



# SPOTLIGHT on animals

IN OUR 46th YEAR

SUMMER 1992

*After a cool spring, temperatures are now reaching the 90s. It looks like another hot, humid Washington summer. This time of year the best place for your dog is at home with a bowl of fresh water available. The worst place for your pet is sitting in your car while you run into a store "just for a few minutes."*

*With the outside temperature at 85 degrees, the temperature inside a car, even with the windows cracked, will soar to over 100 degrees in a few minutes. A dog quickly suffers brain damage, and then death. If you love your dog, please don't leave him in your car—even for "just a few minutes."*

*Animal suffering and abuse never seems to end. You can help homeless, injured and abused animals even after you are gone by remembering the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria in your will.*

*There is a tremendous pet overpopulation problem in the United States. Millions of bright, healthy dogs and cats must be euthanized every year in our country simply because there are not enough homes for them. Spaying or neutering our pets is one thing every pet owner can do to reduce this problem. The League, in cooperation with 22 area veterinarians, has a reduced-cost spay-neuter program. Call the Shelter at 838-4775 for more information.*

*When was the last time you checked your pet's collar for proper fit? Both dogs and cats can grow into a collar and soon it can become much too tight. Please check your pet's collar for proper fit today.*

*Complaints still come to us every day about owners not picking up after their dogs. Please, do the courteous thing: pick up after your dog. Remember, in Alexandria it's the law!*

## 1992 Canine Olympics Slated July 25

The Olympics are coming to Alexandria!

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the Olde Towne School for Dogs will present the 1992 Canine Olympics on Saturday morning, July 25, at Jones Point Park in Old Town Alexandria.

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.

Coffee, doughnuts, ice cream, and other refreshments will be available, and the Park will be decorated in a festive Olympics theme. A photographer will be available to take pictures of dogs and their owners. City officials and other dignitaries have been invited. An added feature will be radio station W-LITE personality Paula Casey, who will participate in the ceremonies.

As at all League events, we will be distributing humane education literature, and a special feature at the Olympics will be the presence of five beautiful shelter dogs that need homes. A handler who knows the background and personality of the dog will accompany each animal and answer questions from potential adopters.

The morning's events will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m., followed by colorful opening ceremonies at 8:15 a.m. and the Police K-9 demonstration at 8:30. The Olympic competition will start at 8:45 and will include the following:

**1. Water Retrieval.** Dogs will swim individually to retrieve a small wooden dumbbell thrown 50 feet from shore. This will be a timed event. Appropriate safety precautions will include a boat close to the 50-foot point in the river. This event is designed only for retrievers, labs and other dogs that are trained for this type of exercise.



**2. Obedience.** Dogs and owners will have the opportunity to display their skills in novice and sub-novice categories. Dogs will be tested on sit, heel, down, come, stay and other standard obedience events.

**3. Frisbee.** Dogs will be judged on both their speed and agility in catching frisbees thrown by their owners. Owners are asked to bring their own frisbees.

**4. 30-yard Run.** Dogs will have the opportunity to display their speed as they run to their owners, who will be at the finish line. This event will have separate categories for small, medium, and large dogs.

**5. Obstacle.** Dogs and owners will walk together around, through and over a series of small obstacles such as orange traffic cones, a hula hoop, a kiddie pool, etc. This will be a timed event.

**6. Fetch and Return.** This event is designed for those dogs that can't swim, don't know "sit" from "stay," aren't very fast, and don't particularly like to catch frisbees. The event will consist of the owner throwing anything—a stick, a ball, an old slipper, or other object—a predetermined distance and then en-

*continued on page 4*

## Protecting the Veterinarian's Right to Treat Your Pet

by Richard S. Hawe, D.V.M.  
Alexandria Animal Hospital

Did you know that the Federal Food, Drug, & Cosmetic Act restricts the use of a drug to the species, use and route of administration as specified on the label and that any deviation which is referred to as extra-label usage is prohibited by law? Fortunately, the Food and Drug Administration has recognized the veterinarian's need to use drugs in an extra-label manner and has had a policy of not ordinarily penalizing veterinarians who use FDA-approved drugs in a medically appropriate manner to treat animal diseases.

However, because of recent controversial issues involving silicone implants, tranquilizers, and generic drug scandals, the FDA has come under increasing pressure from consumer groups and some legislators to strictly enforce the FD&C Act.

Strict interpretation of the Act would make it impossible to practice veterinary medicine in an up-to-date, progressive, and scientific manner. There are numerous conditions in which the only effective treatment involves the extra-label use of a drug. Examples include insulin for diabetic dogs and cats; phenobarbital and Valium for seizure patients; treatment for congestive heart failure; cancer chemotherapy; pacemaker implantation; treatment for heartworm in dogs and hyperthyroidism in cats; and certain antibiotics for Lyme's disease, among others. It has been estimated that as much as 50 percent of a veterinarian's drug arsenal could become illegal to use if the FDA chooses to enforce the FD&C Act.

Legislation has been introduced in the Senate (S. 2667) and the House (H.R. 5297) to explicitly permit the discretionary use of drugs by veterinarians in a clinically appropriately and scientifically



### Vet's Corner

based manner. You can help by letting Senators Warner and Robb and Congressman Moran know the importance of passing these bills. If veterinarians lose the right to use FDA-approved drugs, our pets will be the ones to suffer.

•••••  
**SUMMER REMINDER**  
•••••



Make sure your pet has a plentiful supply of fresh, clean water at all times!

### AWLA Offers New Club

This summer, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will offer a once-a-week club for young people, ages 12-17, who would like to volunteer at the Animal Shelter.

Instead of paying a fee, the youngsters will organize a carwash to finance any expenses which are incurred by the club. Activities will include learning dog obedience techniques, a nature hike at Huntley Meadows Wildlife Refuge, observing K-9 maneuvers, designing an AWLA t-shirt, humane poster distributions at local malls, and a talk with a wildlife rehabilitator.

It is hoped that the club will generate enough interest to be continued on a bi-weekly or monthly basis into the school year. For more information about dates and times, please call Elizabeth Singleton at (703) 838-5042.

## Adoption Levels Reach All-Time High in Early '92

Adoptions continue to increase at the Alexandria Animal Shelter. During the first six months of 1992, 582 animals were placed in good homes. This is a 23 percent increase over the same period in 1991, and is more animals than we have placed in any other six-month period in the history of the Shelter.

"Adoptions continue to increase," says Shelter Director Brenda Purvis, "because more and more people are learning that we have bright, beautiful, healthy dogs and cats at the Shelter. We have animals of all breeds, sizes, ages, and all have wonderful dispositions. It makes no difference if you're looking for a mixed-breed or a purebred. Our Shelter is the first place you should visit."

The Alexandria Animal Shelter, located at 910 South Payne Street, is open seven days a week, as well as Wednesday and Friday evenings. Call 838-4775 for more information.

### League Calendar

- July 25, 1992: Canine Olympics
- July-August: Summer Club for Children
- October: Annual Dinner
- November: 2nd Annual Doggie Dash
- December: Pet Photos with Santa
- March: Fun Dog Show
- May: Pet Portraits By Michael

### Thank You!

The League recently mailed letters to selected members of our community asking them to rejoin in 1992. We sincerely thank the many people who responded to our appeal. Every dollar donated goes directly to our programs for helping homeless animals, and trying to eliminate animal abuse through humane education. To our many friends who already have contributed, we say thank you very much. If you have not yet mailed in your 1992 dues, we ask you to please do so today. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria **SPOTLIGHT ON ANIMALS** (© 1990) is published four times a year and has a circulation of 26,000. Address all correspondence to The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, P.O. Box 20050, Alexandria, VA 22320-1050.

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



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## 1992 CANINE OLYMPICS REGISTRATION FORM

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Pet's name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's age \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: M F      Size: S M L      Date of last visit to veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS (As of July 3, 1992)

*The following members of our professional and business community have made very generous contributions to make this event possible and to help homeless and injured animals.*

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### MANDATORY WAIVER

Knowing that participating in the Canine Olympics (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 Canine Olympics official relative to my ability or that of my dog to safely compete in the Event. I also assume any and all other risks associated with competing in the Events 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 covenant not to sue and forever discharge the Canine Olympics 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 of 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Complete ALL items on this form and return it with \$15 registration fee to:

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria • 1992 Canine Olympics  
 912 W. Timber Branch Parkway  
 Alexandria, VA 22302

*NOTE: The first 125 registrants will receive 1992 Canine Olympics t-shirts, so register soon!*

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# Canine Olympics

from page 1

encouraging the dog to fetch the object and return it to the owner.

The registration fee for each dog is \$15, which entitles the dog to enter any or all the events. A specially designed 1992 Canine Olympics t-shirt will be given to the first 125 owners who register their dogs. A certificate, suitable for framing, will be given to every dog that enters, and a calligrapher will be available to inscribe the dog's name on it. And remember, beautiful Olympics medallions on red, white and blue streamers will be presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category.

Registration forms are available in this issue of *Spotlight*, at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, the Olde Towne School for Dogs, For Pet's Sake Grooming Shop, and, of course, at Jones Point Park on the morning of the event.

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

Everyone is invited to come to Jones Point Park for a morning of fun and competition. For more information, call the Canine Olympics Hotline, (703)548-1379.



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## 1992 Canine Olympics Schedule of Events

Saturday, July 25, 1992

7:30 a.m.	Registration (advance registration by mail is suggested)
8:15 a.m.	Opening Ceremony
8:30 a.m.	Police K-9 Demonstration
8:45 a.m.	Competition Begins
10:45 a.m.	Awards Ceremony
11:00 a.m.	End of 1992 Canine Olympics

**DIRECTIONS:** Jones Point Park is located directly on the Potomac River near the Woodrow Wilson bridge. To reach the Park from the George Washington Parkway (Washington Street), proceed east 3 blocks to Royal Street. Turn south on Royal Street and proceed past Green Street to the Park entrance, which is clearly marked on the left. There will be plenty of free parking.



\*\*\* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED \*\*\*

If you would like to assist as a volunteer at the Canine Olympics, please call 548-1379.

## League Earns CFC Eligibility

On May 15, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria was approved to participate in the Fall 1992 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of the National Capital Area.

The League will be listed in the CFC Contributors' Brochure under "Local Voluntary Agencies." Be sure to check the next issue of *Spotlight* for the specific AWLA designation number.



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