

spotlight on

the Animal Welfare League

animals
of Alexandria

60 years of caring

Summer/Fall 2006

The League's longest-term resident still looking for a home

We all remember hurricane Katrina and the devastation it brought. Families who had been displaced were in the headlines for months. Animal shelters around the country helped many of the pets who had lost their homes and their families; the League took in 25 dogs who needed assistance. One of those dogs was a young, emaciated Boxer named Lola. Though all the dogs were examined by a vet prior to coming to us, Lola was so underweight that we had a veterinarian look at her a second time here at the Shelter. The vet thought that some good food was all she needed to aid her recovery. Imagine our shock a few days later when Lola delivered two roly-poly puppies! We named the boys Cajun and Ben (short for Beniet, that yummy treat for which New Orleans is famous). Since it was quite chilly at that time of year, we moved the new family into the administrative office of the Shelter. At birth, it was obvious that little Ben had a problem. When he was born, his rear legs were crossed over each other. As Cajun grew older and began to wobble around, Ben began to push himself along, usually backwards, by using his front legs. His back legs seemed completely useless. When Ben was just a few weeks old, we took him to a neurologist to see what could be done for the pup. At that time, this neurologist was not hopeful that Ben would ever walk. As he didn't seem to be

in pain, we decided to wait and see how he developed. He got stronger over the next few weeks and seemed to be pushing with one of his back legs, giving us enough hope to have him seen by another neurologist, who, while unable to give us a specific diagnosis, (continued on page 7)

What an irresistible grin! We've all been inspired by Ben's infectiously happy attitude and how little he lets his disability hold him back.

Join us for the Canine Games Dogtoberfest!

The 15th Annual Canine Games will once again be held at Chinquapin Park in Alexandria on Saturday, October 7. The League's signature event attracts over 600 dogs from all over the D.C. Metro area! This year's 'Dogtoberfest' theme is inspired by Bavaria's world-



famous fall celebration and dogs of every athletic ability can compete in games such as the 40-Yard Dash (36.58 meter dash), Steeplechase (der Hund is hoppen und zumen), Bobbin fur Bratwurst and many more games named for the spirit of Bavaria all in good fun! The top three finishers in each game will be awarded bronze, silver and gold Canine Games medals.

The cost to pre-register is \$20 per dog; on-site registration is \$25 per dog. Additional dogs from the same household are \$15 each. Spectators, both human and canine, are free. The first 400 pre-registrants receive a T-shirt and Doggie Bag filled with goodies from the League and our sponsors. All dogs must have current rabies vaccinations. On-site registration begins at 9 am. The games will officially open at 10 am and will run until 12:45 pm. The event will conclude with an awards ceremony at 1:15 pm.

In addition to canine competition, there are fun things to do for all ages: meet wonderful Shelter dogs, have a souvenir button made with your dog's photo, enter the best canine Octoberfest costume contest, and enjoy the food and lively Bavarian music. Top-notch vendors will be there with unique pet-related merchandise for sale. And don't forget to cast a vote for your favorite 2007 pet calendar entry!

Registration forms are available at the Shelter and at www.alexandrianimals.org.

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about the league

HOW TO REACH THE LEAGUE

Vola Lawson Animal Shelter
4101 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304
703/838-4774 Fax: 703/838-4862
www.alexandriaanimals.org
CFC and United Way designee number: # 8372

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday through Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
Closed on Wednesdays for adoptions and animal visiting.

ADOPTION PROGRAM

One of our most important programs involves placing homeless companion animals in carefully chosen, permanent homes. Our animal adoption program is one of the most successful in the country and has been praised by national animal welfare organizations. For more information, please call 703/838-4774.

ANIMAL CONTROL and 24-HOUR ASSISTANCE FOR ANIMALS

The League provides animal control services for the City of Alexandria. Our Animal Control Officers enforce State and City laws pertaining to the welfare and control of animals. They are on duty Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. At all other times, a trained staff member is on call to respond to animals in need. Please call 703/838-4774 any time you feel an animal needs help.

HUMANE EDUCATION

The League's Community Outreach Coordinator is available to speak to your group. To schedule a presentation or Shelter tour for children or adults, please call 703/838-4774. The League also offers Animal Awareness Camp, a summer day camp for children. Visit our website to learn more.

REDUCED-COST SPAY/NEUTER

Through the cooperation of local veterinarians, the League enables all pet owners to have their animals spayed or neutered at a reduced cost. Certificates can be purchased at the Shelter during regular business hours.

LOST AND FOUND

We offer a lost and found program to aid people in finding their pets. Each year, hundreds of lost pets are reunited with their owners through the League.

LICENSING

The League handles dog and cat licensing for the City of Alexandria. Annual fees start at \$10 for dogs and \$2 for cats. Multi-year licenses are now available also.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We conduct fun-filled activities for pet lovers throughout the year. Find details of upcoming events in this issue, on our website or call 703/838-4774 ext. 216.

DONATIONS *We need your help!*

The League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and relies on tax-deductible donations to fund our programs and services. Donations of items for the animals are also greatly appreciated. For more information on giving to the League, please call our Development office at 703/838-4774 ext. 206.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers perform a variety of helpful functions for the League, such as dog walking, cat socializing, helping out at special events, transporting injured or orphaned wildlife and more. To learn more, call 703/838-4774.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Gordon Kromberg - President
Gwen Jennier - Vice President, *ITT Industries-Advanced Engineering and Sciences; Angel Dog Music*
Betsy Willis - Treasurer
Rosemary Pollard - Recording Secretary
Linda Couture
Nancy Hamilton
Maurice Levite
Carlos Mejias, *Olde Towne School for Dogs*
Diana Titus-Allen Waller

Wish List

We have an extensive wish list - here are some of the regular items that we always need! If you have an item to donate that you are unsure about, please contact the League ahead of time to clarify if this is something we can use.

- **Kitten and puppy milk replacer (unopened)**
- **Baby food: meat-flavored (unopened)**
- **Pig ears (unopened)**
- **Kong toys**
- **Cotton rope toys**
- **Ping-pong balls**
- **Plush dog toys**
- **Cat beds: washable, donut style (no foam or cedar)**
- **Washable blankets / quilts (no sheets or pillows)**
- **Area rugs without stiff or rubber backing**
- **Premium timothy hay for rabbits to eat**
- **Peanut butter**
- **Roll paper towels**
- **Roll toilet paper**
- **Dawn dishwashing liquid**

Inside the Shelter

“Human”-e Education

The League just completed another fun-filled summer busy with six different groups of Animal Campers! These kids aspire to be veterinarians or to have other positions within the animal care, training, enforcement, or protection field. Their enthusiasm is contagious and willingness to help animals in need, inspiring. Woven into their weekly schedule were discussions and activities surrounding responsible animal care, a tour of the entire facility and animal control department, videos, guest speakers representing their profession as it relates to animals,



crafts, and hands-on interaction with many of the homeless animals here at the Shelter. Our goal is for youngsters to positively influence their families, peers, and one day, their own children about animals. Better understanding their behaviors and needs, quite similar to our own, is invaluable in teaching them tolerance and respect for all animals from an early age.

We want to share this thought from one camper, Annie: “I love all animals. All animals are very special to me. One of the reasons I love animals is because I don’t have many friends that can keep a secret, so I’m really glad I have animals because I can go to animals for anything that is bothering me or anything I just need to shout out, and what is nice about that is animals can’t tell secrets so my problem is safe with them. The second reason is animals are really important to the earth. Without animals, this earth just wouldn’t be earth.”

Remember #8372 for Giving

Each year the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign generate a significant portion of the dollars needed to care for the thousands of animals received at our Shelter each year. By designating the League as a recipient of your campaign gift, you are helping to ensure that every animal that comes through our door receives the love and attention it deserves. No animal is ever turned away. Many of the League’s programs, including pet adoptions, humane education, community outreach, wildlife rescue, lost and found, and many more services are funded by your contributions. Does your office have a campaign fair or kickoff party? Invite us! We welcome the opportunity to send a representative who can let your co-workers know about the League and what we do. Thank you for choosing to include the League in your giving plan.

Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW that if you live in the state of Virginia, your dog or cat must have a current rabies vaccination at all times after the age of four months? Not only is it the law, but it protects your pet and others from the possibility of contracting rabies, a fatal disease. Rabies vaccinations are required by all jurisdictions in order to license pets. Even if your pet is vaccinated, if it is exposed to another animal through a bite, it should be reported to animal control so that the other animal can be located if possible, and both animals can be observed to ensure that no symptoms of rabies are observed. There are numerous animals, especially wild animals such as raccoons, bats, foxes and skunks that are found to be rabid each year. Make sure your pet is protected, and keep a copy of his vaccination certificate accessible at all times! (See article on page 4 about our upcoming rabies vaccine clinic).

DID YOU KNOW that if you live in the City of Alexandria, your dog or cat must have a current City of Alexandria pet license at all times after the age of four months? Not only is it the law, but it protects your pet by providing proof of ownership and a

means to return your pet to you should it become lost. Licensing helps ensure that all pets in the City are protected from rabies, and fees also help cover the costs of the City’s Animal Control department. Licenses may be annual or multi-year, depending on your pet’s rabies vaccination. We are here 24 hours a day to help enforce state and local animal laws, help protect animals from cruelty and neglect, and rescue animals in distress, making the City a better place for all its residents.

DID YOU KNOW that if you live in the state of Virginia, and your lost pet is brought to the local animal shelter, you will need to provide proof that you own your pet. Not only is it the law, but it protects your pet by preventing someone who does not own your pet from illegally claiming it as their own. There are many things that can be used as proof of ownership - vet records, rabies vaccination certificates or pet licenses describing your pet, microchip or tattoo identification, photos over time, or an adoption contract or bill of sale describing your pet. Ensuring that this information is organized and accessible at all times will help ensure a quick return of your pet should he become lost and end up at a shelter.

league events

For more information about any of our special events, visit www.alexandrianimals.org or call 703/838-4774 ext. 216.

Calendar

October 4 Pet Bereavement Group (free meeting at 7:30 p.m. at our Shelter on the first Wednesday of each month)

October 7 Canine Games (see cover article for more details)

October 15 Reduced-cost Rabies and Microchip Clinic (see article below for more details)

November 1 Pet Bereavement Group

November 4 Annual Dinner and Silent Auction (see article at right for more details)

December 6 Pet Bereavement Group

February 10 3rd Annual Black Tie and Tails Gala (see article on page 5 for more details)

Coming soon —

Annual Dinner and Silent Auction *Celebrating 60 years of Caring*

Join us on Saturday, November 4, 2006 to help celebrate the League's 60th anniversary! Our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction brings together a truly special group of supporters for an evening dedicated to highlighting a year's worth of success stories. Hard work, amazing sacrifices, generosity and happy endings are represented with stories, presentations and displays. The cocktail reception and silent auction bidding begin at 6:30 pm. The reception will be followed by dinner, presentations, our special animal story and dancing. This year's speaker will be Kate Pullen, who served as the League's Executive Director from 1994 - 2000, and from there moved to the Humane Society of the United States as Director of Animal Sheltering Issues. She is currently working for the American Humane Association on a two-year assignment in Louisiana, following Hurricane Katrina. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites on First Street. Look for your invitation in early October. If you have a unique item or service you'd like to donate to our auction, please contact Diann Hohenthauer at 703-838-4774 x216.

Don't forget — Rabies and Microchip Clinic

Come on out and protect your dog or cat with a rabies vaccination and/or a microchip on Sunday, Oct. 15th from 2 to 4 p.m. at our Shelter. A rabies vaccination protects your pet and is required by Virginia state law. Three-year vaccines will be given to animals with proof of current inoculation; others will receive a one-year vaccination. The cost is \$10 per pet. A microchip ensures that your pet can be easily returned to you in the event that they become lost. Microchips are available for \$30 each, and you must provide proof of ownership. No reservation is necessary. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers.

Feline Follies was a "Purrfect" event!

Our 4th Annual Feline Follies put the spotlight on our feline friends for the entire month of June, in honor of National Adopt-A-Cat month. Throughout the month, the League promoted all that is wonderful about our feline friends. Individuals and businesses sponsored Kitty Condos in our Adoption Area, with their names displayed on each sponsored cage. During the month, the League also reinstated our Wise Whiskers Program - to promote the adoption of cats ages five years and older at discounted adoption fees. On Saturday, June 24, it was truly all about the cats, featuring a presentation by our special guest speaker, Dr. Jane Morse. Education tents were set up outside the Shelter, providing information on litterbox issues, nail trimming demonstrations, behavior discussions, and keeping indoor cats happy. The League also had cat books and toys for sale, refreshments, a drawing for a cat carrier filled with kitty supplies, as well as a month-long raffle. Special thanks to all our Feline Follies Event Sponsors: Alexandria Animal Hospital, Fort Hunt Animal Hospital, Olde Towne Pet Resort and Radiocat.



The winner of our autographed copy of Go Home, the true story of how James the cat finds a home, poses with one of our Shelter cats.

5th Annual Mini Golf Classic Raises Over \$16,000!

The 5th Annual Eisenhower Avenue Mini Golf Classic, held on June 8th, attracted an enthusiastic crowd to Cameron Run Regional Park and raised thousands of dollars for the League and the Eisenhower Partnership. Guests spent the evening playing putt-putt golf, eating pizza, bidding on unique auction items, getting their faces painted and enjoying the sounds of live music. Putters could try to match their skills against our Celebrity putters, including Channel 7 newsanchor Christianne Klein and other local celebrities. This year's event Grand Sponsor was Lane Development, LLC. Volunteers brought adoptable dogs over from the Shelter to mingle with the crowd. This year's Battle of the Banks competition was bigger than ever, with 6 local banks competing! Our appreciation extends to the Eisenhower Partnership and all the supporters who made this event a success.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors — **Grand Sponsor:** Lane Development, LLC; **Eagle Sponsors:** Alexandria Gazette, Alexandria Times, Del Ray Sun, Hoffman Company, LCOR, Inc., New Target, Inc., Olde Towne Pet Resort, Simpson Development Company, and VIA Mailing & Printing; **Birdie Sponsor:** Alexandria Animal Hospital

3rd Annual Black Tie and Tails Gala

You're invited — Save the date!

We're planning an incredible evening to continue our celebration of the League's 60 years of caring for animals. Please plan to join us on Saturday, February 10, 2007 for our 3rd Annual Black Tie and Tails Gala. Our theme this year will be looking back over the past 60 years and we'll be inviting our guests to dress either in black tie or in period dress from one of the past six decades. And don't forget - your canine companion is welcome too! Imagine you and your dog dressed up in elegant 40's attire, or perhaps in poodle skirts from the 50's. Do you have some tie-dye left over from the 60's and 70's? How about mini skirts, shoulder pads and BIG hair from the 80's? Or, if you'd like, attend in elegant black tie (and tails, of course). However you dress, it will be a fantastic, fun-filled evening to celebrate the League's work and to help the animals in our care! As always, one of the highlights of the evening will be a dog couture fashion show put together by Carlos Mejias of Olde Towne School for Dogs, followed by an amazing live auction. The evening will also include dancing (with your dog!), creative cocktails, delicious desserts, and more!



Details from this year's event

We've got to mention what a grand time was had by both two and four-legged attendees at this past year's Black Tie and Tails. Dogs and their owners came out in their finery for the 2nd Annual Black Tie & Tails Gala, held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites this past



May. The evening featured hors d'oeuvres for guests and their dogs (special thanks to Barkley Square Gourmet Dog Bakery, and Fetch Dog & Cat Bakery for their wonderful donations to

the dog buffet!), a doggie fashion show and live auction (for clothes and other items, not the dogs, of course!) with celebrity auctioneer Jim Moran, dog/owner dancing in the ballroom, and a cake cutting by former City Manager and shelter namesake, Vola Lawson. In addition, there was a Bow Wow Doggy Bar with Doggy Cocktails, a Pooch Smooch Photo opportunity, a dog serenity space, an animal communicator, and the sale and auctioning of paintings from the Painting 4 Paws fundraiser.

A huge thank you to Carlos Mejias of Olde Towne School for Dogs for his time, effort and handling expertise in arranging and coordinating the fashion show!

And another huge thank you to our sponsors: **Man's Best Friend Sponsors:** Land Rover Alexandria/Beyer Family Fund of the Alexandria Community Trust, Olde Towne Pet Resort; **No Bones About It Sponsors:** Belle Haven Animal Medical Centre, Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates, Mr. & Mrs. James McIlhenny, Peggie's Pet Services, and Regional Veterinary Referral Center.

Unique ways to give to the League

iGive.com: When you do your online shopping through iGive.com, a percentage of your purchase amount will be donated to the charity of your choice. You can designate the League as the recipient of your shopping efforts! With over 400 stores, you'll find your favorites selling everything from pet supplies to travel holidays.

Printer Cartridge Recycling Program: Instead of throwing your empty cartridges away, we can turn them into cash for the animals! Drop your used cartridges off (all ink jet and laser cartridges are accepted) at the Shelter during business hours.

Kuranda Pet Beds: The League recently began a test program of using Kuranda dog beds in one of our three banks of dog kennels, and the reports from the dogs have been quite positive! Kuranda has a program that allows donors to purchase a bed at a discounted rate, on behalf of a registered Shelter, and have it shipped directly there. Just go to our website and look for the link or go to www.kuranda.com and click on Donate a Bed. We currently have the beds in 14 of our 48 cages, and now that we know the dogs really like them, are hoping to have the remainder donated.

Your tax-deductible donation can be mailed in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope or sent to: AWLA, 4101 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304. Gifts can also be made online at www.alexandriaanimals.org. To learn about other giving opportunities, please contact our Development office at 703-838-4774 x206. Thank you!

spotlight on volunteers

Purrs and Meows

Regina is greeted with lots of purrs as she walks through our Cat Visiting Room. When our kitties see Regina, they know it's time for some good old fashioned TLC! Regina is a Cat Companion volunteer who plays an essential role in keeping our cats happy and mentally healthy while they are awaiting their forever home. We generally have kittens who would love to have some fun chasing a wand toy, and maybe a more senior cat who would just enjoy some quiet time on a lap. Whatever their age, all cats need human contact and love, and our volunteers are happy to oblige!

Regina has been volunteering with the League for 2 years in spite of an allergy towards cats! "Even though I am allergic to cats, I have always gravitated towards them. My husband and I live with 3 cats of our own- Gizmo we found as a kitten, and Lilly & Dusty were adopted from the Alexandria Animal Shelter. We also live with our 2 parakeets Sam & Pete, also adopted from the Shelter", says Regina. The wonderful thing about volunteering at the Shelter is that it not only benefits our animals, but also volunteers too. "I volunteer because I love being around animals, and I get a lot of personal peace by giving my time to them. My house is already full of furry and feathered critters, so spending time at the shelter lets me extend my family, without overcrowding my home's current residents. It's a wonderful feeling to know you've helped an animal during a difficult time in their life. An animal shelter runs on the dedication of its staff and volunteers. What we do is a labor of love, and the benefits far outweigh any tough times. What could be better than helping an animal feel safe, loved, and healthy? The only thing I can think of is sending that animal to their forever home with a new family. Plus, I get to be around an endless variety of intelligent eyes and graceful forms, who are always teaching me something new", says Regina.



Woofs and Barks

The dog days of summer didn't stop volunteers dropping by the shelter and providing our dogs with a welcome break from their kennels. Dog Companion volunteers play many roles at the shelter, whether it be a stroll in the park, quiet time under a shady tree, or fun time in the kiddie pool in the play yard! In the hot summer months, many of our dogs love splashing around and dunking their tennis balls in the pool!

Alison is a Dog Companion volunteer who brings many happy times to our dogs! Every week, Alison provides lots of TLC while our dogs await their new home. Like many of our volunteers, Alison can't have a dog in her life right now, so instead, she showers all her love and affection onto our shelter dogs! "I decided to volunteer because I love dogs. At this point in my life I cannot have a dog of my own, I work 12 hour days and feel that would not be responsible of me to leave an animal for that long. I think volunteering is a great opportunity for me and the dogs. I get the affection that only a dog can give, and they get some love, attention and exercise. I think it's a great experience", said Alison.



Interested in helping the animals by volunteering at our Shelter? You can help in many ways, each of them guaranteed to make a difference in the lives of the animals we care for. For more information, contact Dolores Murray, our Manager of Volunteer Services at 703/838-4774 ext. 225.

Ben needs a home (continued from page one)

was more optimistic about Ben's condition based on the progress we had seen. She referred us to a physical therapist who gave us exercises to work on with Ben daily.

The amount of individual attention Ben needed, however, was more than our staff could accommodate while taking care of the other 150 animals we generally have on average here at the Shelter. So, we called on one of our long-term volunteers, Kathy Schulz, to see if she'd like to take on Ben as a special project. She has worked with Ben every day since the beginning of this year; his exercises have involved teaching him how to balance, working on stretching his muscles, flexing his legs both forward and backward, and a variety of other activities.

Our staff and other volunteers have also gotten very involved with Ben. He has been on field trips, spent a few weekends at two of our volunteers' homes, hung out in offices here, and even gone swimming at Olde Towne Pet Resort.

It is still unclear what caused Ben's mobility issues, but with staff and volunteer help, and with Ben's strong desire to move around in the world, he now gets around without assistance, and in most ways is a typical adolescent dog. His gait is not normal (and it never will be) and when you meet Ben, you might notice that he tends to hop or tilt slightly on his hind legs. What is normal about Ben is his love of people, his love of toys, his love of food, and his happy, outgoing spirit.

Today Ben is an energetic and determined youngster. His hobbies include playing "chase me" in the yard (and he's fast!), "eating" the water shooting out of sprinklers, digging in the sand and walking to the park. He loves to burrow in blankets, too. He certainly doesn't let his disability slow him down.

We know his mother was a Boxer and we're assuming that his father was a hound of some type (suggested by his wonderfully floppy ears and happy voice). He is already neutered and seems to be housebroken. We're suggesting that he live primarily with older children because when he's playing with you, he can be a bit rough since his back legs don't always let him balance enough to be more gentle. He likes dogs, but is very enthusiastic with them and many don't enjoy his adolescent glee. He already knows how to sit, shake hands and lie down. He can go up carpeted stairs fairly easily but needs help coming down and can have difficulty being on slick surfaces for prolonged periods of time.

Ben has captured the hearts of everyone he has met and, while we love taking care of him, he has now been here at the Shelter longer than any other animal ever has. The Shelter is not a place for a dog to spend his life, and it is time for him to find a home. Ben is patiently waiting for that special someone to offer him the wonderful life he deserves, and he's willing to give a lifetime of kisses in exchange.

Pets of Alexandria Calendar 2007 Call for Entries

Hurry! Deadline for entries has been extended to October 1, 2006 for the 2007 Pets of Alexandria Calendar Contest. Eligible pets include those adopted from the League or any pet that resides in Alexandria.

Pets may only be entered once and ALL entries will appear in this keepsake, full-color calendar. The entry fee of \$10 per photo includes one calendar.



Voting works like this: Each vote is one dollar to help the Shelter animals, and there is no limit on the number of votes cast. Voting will take place at the Shelter through 5 pm on Friday, October 6, and at the Canine Games on October 7. Voting prior to the Canine Games on October 7 can be done by mail, by phone (minimum \$25 in votes by phone), or at the Shelter. Votes can also be cast at the Canine Games from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Start recruiting family and friends now; there is no charge for people to attend the Canine Games and every vote counts. The top vote getter will appear on the cover; the next 12 will get their own month. Last year's calendar raised over \$12,500 for the League through entry fees, votes, and calendar sales.

For questions, to secure advertising space, or to place votes for entries, please call the Development Department at 703-838-4774.

To be included in the 2007 calendar, submit the completed form, a photo and entry fee of \$10.00 per photo by October 1 to: AWLA Calendar, 4101 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Pet's Name _____ Age _____

Type of Pet/Breed _____

Owner's Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-Mail _____

How your pet came to be part of your family _____

Submit a good quality, 4x6 photo of PET ONLY - no people. Previous calendar winners may enter for inclusion in the calendar, but are not eligible for voting. Photos cannot be returned. Digital photos should be shot in best/professional quality and printed on photo paper. Poor quality reproductions will not be eligible. On the back of photo, attach a sticky note with pet's name, owner's name and phone number. Please make checks payable to AWLA (entry fee is 100% tax deductible). Final voting will take place on October 7, 2006 at the Canine Games. \$1.00 = 1 vote.

Good Luck!

happy tails

Oscar Gets Help and a New Home

In March of this year, a brown tabby cat arrived at our Shelter in obvious need of help for one of his hind legs. We named him Oscar and sent him for a veterinary exam, which revealed that he needed surgery to repair his leg. Despite the pain we know he must have been in, Oscar was very friendly and playful, and loved being petted by all of the staff members who checked on him. We decided to use Sarah's Fund, a special fund set up for medical care for shelter animals, to give Oscar the veterinary care he needed. After his surgery, he spent a great deal of time in our administrative offices so that he could get the exercise he needed to speed his recovery. During that time we all came to know and love Oscar who was constantly walking across our keyboards or lounging in our chairs. In July, a couple came in looking for a "laid back but playful" cat; they met Oscar and thought he would be a good match for their kitten, Ike. They took him home a few days later and has become an integral part of their family. They wrote to us recently, saying, "He is a wonderful and funny cat and we are so pleased he decided to come home with us. He has become quite fond of his younger brother, Ike, and they are getting along great. They play a lot and only seem to be fussy with each other when it is time to eat. He has lost one pound so far, but we are sure he is going to lose one or two more as he is becoming more and more active every day. He also seems to be healing quite well from his surgery. His hair is growing back nicely too! He is absolutely beautiful and has the sweetest little meow for such a big cat! He is a joy to have around and often greets me at the door when I come home from work. We are so lucky to have him as a part of our little family!"



There's an easy way to get the latest news on League happenings. Our monthly E-Newsletter, *Animal Welfare Matters*, is full of information about Shelter animals, special events, volunteers and more. Subscribe today at www.alexandriaanimals.org.

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