



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

SPOTLIGHT

o.n a.n.i.m.a.l.s

IN OUR 41st YEAR

SUMMER 1987

The Animal Welfare League will hold its Annual Dinner and General Membership Meeting on October 29, 1987, at the American Legion Hall adjacent to Gadsby's Tavern in Old Town. Our Annual Dinner always has been an enjoyable evening for everyone.

It is not a fund raiser, but rather an opportunity for members and friends to get together for an evening of good food and conversation. Plan to attend.

In 1986 the League placed over 600 animals in good homes. We are trying to do even better in 1987. If you are thinking about adding a pet to your family, please consider the animals at the Shelter. There are dogs and cats of all breeds, sizes and ages wanting desperately to be adopted into a loving home.

Did you know that if a stray animal is sick or injured and needs veterinary care, the League takes the animal to the vet—and then pays the bill?

Your League works in cooperation with Licensed Wildlife Officers to provide care for injured or orphaned wildlife. These officers care for, and rehabilitate the animals until they can be released in a safe, protected area.

The solution to the tremendous dog and cat overpopulation problem is the spaying/neutering of as many animals as possible. Your League operates a very active spay/neuter program. Anyone can have a pet altered by an area vet of his choice at a greatly reduced cost through the Animal Welfare League. For details, call the Shelter at 838-4775.

Life-long Animal Lover . . .



MAYOR MORAN SHOWS SUPPORT

Alexandria Mayor Jim Moran is a life-long pet owner and animal lover, whose current dog Dusty has provided him with a special companionship.

The Mayor's love for animals shines through in the personality of Dusty. Dusty was an abandoned young pup when Jim provided the home that he needed. Now Dusty is a frisky four-year old, who eagerly awaits Jim's arrival home every evening.

Through his life, Jim has experienced the love a special pet can bring. This is quite evident in the close bond that has developed between Dusty and the Mayor.

Mayor Moran expressed his support for the League and felt the League provided the Alexandria community with a strong foundation for animal care and protection.

Jim felt the services provided by the League, such as the Night Emergency Service and the Adoption Program, were very impressive indeed.

Mayor Moran believes that animals play an important role in the lives of the people lucky enough to have a loyal pet. "It's such a wonderful thing to have an animal that you can care for and love."

Flea control...

The program must be long-range, consistent and persistent.

by Mary W. Keisler, DVM
Old Town Veterinary Hospital



During the hot, humid days of summer, fleas pose a significant health problem for the dogs and cats in the Alexandria area. Fleas produce severe skin irritation because of their frequent bites and itching can induce self-mutilation by the animal, especially in flea allergic dogs. The fleas also are intermediate host of the dog tapeworm. Severe infestations can even cause anemia.

Understanding the life cycle of a flea is a tremendous aid in the battle against fleas. Fleas thrive at low altitudes in temperature ranges of 65-80 degrees with high humidity (greater than 70 percent). The white, oval flea eggs are laid on the premises usually in dark cracks or other hidden areas. Some eggs are laid on the animal host. These soon fall off as they are not sticky. The eggs hatch into small worm-like larvae. The larvae molt and form a pupal stage, then emerge as young, hungry adults. The entire life cycle can be completed in as little as 16 to 21 days.

The adult flea may spend very little time on their host. It may be hard to find evidence of the flea on your pet. The fleas do leave behind some evidence—"flea dirt." One can comb or brush their pet and see tiny dark dots or comma-shaped pieces of debris. If these are combed onto a piece of wet paper, they will dissolve and stain the paper red. This is because the "flea dirt" is flea excrement, which is partially digested blood.

Considering the life cycle of the flea, successful flea control involves treatment of both pet and environment. The program must be long-range, consistent, and persistent. Although the peak of flea season in the Alexandria area tends to be August, September, and October, the ideal time to start or intensify the flea control effort is during the spring months.

The Environment. As fleas spend only short periods of time on their host, the major effort for flea control must be directed on the premise. A professional exterminator service may be beneficial for some people. When a professional is contacted, flea control must be emphasized. It is important to remember that flea eggs are very resistant to insecticides, therefore, repeated visits are necessary.

Premise sprays as well as foggers can be very helpful

in environmental control. Several important points should be remembered. Thorough vacuuming can be a real aid in removing flea eggs and immature forms. The bag should be disposed of to prevent reinfestation. Pets and children should be removed from the house at least two hours. Birds and fish are especially sensitive and should be kept out or protected for at least eight hours. Foggers are designed to cover a certain number of square feet. One bomb should be used per room. Bombs cannot penetrate low furnishings and prespraying these areas is necessary. The foggers should contain a new product called Precor (Methoprene). Precor is a growth regulator that helps arrest maturation of the larvae into adult egg-laying fleas. Considering the resistant nature of flea eggs and the potential 16-21 day life cycle, I recommend treating the environment in infested homes every two weeks for at least 2-3 treatments. Once a month treatments may be necessary at that time to continue flea control.

The Animal Host. Treatment of all animals must be coordinated with treatment of the premises. An effective treatment is bathing with a flea shampoo followed by a dip with a diluted solution of residual insecticide. Shampoos are helpful in removing fleas and flea debris. They do not have residual activity and must be used in conjunction with other flea control. Dips are usually applied to dogs every 7-14 days depending upon the product. Care should be taken to keep the dip out of the dog's eyes. Some dips are for dogs only. If shampooing or dipping seems to be drying the skin, certain oils can be applied with the dips to prevent this.

Sprays, powders, or foams can be used in between dippings or alone for animal flea control. Daily to twice a week use of these products may be necessary.

Flea collars may aid in flea control but most will not take care of the entire problem. Collars can cause contact irritation in some pets, therefore, they must be observed closely.

Systemic insecticides have also been advocated as a part of animal flea control. The fleas are killed when they ingest a blood meal. In certain situations these may be beneficial.

Although some clients have reported these products helpful, there is no clinical or experimental data to show that thiamine, brewer's yeast, or garlic is an effective flea repellent.

In summary, it is very important to remember that fleas spend the majority of their lifetime off the animal. For every one flea seen on the animal, there may be 10-100 more in the environment. Thorough, repeated environmental control and animal control are a must.

There are many different products available today. Not all of these products have the same effectiveness or safety. It is important to read the label carefully before any product use. All products should be kept out of the reach of children. Your veterinarian should be consulted to help individualize your specific product needs.

from

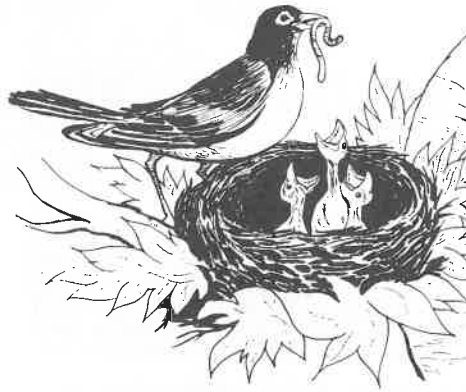
The Outermost House

"The animal shall not be measured by man . . . In a world older than ours, they move more finished and complete, gifted with senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth."

Henry Beston
1928

Courtesy: Mary Peter, WETA CH. 26, and Gloria Gallo, PrimeTime Entertainment, N.Y.

Baby Birds . . . Are You Helping or Hindering?



Throughout the past few months the Animal Welfare League and the licensed Wildlife Officers with whom we work have been kept busy with baby birds. Most of the young birds were brought to the Shelter by caring, well-meaning Alexandrians who truly thought they were saving orphaned birds. Some of these young birds were injured and others probably were orphaned, but many were taken unnecessarily from the care of their parents.

A young bird on the ground has not necessarily been abandoned nor is it always in imminent danger. Young birds in a nest do not suddenly one day develop the stamina to fly successfully. Flying skills

are developed gradually over a period of days—even weeks. Much of that time is spent on the ground or in low bushes with the parents prodding their young to fly.

Of course, if you see a nestling, i.e., a very young bird that has no feathers and appears weak, you should try to get him back into the nest that he fell from. If unable to find the nest, get the bird to the Shelter or to a Wildlife Officer. However, if you see a fledgling, i.e., a young bird with feathers, who has some mobility and is trying to fly, then the best general policy is to leave him alone. Unless you are sure the fledgling is injured, in distress, or has actually been orphaned, leave him alone. His parents are probably watching, and will give the young bird much better care than any human possibly could.

Your Animal Welfare League works closely with the experts at the Wild Bird Rescue League. For more information on birds, call 356-1359 or 690-7491.

WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

The Animal Welfare League was founded in 1946 on the belief that animals are living, breathing, sensitive creatures who feel pain, hunger, thirst, cold, and confinement, just as acutely as humans. For 41 years we have actively worked to reduce the suffering that human ignorance and indifference inflict on animals. Please join us in this effort.

How Safe Is A Fenced Yard?

A fenced yard may not be as safe for a dog as it appears. To ensure safety, make certain the fence is tall enough to prevent the dog from climbing or jumping over the top. The fence should fit tight to the ground or even be buried a few inches underneath to prevent crawling or digging out under it. Also be certain spaces between posts and gate(s) do not allow room for the dog to squeeze through.

MAIL TO:
Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
P.O. Box 20050
Alexandria, VA 22320

YES, I CARE ABOUT ANIMALS AND I WANT TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE IN ITS WORK.

Enclosed is my check for my 1987 membership dues.

\$15 Individual \$25 Family _____ Special Gift

Name _____

Street _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

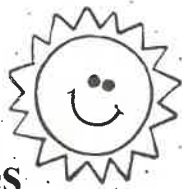
The League is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization established in 1946.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria SPOTLIGHT ON ANIMALS is published four times a year and has a circulation of 4,100. Address all correspondence to: The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Va., P.O. Box 20050, Alexandria, VA 22320.

Jack Steele President
William Fleitz Editor

Copyright 1987.

Safety in Summer Temperatures



Summer is here! The hottest time of year when afternoon temperatures are regularly in the 90's and often go above 100°. It is a time when dogs should be at home in a cool spot with plenty of fresh, clean water, but what do we see in every shopping center parking lot in the area? It's the family dog with his nose pressed against the car window desperately trying to get some cool air. Ask the owners of these dogs and they will say, "The dog likes to go for a ride," or, "I'm only going to be in the store for a few minutes," or, "He doesn't mind the heat." These owners may be well-intentioned, but they are gambling with their dogs' lives.

On an 85° day, which is not a particularly hot summer day in this area, the temperature in a car parked in the shade and with the windows cracked will rise to 102° in less than ten minutes. On hotter days or if the car is in the sun, the temperature will soar to oven intensity in a very short time. In such situations a dog will quickly suffer brain damage, and ultimately will die a painful death.

In the hot weather, please leave your dog home.

Blind Devotion



FINDING THAT SPECIAL PET

Thelma and Susan Barrett adopted two blind cats, Amigo and Romeo, through the League's Adoption Service.

"People thought we were crazy

to take blind cats, but they've been a wonderful pair," Thelma remarked. "You can never really separate the two. If they become separated, they cry for each other. They guide each other with their cries. Not only do we learn from blind humans, we learn from blind animals."

The Barretts feel the League Adoption Program provides its adopters with wonderful treatment and professional guidance. Other Alexandrians may benefit from the League's services.

"We've always had cats," said Susan, "and the house was empty, so we decided to adopt from the Shelter."

Susan believes, "The Adoption Service provided by the League is most necessary for the animals. I'd really hate to see them out on the streets. The League provides a service that the whole community can be thankful for."

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS NEEDED!

The League needs the following equipment for our Humane Education Department. The items will be used by our Education Officer in schools, youth groups, and clubs.

35 MM Carousel Projector

16 MM Movie Projector

Portable Screen

If any business, civic organization, or individual is willing to donate any of these items (new or used), please call 370-6677. We will arrange to pick up the equipment.

Remember, your League is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, and all donations are tax deductible. Receipts will be provided.

The Animal Welfare
League of Alexandria, Va., Inc.
P.O. Box 20050
Alexandria, VA 22320-1050

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Alexandria, Va.
Permit No. 243

