The League’s 1994 Annual Dinner in October was a smashing success. We had a record attendance at the event, which was held in new, larger quarters. Here’s to all the volunteers who contributed their time and effort to make it happen.

It’s not too late to purchase your copy of the 1995 Entertainment Book, available at the Animal Shelter or at participating veterinary clinics. Proceeds from book sales will benefit homeless and injured animals. The cost is just $35.

Winter brings special hazards for animals, the most obvious being the weather. Please keep your pets indoors, especially during the cold and inclement weather—even their fur coats often can’t offer enough protection to keep them safe from the elements. Also, beware of antifreeze—which tastes sweet to animals but is deadly. Watch your pet closely; don’t let him lick spills on driveways or sidewalks. Finally, clean his paws regularly to keep them free of salt and other chemicals that are used to de-ice streets and walkways.

If you’ve visited the Shelter lately, you’ve probably noticed its brighter, fresher appearance. We owe it to the hard work of a volunteer, Mr. Walter Bontz. A professional painter, Mr. Bontz generously donated his time and energy over several weeks’ time to complete a very big job. On behalf of the League—and the animals at the Shelter—thanks, Walter!

The League offers humane education programs in area schools. Encourage your child’s school to take advantage of this free service, which fosters respect for and humane treatment of animals.

Everyone’s Irish for a Day at the Annual St. Paddy’s Day Fun Dog Show

The St. Patrick’s Day Fun Dog Show has become an annual tradition that Alexandrians and their canine companions look forward to. As anyone who’s attended this event since it began in 1986 can tell you, it’s hard to tell who enjoys it more—the dogs or the people who bring them!

You won’t want to miss the 1995 Fun Dog Show on Saturday, March 11, at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. Festivities will begin at 10:15 a.m. sharp—and there’s no admission charge or advance registration.

A surprise guest celebrity will be on hand as our special master of ceremonies, and Judge Daniel O’Flaherty will rate the four-legged contestants in a dozen just-for-fun categories, including Most Spots, Dog/Owner Lookalike, and others. Ribbons will be awarded for first-, second-, third-, fourth-, and fifth-place winners in each category.

As always, a highlight of the morning’s activities will be the introduction of dogs adopted from shelters. In addition, we will present five beautiful, healthy Shelter dogs available for adoption. Each will be accompanied by a handler who is familiar with the animal’s personality and history.

Your dog will receive a special certificate, and a calligrapher will be available to inscribe his name. Also, stop by our information tables at the event, where you can get humane education literature and pet adoption information. There will also be a local veterinarian to answer your questions about pet health concerns and a professional trainer who can offer advice on behavioral issues.
Visceral Larval Migrans: A Children’s Disease
Every Dog and Cat Owner Should Know About

by Lizel Spencer, D.V.M.

Visceral larval migrans is a human disease caused by an infection of the dog roundworm, and, less frequently, the cat roundworm. Humans become infected by ingesting roundworm eggs in soil that has been contaminated with the feces of infected dogs or cats.

The roundworm larvae do not develop to maturity in humans, but they migrate in various body tissues including the liver, brain, heart, lungs, and eye. They may produce an infection, encysting in body tissues, or become widely disseminated in the body, resulting in liver damage, blindness, or other problems.

Who is affected by this type of infection?
At highest risk are toddlers living in the southern United States with a history of eating dirt. Immunosuppressed adults are also at a greater risk of contracting this disease.

Is visceral larval migrans a common problem?
To give you an idea of the potential for the spread of this disease, consider the following:

• 42.5 percent of American households own dogs.
• Up to 99 percent of all puppies born are infected with roundworms.
• Each female worm can produce 200,000 eggs a day. Infected animals can have one to several hundred worms in their body; therefore, the animal can shed millions of eggs per day.
• In some U.S. cities, as many as 40 percent of parks and playgrounds are contaminated with roundworm eggs.

• As many as 25 percent of children younger than five years old may be or have been infected with roundworm larvae.

What are the symptoms of visceral larval migrans?
In most cases the disease is mild and self-limiting. Common symptoms are fever, coughing, wheezing, malaise, weight loss, visual loss or eye pain, seizures, or behavior disturbances.

Vet’s Corner

These symptoms may be easily misdiagnosed as some other condition. Therefore, it is important that a doctor be made aware of the possibility of a roundworm infection so he or she can perform tests to detect the condition.

How can visceral larval migrans be prevented or minimized?
Once the eggs are deposited in the soil it is very difficult to stop the cycle, because roundworm eggs are highly resistant to chemicals and environmental factors. The cycle must be stopped before the adult larvae can lay the eggs.

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Jack Steele, President
Joyce McDowell, Editor
For advertising information call (703) 820-6639.

Recommendations include:
• See your veterinarian as soon as possible after a new pet is brought home so that the animal can be examined.
• Deworm all dogs against roundworms.
• Do not allow dogs to defecate in public parks, sandboxes, etc.
• Enforce licensing and leash laws, thus minimizing stray pets in public areas.
• Do not allow children to play in potentially contaminated areas.

Dr. Spencer, who earned her DVM degree and graduated with honors from Tuskegee University in 1992, practices at the Alexandria Animal Hospital.

Vets support the League in many important ways. For more information, turn to page 6.

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10 Steps Toward Critter-Proofing Your House

Spotlight on Animals is pleased to announce the addition of a new feature devoted to living with wildlife in our area.

Most people agree that the wildlife who live among us add a fascinating dimension to our daily lives. However, a few problems sometimes arise due to the encroachment of urban communities in formerly wild areas. None are threatening to people, and qualified, trained professionals experienced with these issues stand ready to help should you encounter any of the following situations:

1. A bird’s nest is found in attic vent louver.
2. Squirrels have chewed through into attic.
3. A raccoon is in the chimney.
4. There is a bird’s nest in the stove exhaust fan vent.
5. Bats are entering the attic through unscreened attic vents and under fascia board.
6. Mice are entering the garage under the door.
7. Opossums are eating pet food.
8. Woodchucks are burrowing under concrete slab (porch).
9. Snakes are entering the basement around the duct to the dryer vent.
10. General housekeeping hints: Keep shrubs trimmed at least 1’ away from the house; trim tree branches away from the house. Keep grass cut short. Check window screens for tears; check attic vent for screens. Check concrete patios and porches for signs of soil erosion away from sides and line with 1” size gravel if necessary. Screen exhaust fan vents with hardware cloth.

For information on how you can deal humanely with these or other situations involving wildlife, phone (703) 553-9418. In-house consultations are available, and telephone consultations are free. As always, advice is also available through the League, at 838-4775.

1994 Doggie Dash: A Winner All Round!

Once again, competitors showed up in force for the League’s annual Doggie Dash in November—293 dogs were entered in the event.

We are grateful to Dr. Patricia Donohue of the Alexandria Animal Hospital for all her hard work in planning and managing the event, and to Petstuff, our cosponsor, who contributed t-shirts and doggie bandanas.

The Alexandria Coffee Company kindly donated hot coffee for the contestants, and Dr. Don Wilson of the Alexandria Animal Hospital supplied the stage.

Also, thanks to the following local businesses who donated refreshments, packet samples and doggie gifts, gift certificates and prizes:

A. J. Buck
Alexandria Animal Hospital
Armand’s Pizzeria
Banzai Sports
Bilbo Baggins Restaurant
Bombay Bicycle Club
Chesapeake Bagel Bakery
Ecco’s Restaurant
Ft. Hunt Animal Hospital
Fuddrucker’s
LaMadeleine
Mallenkrodt Veterinary Supplies
Pampered Pets
Portner’s Restaurant
'Molly Tamale' — The Perfect Dog

by Randi Miller

When Molly's human companion passed away, she mourned. After all, she had just lost her best friend. Molly's world was suddenly very different, and, at seven years old, she had a hard time with that.

For Molly (nicknamed "Molly Tamale" by the staff), getting used to her kennel at the Shelter was traumatic. She had been pampered in her former home, and regarded all of us with confusion. Molly was clearly depressed, troubling the staff, who were unable to cheer her.

Barbara Murphy had been volunteering her time at the Shelter for quite a while by the time Molly arrived. Their frequent walks together began to foster a trusting, loving relationship. The staff noticed the difference in Molly's personality—she was always elated to see Barbara, and she obviously missed her when she left. It was bigger than both of them and, on November 27, 1993, they began a new life together.

Once they got home, Barbara introduced Molly to low-calorie dog food and her diet paid off: she lost nine important pounds and looks and feels much better. She even walks three miles a day.

Molly was enrolled in obedience school and proved that you can teach an old dog new tricks. An honors graduate of the Olde Towne School for Dogs, she retrieves her own leash off the banister when she is ready to go for a walk. When Barbara comes home from work, Molly greets her eagerly.

Molly is very fond of other dogs, enjoys running with them, and is always excited to see a fellow canine on her walks. Her favorite playmate is Sam, a four-year-old black Lab, a major frisbee player with whom she likes to run when he chases a disc—although she still seems puzzled to see him retrieving it. Tennis ball is her toy of choice, and her favorite game is wrestling with her owner.

To those adopters who work during the day and have it in mind to adopt a very young puppy, Barbara has a word of advice: "Be sure to take a second look at an adult dog. It could be well worth your while in terms of finding that 'perfect pet.'"

Animal Control Officers Are Heros to These Kittens

Animal Control Officers face challenges every day, but December brought an especially tense situation to Officer Roger Townsend, who risked his own life to save a kitten stranded in a three-foot-deep pipe.

The pipe was located inside a Virginia Power transformer, and surrounding the pipe—and the trapped kitten—were 75,000-volt conduits.

With patience and skill—not to mention very steady nerves—Mr. Townsend was able to provide the kitten a means to crawl out of the pipe onto netting he had twisted down into the hole.

The Animal Shelter had wonderful support from Virginia Power, which allowed us access to the animal. The kitten, dubbed "Louie" by Shelter staff, has since been placed in a new home where, in his strictly indoor environ-

Continued on page 7
Santa Photos: Jolly Good Fun for Pets, Owners

The 1994 Pet Photos with Santa event was our biggest ever, with over 350 sittings over an extended three-day period. All kinds of pets showed up—dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, even a boa constrictor! We were especially pleased to see many Shelter graduates at the event.

As always, the prime mover in this event was the Olde Towne School for Dogs, which once again devoted a large section of their store to accommodate the photo area. The OTSD’s Ginger Noce and Carlos Mejias managed to get priceless poses from all the animals to be captured on film. And, to judge from all the “Ooohs” and “Aaahs” heard when the photos were picked up at the School the following week, the pictures will be treasured for years to come.

Thanks, too, to Santa and each of his helpers—all League volunteers—who came to help out, and to Starbucks, whose King Street branch contributed coffee and supplies.

Finally, here’s to our fabulous photographer, Brenda Nolin, who volunteered three days of service to the League during this hectic three days. Thanks, Brenda, for a job very well done!
It happens more often than you might think—a concerned caller phones the Shelter to report that an animal has been struck by a car and is lying in pain on the side of a road. The League ensures that such animals receive the medical attention they need to relieve their pain or save their lives.

We could not offer quality medical care for homeless, injured or sick animals need if it were not for the 29 dedicated area veterinarians who work closely with the League to preserve and improve the lives of animals in our community.

Here are just some of the ways they help us:
1. They provide first aid and other training to the Shelter staff, and are always willing to answer our questions about health-related issues.
2. The vets donate time at the Shelter to examine our animals for existing or potential medical problems.
3. They are willing to take an emergency case—including injured wildlife—any time.
4. Our 29 participating veterinarians honor the spay/neuter certificates sold by the League (last year over 1,000), making this surgery more widely available in our community.
5. The vets treat Shelter animals with serious health problems.
6. Any animal adopted at the Shelter can receive a physical examination at one of our participating veterinarians within 72 hours of the adoption. There is no charge to the adopter for this service, which is part of the adoption package.
7. Our participating veterinarians work with the League to help adoptive pet owners establish a program of consistent quality medical care to ensure the pet a lifetime of good health.

**REMEMBER...**

Consistent medical care is as important to your pet as it is to you. Having a vet who knows your pet and is familiar with his medical history is essential to the animal’s continued well-being.

Please—don’t take chances with your four-legged friend. Consult your vet regularly, and seek advice whenever you have questions or concerns related to his health.

Bailey’s Crossroads (continued)
*Fairfax Animal Hospital
5914 Seminary Rd. (22041)
820-2557

*Burke Veterinary Clinic
6411 Shiplett Blvd. (22152)
455-6222

*Companion Animal Clinic
10120 Pohick Rd. (22015)
250-4100

Village Veterinary Clinic
9554 Burke Rd. (22015)
978-8655

*Centerville
Westfields Animal Hospital
5095 Westfields Blvd. (22020)
378-3028

*Fairfax
Blue Cross Animal Hospital
8429 Lee Hwy. (22031)
560-1881

*Falls Church
*Feline Veterinary Clinic
7189 Lee Hwy. (22046)
241-8480

*Lorton
Gunston Animal Hospital
7685 Armistead Rd. (22079)
339-7725

*Manassas
*Manassas Animal Hospital
8307 Yorkshire Lane (22111)
378-6166

*McLean
*McLean Animal Hospital
1330 Old Chainbridge Rd. (22101)
356-5000

*Springfield
*Companion Animal Hospital
7297 Commerce St. (22150)
866-4100

*Springfield Animal Hospital
6580 Backlick Rd. (22150)
451-1995

*Woodbridge
Ridge Lake Animal Hospital
1474 Davis Ford Rd. (22191)
690-4949

*Woodbridge Animal Hospital
13312 Jefferson Davis Hwy. (22191)
494-5191

*NOTE: These hospitals participate in the reduced-cost spay/neuter program for animals adopted from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria only.
Quaker: A True Story

by An Alexandria Resident

I had just entered a small neighborhood retail store when two young boys rushed in behind me, carrying a tiny kitten. When I heard them say they had found the animal in the grass next to the road, I walked toward them, expecting to see a bright-eyed, frisky, playful little ball of fur.

Instead, I was jolted by the sight of the limp little body in the boy's hands. The kitten was semi-conscious and gasping for breath. His eyes would occasionally flicker open, and his innocent face seemed to ask desperately for help.

I took the kitten from the boys, wrapped him in a towel and rushed him to a nearby animal hospital. The kitten, who obviously had been hit by a car, had broken bones and was in shock. After he assured me that the kitten could be sedated to alleviate his pain, I told the doctor to do what he could to save the little creature, whom I had come to think of as "Quaker," named for the street on which he was found.

When the phone rang at 8 o'clock the next morning, I was braced for the worst. Yes, it was the veterinarian calling to tell me that my little friend had died during the night. Although I had prepared myself for the news, tears filled my eyes when I heard the words.

Then I was filled with a sense of anger. Why would anyone allow any domesticated animal—dog or cat, puppy or kitten—to roam free in an urban environment?

The staff at the Animal Shelter told me that every day they receive numerous calls to pick up animals who have been hit by cars. Local veterinarians

Continued on page 8
Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone who responded so generously to our annual Christmas appeal. Because you care, the League can strengthen its efforts to find homes for homeless, injured, and abused animals. Our adoption program, widely recognized in the shelter community as one of the best in the nation, is funded solely by public contributions.

Thanks, also, to the P.T. Moran Company, who donated several bird feeders to help create a wildlife and bird feeding station at the Shelter. Their example may encourage others to donate bird feed to nourish our feathered friends throughout the winter.

Also during the holidays, the Shelter staff "adopted" a needy family through the City of Alexandria Social Services. The staff donated three boxes of gifts, food, and wrapping paper to the family on December 22.

Quaker from page 7

say the most common trauma they treat is from animals hit by cars. I wondered, why does this happen? It is because people think their cats "like" to roam the neighborhood, that their cats would not be "happy" if they had to stay in the house. All I can say to those people is that I don't think the little kitten, gasping for air and suffering the horrible pain of crushed bones, had enjoyed roaming the neighborhood that morning.

Please don't let your cat outside. If you do, you're gambling with his life. If you truly love your cat and want the very best for him, be a responsible pet owner and keep him inside. For the sake of Quaker—please.

REMEMBER: If you ever have reason to be concerned about the welfare of an animal, please call the League at (703) 838-4775.

Bring 'Em Back Day Sunday, May 7

This year, in recognition of Be Kind to Animals Week, anyone who has adopted a pet from the League is cordially invited to a "reunion" on Sunday, May 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Dog adopters can bring their four-legged companions to the Shelter—on leash, please—and cat adopters may bring photos of their pets for our display.

This is also a perfect opportunity to bring a friend who has not been to the Shelter for a tour. We will offer punch and cookies, and dog treats for visitors.

You may also want to bring a chew toy, nylabone or cat toy for a Shelter animal who is still waiting for the right family to adopt him.

For more information, call the Shelter at 838-4775. Please join us—and prepare to swap success stories with other adopters just like you!

Enter the League's Logo Contest

Are you an artist or graphic designer who would like to make a lasting contribution to the League? If so, you are invited to enter our contest for a new League logo.

The current logo, which has been in use for many years, will soon give way to a new emblem, but we need you to help us design one.

Here are our requirements:
- It must accurately reflect the League's commitment to animal welfare.
- The design must be "clean," simple, and easy for us to work into our literature and stationery.
- It must be original (not copied from another organization).
- It must be submitted in camera-ready form, in black and on white paper (maximum size: 8-1/2 x 11 inches).

We're open to all ideas, but please keep yours simple. Questions may be phoned in to (703) 820-6639.

Submissions will be evaluated by a special committee of AWLA Board members. Deadline for entries is March 15, 1995.

No monies will be paid for the winning logo. However, the winning designer will be recognized in Spotlight and will be awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the League.

Send your entry to AWLA Logo Contest, 910 S. Payne St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

910 South Payne Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED