



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

# SPOTLIGHT on animals

IN OUR 48th YEAR

SUMMER 1994

*We are indebted to all our supporters who responded to our annual membership solicitation last month. If you haven't sent in your dues yet, won't you do so today? Your contributions help to ensure our ability to continue and expand vital adoption and humane education programs in our community.*

*Are you considering adopting a pet? If so, please stop by the Alexandria Animal Shelter at 910 S. Payne Street in Alexandria and meet some of the wonderful bright, healthy dogs and cats who need a loving home. You can give an animal a chance for a happy life and enrich your own as well. Call (703) 838-4775 for more information. And remember, the Shelter is open seven days a week.*

*Late summer and early fall weather can be hazardous to your pets. Please, don't take them with you when you go shopping, for the sun quickly can turn your car into an oven, and within minutes the temperature can rise to levels that can cause permanent brain damage, heat stroke, and even death. Don't take chances—leave your pets at home, with plenty of fresh, clean water available.*

*Heartworm is a real threat to a dog's health. This time of year it's important to have your canine tested. A simple procedure is all it takes to ensure his well-being . . . and your own peace of mind.*

*Because you care, the League continues to find good homes for hundreds of animals in our community. Spread the word—tell your friends about the League and its programs and encourage them to adopt a Shelter animal.*

## Canine Olympics Returns to Alexandria Saturday, September 4 —A Real Winner!

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 Third Annual Canine Olympics on Saturday morning, September 3, at Jones Point Park in Old Town Alexandria (rain date: September 4). 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. Jones Point Park is located under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Old Town Alexandria, at the southernmost end of South Royal Street. (In case of bad or questionable weather, call (703) 519-7230 for up-to-the-minute information.)

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. City officials and other dignitaries have been invited. 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 who need homes. A handler who knows the background and personality of the dog will accompany each animal and answer questions from potential adopters. In addition, a veterinarian will be on hand to discuss



Shelter graduate Albert tries on an Olympic medal for size.

questions you may have concerning your pet's health.

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

*Continued on page 5*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

- Photos from the '94 Cat Show (page 2)
- Canine Olympics Entry Form (page 3)
- A Happy Ending for an Abused Cat (page 7)
- . . . much more!

# House Training Your Pets: Success Tips

by Terri Donohue, D.V.M.

As most pet owners would agree, training your new pet is an important part of developing a close and satisfying relationship with a companion animal. Teaching your dog and cat what is and

is not acceptable and expected can often be an enjoyable task for both pets and owners. Dogs and cats are usually trained very differently. Dogs are expected to sit, stay, and come, and sometimes to learn other commands depending on the owner's desires. Cats, meanwhile, are usually not trained specifically to respond to commands or perform tasks, but are given a basic set of rules to live by—such as not to scratch the furniture, not to eat house plants, and where to use their litterbox.

Puppy or dog training usually begins with "house training." This involves teaching the animal where it is expected to eliminate. This may prove an easy task or, in some cases, quite a long and frustrating one. There are several excellent methods of training dogs to urinate and defecate when and

where you want them to. Your veterinarian or the Shelter staff may be able to recommend a book, trainer, or method suitable for you and your dog.

House training cats tends to be an easier job due to the fact that felines have a natural tendency or instinct to bury their waste. Hence, a clean litter pan is ideal for the cat and he will usually seek out a way to bury the waste and not require prodding.

Working with your pet early on will help to form a bond that will act as the basis for a successful long-term relationship between you and your pet.

*Dr. Donohue is a veterinarian at the Old Town Veterinary Hospital in Alexandria.*

## Vet's Corner

is not acceptable and expected can often be an enjoyable task for both pets and owners.

Dogs and cats are usually trained very differently. Dogs are expected to



Left photo: Mary-Claire and Mike Molony (background), owners of P.T. Moran, Ring sponsors at the 1994 Cat Show, pause for a photo opportunity with City Councilwoman Del Pepper, who presents a ribbon to the winner of the Shelter Cat competition.



Right photo: WJLA-TV 7 weatherman Dennis Ketterer, who judged the Owner-Cat Lookalike competition, presents the winners in that category.

## 1994 Paws for Fun Show: A CAT-egorical Success!

On July 10, over 1,000 cat lovers converged on the Northern Virginia Community College Cultural Center in Annandale for the League's second annual Paws for Fun Household Pet Cat Show, which by all measures was a huge success.

Cat owners entered their felines in "specialty" categories as well as several just-for-fun competitions, including Longest Ear Tufts, Owner Lookalike, and others.

We are indebted to Dr. Nancy Suska of the Beacon Hill Cat Hospital, who, with the assistance of Dawn Shiley, once again chaired a first-class program. Thanks also to judges Andy Andruscavage, Rob Seliskar, and Charlie Myers, and to WJLA TV-7 personality Dennis Ketterer, who judged the Owner-Cat Lookalike competition.

Finally, here's to all the volunteers and area businesses who helped everything come together. We couldn't have done it without you!

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# REGISTRATION FORM

## \*\*\*\*\* 1994 CANINE OLYMPICS\*\*\*\*\*

presented by the  
**Animal Welfare League of Alexandria**  
**and the Olde Towne School for Dogs**

Jones Point Park • Alexandria, Virginia  
 Saturday, September 3, 1994 (Rain Date: Sunday, September 4)

Owner's 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last rabies vaccination: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) 1 year vaccine ( ) 3 year vaccine

<b>RULES</b>	<b>MANDATORY DISQUALIFICATION</b>
--------------	-----------------------------------

1. All dogs must be current on distemper and rabies vaccinations.
2. Dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs.
3. Dogs must be kept ON LEASH at all times except when competing.
4. The League has the final authority in determining the suitability of any animal to compete.

1. Overly aggressive behavior by dog
2. Female dogs in any stage of heat
3. Mistreatment of animal

<b>MANDATORY WAIVER</b>
-------------------------

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 race. 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, and 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 to 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.

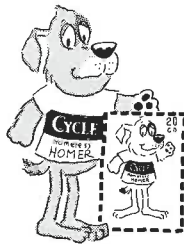
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send completed, SIGNED registration form with entry fee check for \$20, made payable to AWLA, to 912 W. Timber Branch Pkwy., Alexandria, VA 22302. The first 250 registrants will receive a 1994 Canine Olympics t-shirt and bandana. Proceeds from this event will go to help homeless, abused, and injured animals. For more information, call the Canine Olympics Hotline at (703) 519-7230.*

## If You Feed Your Dog Cycle Products . . . Please Take Note

The manufacturers of Cycle dog foods have created a cash-back program for animal shelters nationwide. Since its inception in 1981, this program, endorsed by the American Humane Association, has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for homeless animals.

Here's how it works: Dog owners who use Cycle products can clip the "Homeless Homer" proof-of-purchase symbol (see illustration) from the packages or cans and turn them into the Shelter. The Shelter then can send them in to the manufacturer to redeem them



'Homeless Homer'

for cash.

So, if you use Cycle, please keep these symbols and turn them in to the Shelter at 910 S. Payne Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. It's one more way you can help us help the homeless animals in our care.

Mark Your Calendar for Oct. 20  
And Come to the Annual Dinner

## A Shelter Wish List

The League appreciates your response to our past requests for articles needed at the Shelter. If you have any of the following items and would like to donate them, we—and the animals—would be grateful.

- Office desk chairs
- Typewriter
- Blankets
- Empty shoe boxes
- Black "sharpie" pens
- Copier paper (8-1/2 x 11")
- Kitty litter
- Polaroid film
- 35 mm. 100 speed film
- Film developing services

These items may be delivered to the Shelter at 901 S. Payne Street in Alexandria.

## Cruelty-Free Shopping Guide Now Available

If you are concerned about the widespread use of animal testing in the development and manufacture of household products, personal care goods, cosmetics, and companion animal products, you will be interested in a new guide produced by the National Anti-Vivisection Society.

The NAVS has provided the League with a supply of its book, *Personal Care with Principle: A Guide to Choosing Cruelty-Free Cosmetics and Household Products*. The guide contains a listing of hundreds of manufacturers with information on whether they use animals for testing or manufacturing their products.

The guide is available to the public for a nominal \$2 charge. Just drop by the Shelter and ask for your copy today.

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## FREE FLEA DIP

Saturday, August 20 • 10:00 AM-3:00 PM • First come-first serve

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## Canine Olympics

from page 1

eight events:

- **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.

- **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 skills.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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 tunnel, etc. This will be a timed event.

- **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 encouraging the dog to fetch the object

and return it to the owner.

- **Dog Trick and Ball Catch.** These events, presented this year for the first time, offer additional opportunities for canine athletes a chance to show their stuff.

The registration fee for each dog is \$20, which entitles the dog to enter any or all the events. Specially designed 1994 Canine Olympics t-shirts will be given to the first 250 owners who register their dogs, and their four-legged athletes will receive official Canine Olympics bandanas. A certificate, suitable for framing, will be given to every dog who enters, and a calligrapher will be available to inscribe the dog's name on it. And remember, beautiful Olympic medallions on red, white and blue streamers will be presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category. Afterward, a raffle drawing will be held for several prizes, including two football tickets to the Redskins-New York Giants game at RFK Stadium this fall.

Registration forms are available on page 3 of this issue of *Spotlight*, at the Alexandria Animal Shelter at 910 S. Payne St., numerous local veterinary hospitals, 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 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, or to learn how you can be a vendor, sponsor, or volunteer, call the Canine Olympics Hotline, (703) 519-7230.



Taylor, another Shelter graduate, models a spiffy doggie bandana, like the ones to be given to every dog who competes in the Canine Olympics, and the t-shirt to be given to the first 250 owners who register their dogs.

## Volunteers Sought for Animal Assisted Therapy Program

The Animal Welfare League's volunteer department is looking for people to participate in our Pet Therapy Program. It is well known that companionship and interaction with animals can hasten the recovery of patients in hospitals and improve the quality of life for residents of long-term care facilities.

The League is looking for teams of owners and their pets to provide monthly visits to local facilities and assist us in expanding this program. Each volunteer will be assigned a facility to work with; this allows bonding and friendships among the pet, the volunteer, and the residents.

All pets will be screened for temperament, obedience and aptitude before being accepted into the program. Complete training will be given to each participant.

For more information, please contact the League's Volunteer Coordinator at (703) 838-5042.

## Natural Flea Control Often Brings Relief to Pets

This year you may wish to try some natural controls for those nasty pests. Garlic and brewer's yeast, pennyroyal, citrus sprays, herbal flea collars—these are just a few of the products that could help keep your pet flea-free.

Pet Guard makes a combination garlic and brewer's yeast in powder or wafer form. Not only will this repel fleas—the nutrients from the brewer's yeast will give your pet a beautiful coat.

Pennyroyal is another product worth trying. This is a plant-derived oil. A small amount rubbed on your pet's coat helps keep fleas at bay.

Fleas also hate citrus oil. This comes in spray bottles combined with aloe. It helps keep fleas off and the aloe stops scratching and helps heal hot spots.

And here's another tip for attacking fleas living on your floors: toss a few mothballs into your vacuum cleaner bag before vacuuming rugs or carpets. The mothballs will kill any fleas sucked into the appliance.

Of course, if your pet's flea problem persists or becomes worse despite these measures, you should consult with your veterinarian.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria *SPOTLIGHT ON ANIMALS* (© 1994) 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*

## Chewie the Cat Joins the Shelter Staff

by Randi Miller

It was love at first sight—those big, blue eyes, that long, luscious hair. He was thinner then.

He was originally found wandering along Old Mount Vernon Highway last October, and upon his arrival at the Shelter the staff fell in love with his personality and charm. He needed grooming, food, and treatment for a nasty case of ear mites. Despite his ragged condition, the whole staff was taken with him and we named him "Chewbacca."

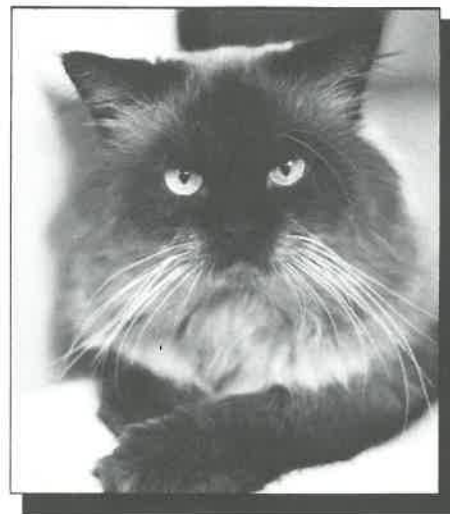
One day in November, Chewbacca (or "Chewie," as we had come to know him) got adopted by a wonderful woman who also loved him dearly. The entire staff wished them both well in bittersweet acknowledgement that we would miss him desperately.

Life went on, and the months passed with little discussion about our old friend, Chewie. Then came a day in

February 1994 when a familiar face stood at the counter and announced she was returning an animal. She told us that a severe illness in her family had forced her to move out of state to live with her in-laws, who decreed that Chewie would have to live outside. She could not bear the thought of making him give up the pampered life to which he had become accustomed. We praised her for loving him enough to return him to us.

Delighted to see our dear friend again, we began letting him lounge in the office with us after hours, and soon it became apparent that he felt quite at home there. After a while, Chewie was almost never in his cage, and it was suddenly clear that his presence here was fate. We officially adopted Chewie as our Shelter Cat on March 7.

Chewie spends most of his days sleeping—in a paper recycling bin, in someone's out-box, under the front counter among the contracts for other



**Chewie: living the good life and earning his keep as the Shelter Cat.**

animals going home, or on the counter itself. He also helps review adoption applications and assists in temperament testing of Shelter dogs for potential adopters with cats at home. Never let it be said that this cat does not earn his keep.

No matter what is going on around him, Chewie remains oblivious. His

*Continued on page 7*



### THERE IS A CHOICE



Sorrow comes to families in the loss of beloved pets, just as it is true in the loss of our loved ones. This is especially true when a faithful and loving pet has been a part of the family for many years.

Those who have known that special love and trust of a family pet understand the empty place left by a pet's death. They understand, too, the need for proper final care or memorial to one who has been both devoted and dependent on you for its needs throughout life.

*10% off all pre-arrangement of your pet's future needs.*

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## Chewie

from page 6

ability to sleep through literally anything has prompted many visitors to ask if he is alive! It is usually then that he wiggles his tail or rolls over, thus answering the question himself. Chewie sports a snappy collar with a bone-shaped ID tag to match his persona.

Our star staff member gets all the pampering he can take, and he is brushed every morning in preparation for his day. Chewie has his very own bed, his own in-box, an assortment of favorite toys, and he is kind enough to share his office with the Kennel Manager and Animal Control staff. Recently he opened "Chewie's School for Dogs" in a large cardboard box complete with windows, shutters, and a lovely awning. Curious dogs who peer through a window receive a big surprise when one of Chewie's beefy paws comes shooting out to say hello. Occasionally, he has bursts of friskiness, but if you blink, you may miss the entire day's activity.

Statistics show that the act of petting a cat can actually lower your blood pressure. Since Chewie's arrival on staff, I think we can all vouch for the validity of that statement. The next time you stop by the Shelter, say hello to the big man behind (or on) the counter. And while you're there, feel free to lower your blood pressure.

*The Alexandria Animal Shelter has many beautiful cats like Chewie who need good homes. We're open seven days a week and three evenings: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. For the exact hours, just give us a call at (703) 838-4775.*

## Potential Tragedy is Averted for Abused Kitten

Picture yourself in this situation: You're a small, 6-month-old cat. Someone much bigger than you tapes your front legs together, and then wraps your head and face with tape before tossing you into a dumpster and covering you with trash. You cannot escape, and you can't make a sound. Wouldn't that be terrifying?

It's hard to imagine anyone being cruel enough to treat a helpless creature this way. Yet, it happened to Scotch, and he lived through the experience, thanks to the kindness of a stranger who found him and called us.

The good news is that Tom and Marion Dahlen heard about this little guy and adopted him. Scotch is now embarking on the life he was meant to have.

Our Animal Control staff has thoroughly investigated this case, and continues to search for the person responsible. When that individual is found, he or she will be charged with cruelty to animals. This offense is a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by one year in jail and a \$2,500 fine.



Scotch's life was nearly cut short, but thanks to a kind citizen and his new adoptive family, Tom and Marion Dahlen, he is basking in the loving environment all pets deserve. The League and the Shelter staff are dedicated to finding good homes for unwanted animals like Scotch. If you're considering adopting a pet, please visit the Shelter. You'll be glad you did!



Ms. Helen Wassen and Ms. Virginia Brooks, with former Shelter resident Colby at the memorial plaque in the new garden.

## League Dedicates New Garden at Shelter

Have you noticed? The outside of the Shelter at 910 S. Payne has bloomed! Thanks to the efforts of two League supporters, the outside grounds have been transformed.

Ms. Virginia Brooks, who adopted her dog, Colby, from the League a year and a half ago, and Ms. Helen Wassen donated several mature azaleas and rhododendrons, many smaller plants, and approximately 50 hours of work to refurbish the grounds.

These generous ladies requested only

that the League dedicate the garden. It took the staff no time at all to decide in whose memory the garden should be named: Ms. Ann Kaier, an employee, who had recently passed away. So the garden is now "Ann's Garden."

A special dedication ceremony was held May 14 to thank Ms. Brooks and Ms. Wassen for their generous donation and to remember Ann.




### For Pet's Sake

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# Straight Talk About Spaying and Neutering Your Pet

by Cynthia Miles

Let's put a stop to old wives' tales now! Spaying and neutering your pets will not:

- make them fat
- make them lazy
- make your male act less "macho"
- increase the number of rodents in your house or yard
- decrease their instinct for self-preservation

Spaying and neutering your pets will:

- increase their chances for a longer, healthier life
- lessen their desire to roam
- strengthen your friendships with the neighbors
- decrease the chances of cancer of the uterus and mammary glands in females
- decrease the chances of testicular and other cancers in males
- allow your children to learn the truth about pet overpopulation, and increase their awareness of pet responsibility now and in the future
- get rid of those unwanted suitors your pet attracts when she's in heat.
- decrease the number of unwanted pets in shelters nationwide.
- reduce the tragic number of animals that must be euthanized each year simply because there are always more

animals than there are good homes for them.

In 1993, over 16 million dogs and cats were euthanized by animal shelters nationwide. How many of these animals were adoptable? How many came from litters that your dog or cat produced?

It is human nature to avoid thinking about unpleasant things, and we would like to believe that "a nice family" will adopt all of the dogs and cats brought in daily. Sadly, for too many of the unfortunate creatures brought to the Shelter, this is not always the case.

The bottom line is that there are no negatives that come from spaying or neutering your pets, and thus no reason not to do so.

Speak to your veterinarian today about this simple, life-saving surgery. The Shelter can help make your decision easier as well. Ask us about our reduced-cost spay/neuter certificates, now honored by 27 area vets. Call (703) 838-4775 for more information.

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## CFC Contributions Aid League Programs In the Community

Once again, you can assist the League in continuing its programs with a contribution through the Combined Federal Campaign to be launched this fall.

We hope that when you are asked to make your pledge, you will designate the League for a contribution. Our number, which appears in the catalog of recipient organizations, is 7006.

## Fall Rabies Clinic

The League's Annual Rabies Clinic will be held September 18 at the Animal Shelter, 910 S. Payne St., from noon until 2 p.m. Rabies vaccinations will be \$5. All cats must be brought in carriers and all dogs must be leashed.

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