapidly to staying indoors. Keeping them confined to the home protects them from cat fights, cars, and other hazards.

Here's wishing you and your four-legged friends a safe and healthy summer!

Dr. Moore is a veterinarian at Kingsview Animal Hospital in Alexandria.

 For more information call 703 / 437-3401

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Daisy: My New Best Friend

by Lynn Bostain

When you lose a beloved companion, you understand that replacements aren't possible. So when my buddy and treasured friend of 17 years, Buttons, died in November 1991, I knew that she would never have an equal. Coming to grips with her loss was a wrenching experience, and I resolved that to avoid suffering such loss and grief again, I would live without a dog. It took only three weeks, however, to discover that whatever the risk, I needed and wanted another four-legged friend!

My search took me to every Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia shelter I knew of until I revisited the Alexandria Animal Shelter and found a terrified, abandoned and stray mixed terrier, trembling at the back of her enclosure. She had been turned in by a kind stranger, already the owner of two dogs, who found her living outside his house.

My heart melted when I saw her—she was so vulnerable and so very



alone. Her eyes reflected her fear of what the future might hold. I had to wait the obligatory week after I selected her, and during that time I visited her at the Shelter whenever I could. She was still frightened, but had a sweet and gentle disposition. I took her home a week before Christ-

mas, 1991, and Daisy became a new part of my life.

She travels with me now whenever I can take her, since car rides are a real treat for her. The neighborhood children have found a new friend, too. Daisy's enthusiasm and joy are contagious to everyone who meets her—even non-dog lovers! She's even learned to gently nudge me in the morning when I don't respond to my alarm clock.

So even though Buttons will never be replaced, Daisy has added an entirely new dimension to my life, and to the lives of people who meet her. I feel certain that I've enriched her life as well!

Is there room in your life and in your heart for a pet? There are many bright, healthy animals at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, waiting for a new home and family. Please come to the Shelter at 910 South Payne Street in Alexandria and meet them. You'll be glad you did. By adopting a companion animal from the Shelter, you will not only save a life, you'll be making a difference in yours, too!

'Paws for Fun' Cat Show Quick Entry Form (Please photocopy for multiple cats)



Cat's name _____ Hair length: Longhair Shorthair
 Sex: Neutered male Spayed female Coat color and pattern: _____
 Adopted from a shelter? Yes No If yes, name of shelter: _____
 Owner's name _____ Home Phone: () _____
 Address _____ Work Phone: () _____

Submit completed form and check for \$15 per cat (payable to AWLA) to:
 SUSAN EARNHART, 5897 PARENHAM WAY, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22310

ENTRY DEADLINE:
JUNE 20, 1993

For further information call Susan Earnhart at (703) 971-0736

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

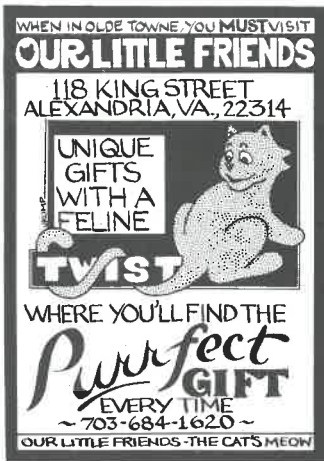
1993 Canine Olympics Slated Labor Day Weekend

The Olympics are coming back to Alexandria, by popular demand!

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the Olde Towne School for Dogs will present the 1993 Canine Olympics on Saturday morning, September 4, at Jones Point Park in Old Town Alexandria (rain date: September 5). Last year's event was one of the League's most successful community events ever, and another record turnout is expected this Labor Day Weekend.

The Canine Olympics will consist of a number of competitive events for dogs. Olympic medallions will be presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category. In addition, there will be a demonstration by the Alexandria Police Department K-9 Team.

Refreshments will be available, and city officials and other dignitaries have been invited. Vendors of pet-related products and services will be on hand, and the League will distribute humane education literature.



910 South Payne Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED



A special feature at the Olympics will be presentation of five beautiful shelter dogs who need homes. Each will be accompanied by a handler familiar with the background and personality of the animal and who can answer questions from potential adopters.

The morning's events will begin with colorful opening ceremonies at 8:15. The Olympic competition itself will include water retrieval, obedience, frisbee, 30-yard run, obstacle, and fetch and return categories.

The registration fee for each dog is \$20, which entitles the dog to enter any or all the events. Each four-legged athlete will receive an official Canine Olympics bandana; their owners will be given an official Canine Olympics t-shirt.

Registration forms are available at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, the Olde Towne School for Dogs, and other area businesses.

All proceeds from the Canine Olympics will go to the Animal Welfare League's programs for helping injured and homeless animals.

For more information, or to volunteer for the event, please call the Canine Olympics Hotline, (703) 519-7230.

Can You Help?

Last year, Alexandrians and area businesses were generous in their support of the Canine Olympics and helped to make the event a rousing success. Once again, we're asking for your participation. Following is our "wish list" of items and services we need. If you'd like to help by donating any of them, please call the **Canine Olympics Hotline, (703) 519-7230**.

- Give-away items (sports bottles, visors/baseball hats, frisbees, dog bandanas, etc., with Canine Olympics logo.
 - Raffle prizes (i.e., restaurant meals, pet supplies or services, homeowner services, etc.).
 - Decorations for the event (no balloons).
 - Professionally prepared signs and banners.
 - Staple guns for hanging decorations and signs.
 - Sledge hammers (for loan only).
 - Colored paper for flyers advertising the event.
 - Printing services for programs and flyers.
 - Volunteers for distributing flyers around the community.
 - Volunteers for the event—sales of raffle tickets, preparing the site, timing the events, etc.
 - Sponsors (sponsorships are \$150).
- All sponsors and contributors will be publicly acknowledged in the promotional materials, League publications, and forms connected with the Canine Olympics.

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