



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

SPOTLIGHT on animals

IN OUR 47th YEAR

SUMMER 1993

Our thanks to everyone who has responded to the League's membership renewal notices mailed recently. If you have not yet sent in your 1993 dues, won't you do so today? If you're not a member, please call (703) 838-4775 for details on how you can join.

The late Indian leader Mahatma Ghandi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Sadly, there seems to be no end to the abuse and cruelty inflicted on animals by the human beings who control their lives. These helpless creatures cannot speak for themselves; so if you suspect cruelty, call (703) 838-4775. Your compassion and concern could save an animal's life.

Does your pet have clear and legible identification tags? If not, please obtain some today. In the event your pet is lost or stolen, proper ID can raise your chances of getting him safely back home again.

A reminder: Please check regularly to ensure that your pet's collar is of a proper size. A too-tight collar can be life-threatening for the animal.

Have you moved recently? Be sure to notify your veterinarian of your new address and phone number.

Every year, millions of animals nationwide must be euthanized because there are not enough homes for them. Spaying/neutering is the humane solution to this tragedy. Please speak to your veterinarian soon about this life-saving surgery.

Hot Dog! The 1993 Canine Olympics is Coming to Town

You asked for it—a rematch among the area's canine athletes at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's 1993 Canine Olympics, to be held on Saturday morning, September 4 (rain date: September 5), at Jones Point Park in Old Town Alexandria. Last year's program was one of the League's most successful community events ever, and another record turnout is expected this Labor Day Weekend.

Developed by the League and the Olde Towne School for Dogs, this event again will consist of a number of competitive events for dogs. Beautiful Olympic medallions will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category.

Refreshments will be available at the park on the day of the event. City officials and other dignitaries have been invited. Alexandria Mayor Patsy Ticer will be present to open the Olympics. Vendors of pet-related products and services will be on hand, and the League will distribute humane education literature.

A special feature at this year's 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.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The morning's events will start with colorful opening ceremonies at 8:15, followed by a demonstration by the Alexandria Police Department K-9 Team at 8:30. The competition will begin at 8:45.

- **Water retrieval (timed).** Dogs will swim individually to retrieve a small object thrown 50 feet from shore.

- **Obedience.** This competition is lim-



Henley Gible, clad in her Olympics regalia, will be on hand with her companion, Daisy, for the opening ceremonies at the 1993 Canine Olympics.

ited to dogs who have completed novice or sub-novice training. Dogs will be tested on standard obedience commands.

- **Frisbee.** Judging is based on both speed and agility in catching frisbees thrown by their owners. (Please bring your own frisbee.)

- **30-yard run (timed).** Dogs will run to their owners, who will be at the finish line. There are separate categories according to size.

- **Obstacle (timed).** Dogs and owners will walk together around, through and over a series of small obstacles such as traffic cones, hoops, tunnels, etc.

continued on page 4

Combating the Summer 'Flea Explosion'

by Peter Farrell, DVM

The inevitable summer "flea explosion"—it arrives like clockwork to create misery for pets and their owners. But while difficult to manage, fleas can be controlled if the problem is attacked systematically, and if you keep in mind one key fact: for every flea you see on your pet, there are five in the animal's environment. All your pets, as well as their surroundings, should be treated on the same day for maximum effect.

- **Bathing and dipping.** A good flea shampoo will kill all your pet's fleas on contact. He must be thoroughly lathered from head to tail, and the shampoo must be left for a *minimum* of five minutes. Since shampoos have no residual effects, dips are used to prevent reinfestation. They are effective for about a week. Cats are particularly sensitive to pesticides, so be sure the dip you are using is labeled for use in cats. These treatments can be done at home or in most veterinary hospitals.

- **Flea sprays, powders, and foams.** Flea sprays are simple to use and usually are effective for a week or two. It is important that the entire animal be exposed to the spray, right down to the skin. Flea foams have the same active ingredients as sprays, but are better tolerated by cats. Flea powders also can work well, but take care to use only those labeled for felines if you have a cat.

- **Flea "pills" and "drops."** These products concentrate a pesticide in your dog's skin so that when a flea feeds on the dog, the flea dies. One of the liquid products also has a repellent effect. All products work best if started before the flea population explodes. None is labeled for use in cats.

- **Flea collars.** These products, available for both dogs and cats, are easy to use but not very effective.

- **Non-chemical flea control methods.** Flea combs are very fine-toothed instruments that mechanically

separate fleas from your pet's hair coat. They are safe and reasonably effective but very time-consuming. Other less conventional methods of flea control include garlic, brewer's yeast and electronic flea collars. None is routinely successful.

- **House treatments.** To control fleas, you *must* treat your house as well as your pet. You can do it yourself or call in



Vet's Corner

a professional exterminator. If you use a fogging device, you must vacate the house for about three hours afterward. Before fogging, the entire house should be vacuumed and the pet's bedding should be washed. A combination of sprays and foggers works best. Any product used should contain an insect growth regulator to prevent flea eggs from maturing. Sprays can get under furniture where foggers won't reach. Sprays should also be used in areas where animals spend a lot of time. House treatments may need to be repeated in two weeks for heavy infestations.

- **Yard treatments.** Fleas prefer moist, shady areas of the yard. Mowing and raking under bushes help to eliminate a flea's favorite habitat. Sprays should be concentrated in areas where the pets spend most of their time, and in

areas that are protected from direct sunlight. They should be reapplied at two-week intervals.

By attacking fleas both on your pet and in its environment, you *can* control these relentless pests. Remember, however, that sometimes special concerns will arise that relate to a very young or very old pet or pregnancy in a pet or person. Talk with your veterinarian about pest control methods that are safe for both you and your pets. He or she is your best source of information as you tackle this difficult problem.

Dr. Farrell practices at the Del Ray Animal Hospital in Alexandria.

1993 Doggie Dash

At press time, the League's Third Annual Doggie Dash has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 7 at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria. More information will appear in the Fall issue of *Spotlight on Animals*. Please plan to join us!

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria *SPOTLIGHT ON ANIMALS* (© 1993) is published four times a year and has a circulation of 24,000. Address all correspondence to The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 910 South Payne Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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

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June 27 Cat Show: A CAT-egorical Success!

The League's "Paws For Fun" Household Cat Show was a big hit, judging by the scores of people and felines who participated.

This event, the first of its kind sponsored by the League, will surely not be the last. On June 27, cats came from as far away as Fredericksburg, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Annapolis to the Nannie J. Lee Center in Alexandria to be judged on their merits in such categories as Oldest Cat, Longest Ear Tufts, and others. Some 99 felines were registered, and over 225 visitors were on hand as well.

Alexandria Mayor Patsy Ticer and City Manager Vola Lawson, assisted by Geraldine Cox, came to judge the cats adopted from shelters.

Congratulations and many thanks go to Nancy Suska, DVM, of the Beacon Hill Cat Hospital, which co-sponsored the Cat Show, and Susan Earnhart and Dawn Shiley for their tireless work in producing a flawlessly well-organized event, as well as the many volunteers who made it all come together.

Thanks also go to all the other individuals and businesses listed on this page whose contributions added up to a first-class program. Well done, everyone!

Rabies Clinic

There will be a Rabies Clinic at the Shelter on Sunday, September 12, from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Dogs, cats, and ferrets will be vaccinated at a cost of \$4 for 1-year injections or \$6 for 3-year shots. No appointment is necessary.



THANK YOU!

Raffle Prize Contributors

Feline Fanatics • The Fish Market • The Pineapple • Cats Magazine
Summit Pet Products • The Mouse Factory • Smoky Mountain Cat House and
Crittter Cottage • The Silver Parrot • Austin Grill South • Generous George's
Positive Pasta Place • The Feed & Seed Shop • Calico Country Creations
Southern Nursery • Presidential Socks Partnership • The Flea Specialist

Food/Refreshments

Austin Grill • Bread & Chocolate • Starbucks Coffee
Generous George's Positive Pasta Place • Chesapeake Bagel Bakery
Giant Food Stores • Safeway • SuperFresh • Karen Krewer • Ann Whitaker

Show Vendors

Our Little Friends • Cat House Originals • Feline Fanatics • The Flea Specialist
Louise Hart Designs • Fancy Publications • Calico Country Creations
The Maryland Feline Society • Presidential Socks Partnership
Your Pet's Gourmet • McNamara Distributors • Flea Busters

Program Advertisers

Beacon Hill Cat Hospital • Alexandria Animal Hospital • P.T. Moran
Olde Towne Pet Supplies • Barcroft Cat Clinic • Pittman-Moore
A. J. Buck & Sons • Old Town Veterinary Hospital
Olde Towne School for Dogs • VA-MD Veterinary Emergency Service
Classy Cat Gifts • Our Little Friends • Teddy's Tender Care
Kingstowne Cat Clinic • Alexandria Business & Professional Women's Club
Miss Lee Perkins • Carolina House • Hayfield Animal Hospital
Fort Hunt Animal Hospital • The Flea Specialist • Rags to Riches
Cedar Creek Animal Hospital • Sity Pets, Inc. • Del Ray Animal Hospital
In-Home Feline Veterinary Service, Inc. • Pretty Pets
Animal Resorts, Inc. • Custom Home Design

Judges

Mayor Patsy Ticer • Vola Lawson • Andy Andruscavage
Geraldine Cox • Charles Myers • Rob Seliskar •

... and a special thanks to everyone at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center who cooperated in the planning and presentation of the "Paws For Fun Cat Show"



1993 CANINE OLYMPICS PRELIMINARY 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 _____

IMPORTANT NOTE:
Returning this form with the fee will reserve your entry, t-shirt and dog bandana. Before your dog can compete, however, you must sign a standard mandatory waiver at the Event.

Please return this form, together with your \$20 check made payable to AWLA, to Canine Olympics, 912 W. Timber Branch Pkwy., Alexandria, VA 22302.

Canine Olympics

from page 1

• **Fetch and return.** The owner will throw anything—a stick, a ball, etc.—and then encourage the dog to fetch the object and return it to the owner.

The closing ceremonies will begin at about 11:15. At that time, the medallions will be presented to the winners and a drawing will be held for the raffle prizes donated by area businesses (see box).

The registration fee for each dog is \$20, which entitles the dog to enter any or all the events. The first 150 dogs to register will receive an official Canine Olympics bandana; their owners will be given an official Canine Olympics t-shirt.

A registration form appears on page 3 of this issue; additional forms and raffle tickets are available at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, the Olde Towne School for Dogs, For Pet's Sake, 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, please call the Canine Olympics Hotline, (703) 519-7230.

Win One of these Exciting 1993 Canine Olympics Raffle Prizes

1st Prize: Two tickets to the Washington Redskins vs. Dallas Cowboys season opener on Monday night, September 6, at RFK Stadium. Seats are on the 45-yard line (donated by Yo and Larry Frommer)

2nd Prize: Dinner for two (donated by Bilbo Baggins restaurant in Old Town Alexandria)

3rd Prize: A bird feeder and seed (donated by One Good Tern)

... and more great prizes. Raffle tickets are \$1 each and are available at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, the Olde Towne School for Dogs, For Pet's Sake, and other locations. They will also be sold at Jones Point Park during the Canine Olympics.

Combined Federal Campaign Benefits Homeless Animals

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the League through the Combined Federal Campaign over the past year. Your support has been critical as we continue to offer medical attention and shelter to the animals who need our help. The League relies heavily on public donations to carry on its work in our community.

We hope you once again will earmark your contribution for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria in 1993. **Please specify 7006**, our code number for the CFC.

Annual Dinner Notes

The League will hold its 1993 Annual Dinner on Thursday evening, October 21. Our featured speaker will be Holly Hazard, Executive Director and Legislative Counsel at the Doris Day Animal League, a humane organization.

After conducting the event for many years at the Legion Hall in Old Town, we have found it necessary to move to larger quarters to enable us to accommodate everyone who wants to come.

This year, the dinner will be held at the VVCR Building at 901 N. Pitt Street. The new location is spacious and offers free parking behind the building. Invitations will be sent out soon, so please watch your mail and respond promptly to avoid disappointment. More information will appear in our Fall newsletter.

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