

Spotlight on animals

The Newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

Summer 1996

Join Us August 31 and Let the (Canine) Games Begin!

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the Olde Towne School for Dogs are pleased to present the 5th Annual Canine Games on Saturday, August 31 (rain date: Sunday, September 1), at Jones Point Park in Alexandria. Jones Point Park lies at the end of South Royal St., under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

This event has been growing every year, and the 1996 Games this Labor Day weekend are expected to be the biggest and best in our history. Everyone is invited.

Due to the number of participants and to reduce the lines, we are adding a brand-new event, the Steeplechase, as well as another Obstacle Course and a second Water Retrieval venue. Of course, we will feature the popular traditional events: Frisbee, Go Fetch, the 40-Yard Dash, Dog Bowling, Dog Tricks, Ball Catch, and Obedience (novice and sub-novice categories). Specially inscribed gold, silver, and bronze medallions will be awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place winners in each event.

As always, the day's festivities will include a colorful, inspiring opening ceremony, music, refreshments, and pet-re-



Your dog can be a champion, too, at the 1996 Canine Games on Aug. 31.

lated vendors. A veterinarian will be on hand to answer questions concerning your pet's health, and a calligrapher will be available to inscribe your pet's name on a commemorative certificate at no charge. Also, a photographer will be at the park if you'd like to take home a souvenir photo of you and your canine athlete; a handsome 1996 Canine Games frame will be included.

You'll also want to meet several beautiful Shelter dogs who are available for adoption from the League. The handlers who accompany the dogs to the Games will be familiar with each animal's background, and will be pleased to answer your questions. In addition, League volunteers will distribute literature on adoption and humane education; pet supplies and T-shirts will be sold at our booth.

If you wish, you can try your luck in our raffle, which features some great prizes (see page 5). Raffle tickets are \$1 each.

The \$25 registration fee for each canine athlete entitles the dog to enter any or all of the events. The first 275 registrants will receive an official 1996 Canine Games T-shirt, and, this year for the first time, a sports bottle. All dogs must be current on vaccinations and inoculations, in good health and temperament, and on leash at all times (no retractable leads, please). If you don't have a dog, please join us anyway—there's no charge for spectators.

On-site registration and packet pick-up will begin at 7:30 a.m., the opening ceremony at 8:15, and the competition at 8:45. The closing ceremony will begin at about 11:15. To avoid delays at the registration table on the morning of the event, we encourage mail-in pre-registration. Forms are available at the Alexandria Animal Shelter (910 S. Payne St.), the Olde Towne School for Dogs, and many local veterinary hospitals. For more information or a registration form, please call our Canine Games Hotline at (703) 519-7230 or our Special Events Coordinator, Megan Brooks, at (703) 838-4387.

Continued on page 5

The Animal Welfare League
Of Alexandria

1946 **50** 1996
Fifty Years of
Helping Animals

care • concern
• commitment •

Also Inside . . .

Microchipping Your Pet	2
Gloria the Duck	3
The 'Animal Friendly' Va. Tag	3
Licensing Your Pets	4
The Canine Games Raffle	5
Cruelty Case Prosecuted	6
1995 Annual Dinner and Pet Fête	7
Leon Papooty: A Tribute	7
Our First Animal Camp	8

Vet's Corner

Charlie and the Chip



by Don Wilson, DVM
Alexandria Animal Hospital

More pets die each year as a result of being lost than from all diseases combined. Thanks to medical advances, we can protect pets from contagious disease, but we haven't had a truly safe and permanent means of protecting them in the event they are separated from their owners—until now.

Take the case of Charlie, a dog who enjoyed traveling with his owners, the Johnson family, to their vacation cottage in the mountains. There, he could explore the trails with them, and swim to his heart's content in the nearby ponds. Unfortunately, at the family's second rest stop, 100 miles from home and 65 miles from the cottage, Charlie spotted a deer while the Johnsons were checking out the soft drink machines and, for the first time in his life, he jumped out the window to investigate.

By the time his family returned to the

car, Charlie was hot on the trail of the deer and either couldn't hear or was oblivious to their frantic calls begging him to come back. Soon, Charlie was lost—alone in an unfamiliar world.

Eventually, darkness approached and Charlie's family had to give up their search, hoping that someone would find their beloved pet and contact them at the number on his collar tag. But when they arrived at the cottage, they were dismayed to discover that Charlie's collar was on the floor of the car and not around his neck. Their sadness and despair are not difficult for any of us to imagine.

Somehow, Charlie survived the night in the woods, and fortunately was discovered the next day by a kind farmer, who gave him some food and fresh water before driving him to the local animal shelter.

After a time, Charlie was taken to a small room, where a young man looked him over and waved a small machine over him. The machine beeped, and the man's face lit up with a smile. He ran to the phone and began to make some calls.

A couple of hours later, Charlie's entire family walked through the door, joyous to be reunited with their little friend, thanks to that shelter's little machine—and to the Johnsons, who had taken an important step to protect him. You see, the beep Charlie heard was the scanner's response to a tiny microchip implanted under his skin by his veterinarian.

Virtually all our local shelters and animal hospitals have embraced this technology. Here's how it works: A tiny glass bead—barely larger than a needle—is implanted under the animal's skin in the area between his shoulder blades. To your pet, the process—which takes only a couple of seconds—feels like a shot. But because it is a permanent means of identifying lost pets who, like Charlie, have lost their collars, it has as much life-saving potential as any vaccination.

Once the telltale beep alerts the shelter or vet to the presence of a microchip, a digital readout window on the scanner displays the one-of-a-kind identification number from the chip. The American Kennel Club maintains a Companion Animal Recovery database and can provide contact

information for the owners, enabling us to quickly contact them and reunite them with their pet.

The procedure is safe, permanent, unalterable, painless, and part of a nationwide recovery program. The tiny chip can be implanted in animals as small as a pound or as large as an African elephant.

There are two brands of microchip systems now available. Most local veterinarians are implanting microchips and routinely scanning patients who are presented as lost. The Alexandria Animal Shelter has a scanner, too—and, since it is used on every animal brought in, there is no doubt this palm-sized machine will help reunite a lot of loving families with pets like Charlie from whom they become separated. For a one-time \$9 registration fee, plus the cost of the chip, you can protect your pet for life. Consult your veterinarian about this life-saving technology soon.

Rabies/ Microchip Clinic



The League will hold its annual Rabies and Microchip Clinic on Sunday, September 15, at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, 910 S. Payne St. Dogs, cats, and ferrets will be vaccinated from noon until 2 p.m. Inoculations are \$5 each, and microchipping is \$20 per animal. All animals must be on leash or in carriers.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria SPOT-LIGHT ON ANIMALS (© 1996) 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. Phone: (703) 838-4775. Fax: (703) 838-5042.

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

For advertising information call (703) 820-6639.



For Pet's Sake

PROF. ALL BREED DOG GROOMING
RETAIL SUPPLIES

1537 N. Quaker Ln.
Alexandria, VA

By Appointment
931-2600

Jackie and Gloria

One summer evening, Jackie Barchesky, owner of For Pet's Sake, a grooming store in Alexandria, was on her way to a graduation ceremony in Maryland. She came upon a beautiful white duck who appeared lame and was being pecked on by other ducks.

Jackie learned that the duck, an abandoned Easter purchase, had been injured some time before, and its leg now was completely locked in a painful position. Jackie knew something had to be done. She picked up Gloria (named for her graduating friend) and took her home. From that moment, Jackie saw to Gloria's every need, 24 hours a day. She brought the duck to work and provided her with a large straw-filled container and a separate water-filled one.

Jackie took Gloria to two specialists, and surgery was scheduled with an orthopedic veterinarian. Sadly, Gloria—to whom Jackie and many of her clients and friends had become quite attached—did not survive the surgery.

The League commends Jackie for her responsible, caring, and humane response to Gloria's plight. She saw an animal who could not speak or care for itself and did the right thing. She got involved, and did not assume that "someone else" would take care of the situation. When one skeptic



Jackie Barchesky saw an animal in need and tried to save her.

questioned her involvement with Gloria by dismissing her as "only a duck," Jackie responded, "She's a living creature, and she needs my help."

Jackie's humanity in this situation epitomizes what the League stands for, and its interest in the welfare of all animals, not just cats and dogs. All living creatures have value, and it is everyone's responsibility to cherish and protect them.



Apply soon for a special Virginia license plate similar to this one. Some of the proceeds will benefit your local animal shelter.

Help Animals with Special 'Animal Friendly' Plate

The Prevent a Litter Coalition (PALC) is requesting your help to launch the "animal friendly" Virginia license plate that will prevent suffering and save the lives of many cats and dogs in our state.

PALC must have 350 prepaid applications to present to the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to get the "animal friendly" Virginia plate into production and make it available to the public. Once 1,000 of the plates are sold, \$15 of the \$25 fee for every "animal friendly" plate sold thereafter will go into a fund that will then disburse monies annually to the local jurisdiction in which it is sold to be used for spay/neuter services.

The three-color design will be similar to that shown above. You can pick up the special DMV application at the Alexandria Animal Shelter or call PALC at (703) 818-8009 to request that one be mailed to you. Then, simply complete the application and return it to PALC with your \$25 check (made payable to DMV). (NOTE: Applications sent directly to DMV rather than through PALC will not be credited to the 350 needed to commission the plate.)



508 Oronoco St.
Old Town Alexandria

Phone:
836-2548

La Moustache


HAIR DESIGN

Neighboring the
Olde Towne School for Dogs



**Announcing
An Internet
Service for
Pet Professionals**

Tap into the electronic marketplace with a Home Page on the Internet. We can show you how to use this practical—and affordable—means to reach thousands of pet owners. For more information, contact

DeMAY ENTERPRISES
8355 Magic Leaf Rd. • Springfield, VA 22153
Phone and Fax (703) 912-9808


Website address:
<http://adpages.com/novapets>

BECKY BONINI (703) 780-2058



"Wags to Weasels"
Complete In-Home Pet & Plant Care
Specializing in Exotics
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Experienced Pet Care

Midday Walks Cage Maid Service
References Free Consultation



***"Teaching a child not to
step on a caterpillar is as
valuable to the child as it
is to the caterpillar."***
—Bradley Miller

VALLEY PET

Cemetery
and
Crematory

We Offer:
Individual cremation
Ceremonial urns
Individual burials
Caskets & markers
Pickup at Veterinary office

CALL FOR FREE BROCHURES
1-800-962-1467

Have You Checked Out Our New Web Sites?



During the past several weeks, over 2,000 people have visited the League's new World-Wide Web sites. If you'd like to drop by, all you need is a computer and access to the Web.

For information related to the League, special events, humane education, and responsible pet care, the number is <http://www.petpage.org>.

To learn about animals available for adoption at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, visit us at <http://adoptapet.com>.

Wish List

Your donations of the following new or gently used items will help us care for animals at the Shelter. If you'd like to donate any of these items, please drop them off at 910 S. Payne St. or call (703) 838-4775 to arrange for a pickup.

- IAMS dog/cat food • Table-top copier (please call Kate at 838-4861)
- 486 IBM computer • Plastic cat toys
- Towels and blankets • Choo toys for the dogs • Cat litter • Ping pong balls
- Copy paper (white, letter size)

Licensing Your Pets: A Reminder



Don't forget that City law requires the licensing of both dogs and cats. It's also important to remember that if your pet is accidentally lost, his license may be his passport home, because the number on the license provides a means for us to locate you.

Although the deadline for license renewals was in January, you can purchase your licenses now without being penalized if you forgot. The licensing fee is \$10 for unaltered animals and \$2 if they have been neutered or spayed. To obtain a 1996 license, whether by mail or in person at the Alexandria Animal Shelter, you must provide documentation that your pet's vaccinations are current.

P.S.—If you would like to have a license application mailed to you, please call the Shelter, 838-4775.

THE FLEA SPECIALIST

For more information call 703 / 437-3401

Eliminates Fleas From Your Home

- Safe for Children and Pets
- One-Year Written Guarantee
- One Call, One Application
- Recommended by Veterinarians
- No Bombs or Sprays

ALTERNATIVE PET CARE, INC.

Offering Pet Sitting and Mid-Day Dog Walking

Serving Northern Virginia Since 1985

Member of National Association of Professional Pet Sitters

Don't forget your pets when making your vacation plans!

Free Registration \$10.00 Value

(703) 354-3277

Licensed, Insured, & Bonded



Cavaliere Dog Training

- Obedience and Good Behavior for all ages
- Positive reinforcement, motivation to be good!
- Problem-Solving
- In-home training, personalized to meet the specific training needs of each dog and owner.
- 15 years experience

(703) 960-0806
Chris Cavaliere, Alexandria, VA

Sunset Pet Services

Pet Cremation Services

Sunset provides individual cremations for your pet with the dignity they deserve.

Urns that provide a lasting tribute for your pet.

Next day service - Pet's ashes available the following day.

Sensitive - Sunset was founded by pet owners to meet the needs of the caring and thoughtful pet owner.

Easily accesible to all counties in the Washington Metropolitan area.

Tagging for identification of pets done immediately.



For Information, please call
703•971•4120



5517 Vine Street • Alexandria, Virginia 22310

When you're not there, Pet Au Pair!

Superior in-home care for all animals.

Midday walks, vacation care, multiple visits per day, medication administration.

With Pet Au Pair's loving care, there is no need to worry if you are working late or traveling.

Pet Au Pair, Inc.
703/836-0229

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Excellent References



1996 Canine Games

from page 1

All proceeds from the 1996 Canine Games will be used to help homeless and injured animals, and to further the League's adoption, outreach, and humane education efforts.

P.S.—Even though it never rains on the Canine Games, in the event of questionable weather you can call our hotline at (703) 519-7230 for up-to-the-minute information.

Try Your Luck in the Canine Games Raffle!

Going out of town Labor Day weekend? No problem! You don't have to be present at the Canine Games to win one of our great prizes in the League's raffle. For just a buck, you can try your luck at winning two tickets to the Redskins vs. New York Jets game (Sunday, September 29, at RFK Stadium), dinners at area restaurants, pet supplies, and other gifts donated by local businesses.

All you have to do is fill out the tickets on this page (Xerox copies are fine; send in as many tickets as you like) and send them, together with \$1 for each ticket, to AWLA Raffle-Canine Games, 912 W. Timber Branch Pkwy., Alexandria, VA 22302-3230. (Make checks payable to AWLA.) Your tickets will be included with those sold at the Games, and if yours is drawn, you will be notified.

All proceeds go to help homeless, abused, and injured animals at the Alexandria Animal Shelter.

• 1996 Canine Games Raffle •



Name _____

Address _____

Donation:
\$1

City / State / Zip _____

Ph: (H) () _____ (W) () _____

• 1996 Canine Games Raffle •



Name _____

Address _____

Donation:
\$1

City / State / Zip _____

Ph: (H) () _____ (W) () _____

• 1996 Canine Games Raffle •



Name _____

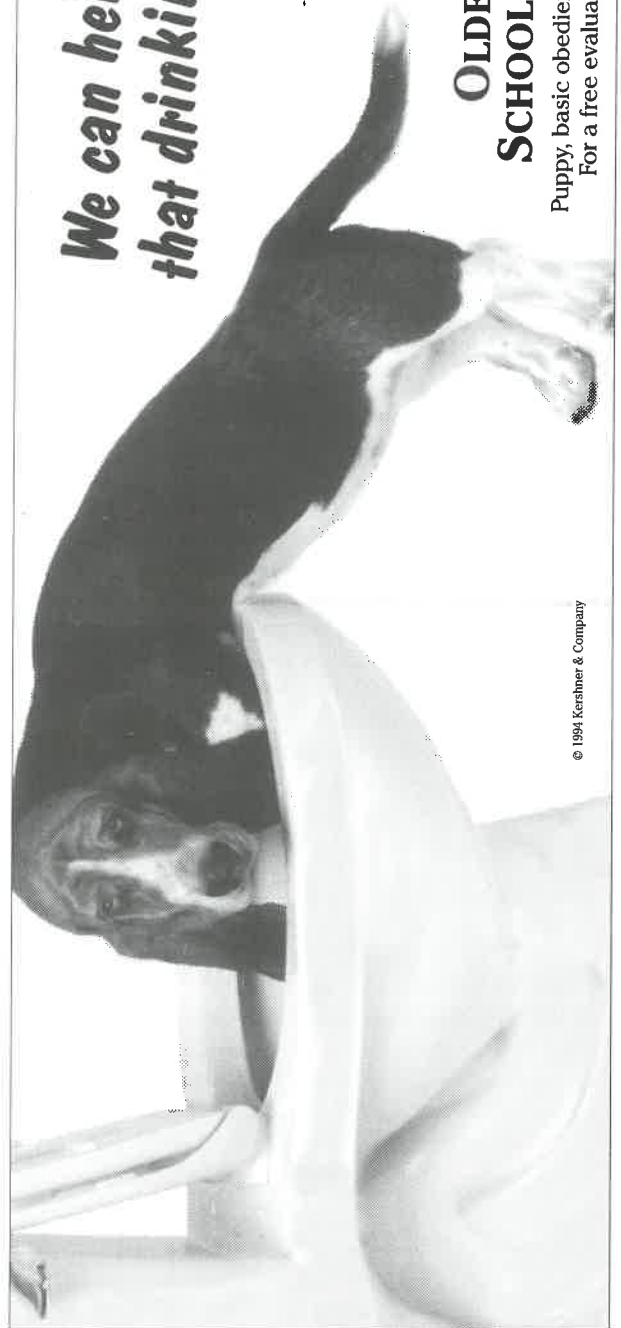
Address _____

Donation:
\$1

City / State / Zip _____

Ph: (H) () _____ (W) () _____

*We can help you with
that drinking problem.*



**OLDE TOWNE
SCHOOL FOR DOGS**

Puppy, basic obedience, and off-leash courses.
For a free evaluation call 703-836-7643.

© 1994 Kerahmer & Company

Cruelty Case Prosecuted

Sadly, cruelty to animals is a problem everywhere—even here. The good news is that caring citizens are becoming involved and reporting offenders—and the League and law enforcement agencies are responding aggressively. Over the last two years, six cruelty cases have been successfully prosecuted in Alexandria.

Recently Animal Control Officers (ACOs) went to a house in Alexandria in response to reports that several dogs in poor physical condition were being held in an unsafe environment.

The property owners had previously refused to allow officers to enter the property but this time, based on neighbors' testimony reporting late-night occurrences suggesting possible drug activity, the League contacted the Alexandria Police Department, which assisted in obtaining a consent search of the home and property on July 5.

ACOs discovered five pit bull terriers on the property, none of whom had food available. Two were emaciated, the other three underweight. One male pit bull was secured by a 27-pound chain. The two emaciated dogs were seized because of their condition and rushed to a veterinarian for evaluation. The owner was given 24 hours to get medical attention for the remaining dogs and get food on the premises for them.

The next day, ACO Chaun Gorden and a police detective returned to find the dogs in the same deplorable situation; all were seized immediately and taken to a veterinarian for treatment. Three days later, the City's Code Enforcement authorities condemned the house.

Based on the medical report on the five dogs, the owner was charged with being an unfit owner. He was tried in General District Court and found guilty on July 15.

All the dogs were remanded to the custody of the League. Upon leaving the courtroom, the owner was arrested for cruelty to animals. On July 30, he pled guilty to the cruelty charge and was fined \$100 and sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 28 days suspended.



REMEMBER: *If you ever have reason to believe an animal's life is in danger, don't wait—call 838-4775. You may save a life!*

EMERGENCIES

WE'RE HERE TO SAVE LIVES!

Experienced, Caring, Professional Staff

- For Cats, Dogs, Birds, Ferrets, Rabbits, Rodents, Reptiles and Other Exotic Pets
- Open Nights, 24 hours Weekends & Major Holidays
- 24 Hour Critical Care Monitoring
- Convenient to DC, MD & No. VA



Virginia-Maryland Veterinary Emergency Service

Dr. Susan Barnes – Emergency Director

(703) 823-3601

2660 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Telegraph Road (Exit 2) Off the Beltway to Duke Street (236 West)



Hayfield Animal Hospital

DOGS • CATS • BIRDS • EXOTICS

New Patients Welcome • Gentle, Caring Staff
Medicine • Surgery • Dentistry • Boarding

DAY, EVENING, SATURDAY & EMERGENCY APPTS



971-2127



7724 Telegraph Rd

ALEXANDRIA • MT. VERNON • KINGSTOWNE • FT. BELVOIR

Fort Hunt Animal Hospital

Serving Alexandria, Mt. Vernon & The Surrounding Communities
Family Pets With Tender Loving Care Since 1985

MEDICINE • SURGERY • DENTISTRY • BOARDING

Dr. Holly Gill – Dr. Patricia Merrigan – Dr. Daysi Felix-Slack

Hospital Member



360-6100

1900 Elkin St. Alexandria, VA

2 Miles North of Mt. Vernon Estate Off Fort Hunt Rd.



A Shelter Success Story



Despite a serious eye problem, Leon Papooty won the heart of a League adopter.

Leon Papooty: A Tribute

Leon Papooty came to the Shelter in the spring of 1995, after he was seen hanging around the Fish Market restaurant begging for food. Leon had problems: a serious eye condition that would require surgery, and a coat that was dirty, ragged and matted. Still, he was an exceptionally affectionate feline, and quickly won over the hearts of the Shelter staff.

Leon was an older cat, overlooked by many potential adopters who had eyes only for kittens. One day, Eleanor Herman came in to visit and fell in love with Leon—even knowing his eye surgery would cost over \$400.

Over the next year and a half, with his owner's help, Leon sent wonderful, often hilarious letters to the Shelter's mascot, Chewie, with updates on his progress. Leon, who despite his initial appearance turned out to be quite a handsome cat, even won some ribbons at the League's 1995 Cat Show.

This summer, we were saddened to learn that Leon was found to have cancer and had passed away very suddenly. Leon had a wonderful year and a half in his great home, away from the streets and showered with love, thanks to his owner and to the League, which provides a refuge to all homeless animals like Leon.

The League has many bright, healthy, wonderful pets like Leon who need a good home. Why not visit us soon? You'll be glad you did! For more information, call (703) 838-4775.



In Home
Visits

Dog
Exercising

Experienced
Medical Care

Bone Voyage
Inc.

*Individualized loving care . . .
When you can't be there.*

(703) 360-1603
Licensed and Insured


Pet Fete
 ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA 50 YEARS OF CARE,
 CONCERN & COMMITMENT

Thursday, October 17, 1996

*Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
625 First Street, Alexandria*

- ◆ Jazz Reception
- ◆ Annual Dinner & Business Meeting
- ◆ Silent Auction
- ◆ Highlights of our First 50 Years
- ◆ Souvenir Program featuring History of the League and Sponsor Pet Photos

Look for your invitation in the mail in September!

For information on how to become a Sponsor or if you would like to contribute a prize for our Silent Auction, please call (703) 836-2251.

JUST FOR DOGS

Puppy Daycare: A Perfect Solution for Working Families

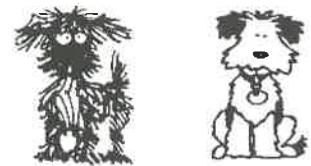
- Group socialization
- Snack/lunch time, play time, training time, nap time
- Housebreaking training
- Confinement acceptance
- Leash walking

Puppy Headstart

Get a jump on 'jumping up,' mouthing, housebreaking, basic commands, and more. Ask about our Puppy Headstart and FUN night.

Full-Service Grooming

No more 'bad hair days'!



Before . . . and After

Mention or bring in this ad and get a discount on your first grooming

— Now available: Nutro-Max Premium Dog Food —

Ask about our discounts on products and services available to Senior Citizens and Shelter Adopters!

PUPPY DAYCARE • TRAINING • BEHAVIORAL COUNSELING AND PROBLEM SOLVING • GROOMING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A MASTER GROOMER . . . and much more!

We support the League and its adoption programs

*Conveniently located at 2 E. Glebe & Commonwealth Ave.
(2 blocks from Cora Kelly School)*

For more information, call (703) 836-5965 today!



Our first crop of campers display their handiwork—T-shirts with animal-related messages.

First-Ever Animal Camp Gets Rave Reviews

The first year for our Absolutely Awesome Animal Awareness Camp was so successful that all the campers have begged to come back next year!

The campers left with bird houses they had made, photos of themselves with their favorite Shelter animal, and T-shirts they made with important messages regarding responsible pet care and other issues.

Thanks to our wonderful speakers, who donated their time and energy to provide interesting facts about animals and to talk about their jobs.

Drs. Farrell and Marsico, Del Ray Animal Hospital

Carlos and Sandy Mejias, Olde Towne School for Dogs

The officers and dogs of the Alexandria Police Department K-9 Unit

Animal Control Officer Chaun Gordon

Suzanne Bridge, professional horse trainer

Don Larsen, woodworking hobbyist, who designed the bird houses

Susan Davis, reptile specialist

Linda Moore, Washington Zoo
Cathy Borne, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Specialist

Kent Knowles, wildlife rehabilitator
Elena Farber, Maryland Wildlife Ranger


Watch for details about next year's program in future issues of *Spotlight*. Meanwhile, the League offers many interesting and exciting humane education programs year round. For more information, call Jeanine Larsen at (703) 838-5042.



The Cat's Meow!

The League's 4th Annual Paws for Fun Cat Show on June 16 was a big hit with cat lovers, who turned out in force to show off their favorite felines.

Many, many thanks to the organizers, Dr. Nancy Suska of the Beacon Hill Cat Hospital and Dawn Shiley, all the wonderful local businesses who lent their support, and the enthusiastic team of volunteers who made it all happen.



Privileged Pets

*Alexandria's Most Exclusive
Pet Sitting Service*

Steve Tilley & Daniela Spigai

*For an in-home interview,
please call (703) 836-6593.*



910 South Payne Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3931

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

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