



THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

SPOTLIGHT on animals

IN OUR 49th YEAR

WINTER 1995

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.



Bring your dog to St. Paddy's Day festivities on March 11.

Refreshments will be available throughout the event. Immediately following the show, all dogs and their owners are invited to lead the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which begins at 12 noon. This promises to be one of the biggest St. Paddy's Day parades on the East Coast, and a unique feature this year will be the famous Mummies of Philadelphia.

In the event of inclement weather, you may call our Special Events Hotline, (703) 519-7230, for up-to-the-minute information on whether the event will go on as planned or be rescheduled to a later date. See you there!

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Visceral Larval Migrants: A Children's Disease Every Dog and Cat Owner Should Know About

by Lizel Spencer, D.V.M.

Visceral larval migrants 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 migrants 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 from 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 migrants?

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 migrants 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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Torpedo Factory Art Show Promises to Be 'Pick of the Litter'

If you're a cat lover or a dog's best friend, join us for a reception on February 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, in the Art Center's Target Gallery, to launch "Pick of the Litter."

This mixed-media exhibit of domestic cat and dog art features professional artists' renderings in a wide range of media, including paintings, sculpture, photography and jewelry. The show will continue through February 26 from noon until 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

You may want to "bone up" on Art Appreciation 101, since many Torpedo Factory studios have canines-in-residence who will be on hand to meet and greet the public.

Margery Goldberg, a local sculptor and owner of the Zenith Gallery in Washington, DC, will select the pieces included in the exhibit, which is cosponsored by the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, the Torpedo Factory Artists Association, and the City of Alexandria.

All works are for sale and a portion of all proceeds will benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. For more information, call 549-6877.

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 louvers.
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!

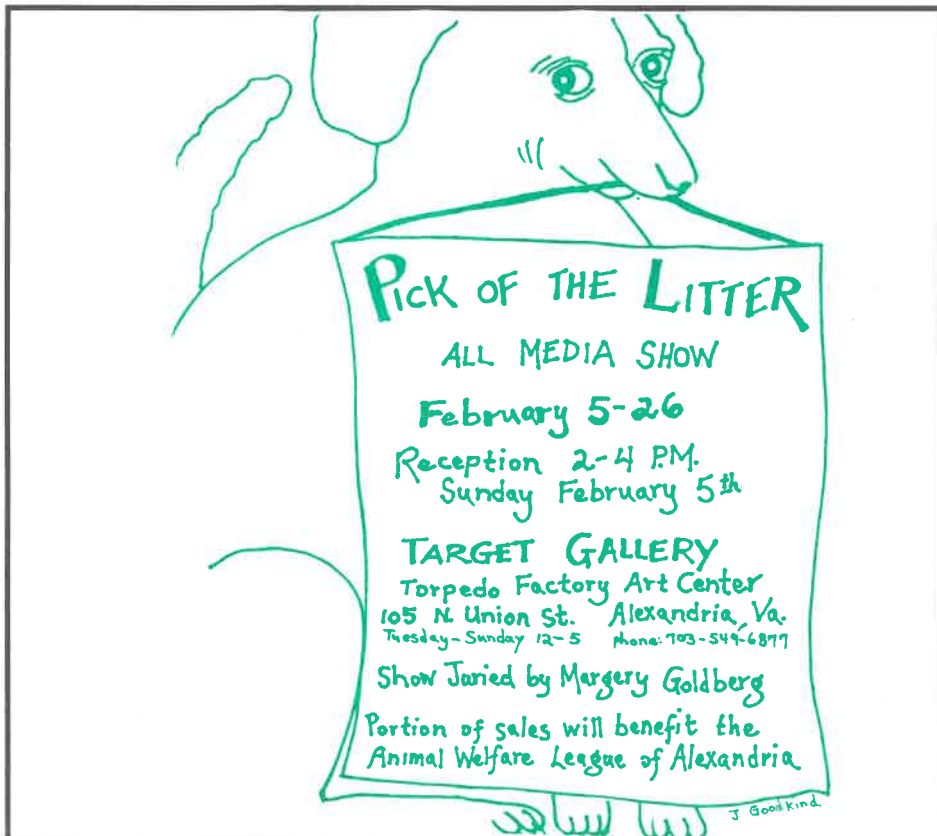
Once again, competitors showed up in force for the League's annual Doggie Dash in November—293 dogs were entered in the event.

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 really 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. A 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.'" 🐾



Molly considers herself one lucky dog to have a new home and a loving family.

This Shelter Success Story demonstrates that older animals can make wonderful companions. There are so many beautiful, loving animals at the Shelter who, like Molly, need a good home. If you are thinking of bringing a pet into your life, why not make the Shelter your first stop? Like Barbara Murphy, you too just might find the perfect pet. The Shelter is open seven days a week and three evenings for your convenience. For more information, please call (703) 838-4775. You'll be glad you did!

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-



ACO Roger Townsend and "Louie," the kitten he saved. (Photo by Debbie Trolle of the Alexandria Gazette Packet.)

ment, he will be quite safe.

In another incident, Officer Chris Caswell recently responded to a report that a cat or kitten had been spotted on I-395 near Shirlington. The call came at

Continued on page 7

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Santa and his helpers, who produced the most successful Christmas photos event in League's history. From left to right: Carlos Mejias (OTSD), Brenda Nolin (photographer), Jeff Noce (OTSD), Britta Scott (Santa), Millie Bobbitt (AWLA), Ginger Noce and Diana Legge (both of the OTSD).



Here, Santa appears with Lela Leakey (left) and Liz Daugherty, and their dogs (left to right): JoJo, Tank, Samantha, Abby, Madison, and Prissy.


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 Starbuck's, 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!



A hind is a terrible thing to chase.

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Next to You, Your Pet's Best Friend Is His Veterinarian

By Cindy Miles

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.

We are indebted to the 29 animal hospitals listed here for their support. If your vet is among them, please remember to say thanks for all of us the next time you bring your pet in for medical care!

Alexandria

Alexandria Animal Hospital
2660 Duke St. (22314)
751-2022

Beacon Hill Cat Hospital
6610 Richmond Hwy. (22306)
765-2287

Del Ray Animal Hospital
524 E. Mt. Ida (22301)
739-0000

Elpaw Veterinary Clinic
33 S. Pickett St. (22304)
751-3707

Ft. Hunt Animal Hospital
1900 Elkin St. (22308)
360-6100

Hayfield Animal Hospital
7724 Telegraph Rd. (22310)
971-2127

*Hybla Valley Vet Hospital
7627 Richmond Hwy. (22306)
765-9292

*Kingstowne Cat Clinic
7025-D Manchester Blvd. (22310)
922-8228

*Kingsview Animal Hospital
7434 Beulah St. (22310)
971-9292

*Mt. Vernon Animal Hospital
8623 Richmond Hwy. (22309)
360-6600

Old Town Veterinary Hospital
428 N. Henry St. (22314)
549-3647

Sacramento Veterinary Hospital
8794-D Sacramento Dr. (22309)
780-2808

Arlington

Ballston Animal Hospital
5232 Wilson Blvd. (22205)
528-2776

Suburban Animal Hospital
6879 Lee Hwy. (22213)
532-4043

Bailey's Crossroads

Barcroft Cat Clinic
6357 Columbia Pike (22041)
941-2852

Bailey's Crossroads (continued)

*Fairfax Animal Hospital
5914 Seminary Rd. (22041)
820-2557

Burke

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

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

Village Veterinary Clinic
9534 Burke Rd. (22015)
978-8655

Centerville

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

Fairfax

Blue Cross Animal Hospital
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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.



'Roaming free' brought tragedy to a kitten much like this one. The saddest part is that it didn't have to happen.

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

Animal Control Officers

from page 4

dusk, making it very difficult to locate a cat somewhere on the expressway.

Officer Caswell, however, drove back and forth several times in the area where the cat had been sighted. Her search amounted to what she called "a needle in a haystack," since the animal was reportedly black or gray.

Finally, she happened to glance over toward an overpass cement piling and spotted the black kitten. She was able to capture the animal and get it safely to the Shelter.

The kitten, who was named "Shirley" (after her favorite highway, no doubt), has been placed in a good home, far away from cars and expressways.

Over 24,000 animal lovers read every issue of *Spotlight*. For advertising information, call (703) 820-6639.




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SpayDay USA

February 28, 1995

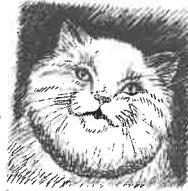
In the U.S. alone, between 10 and 12 million unwanted dogs and cats are euthanized in shelters each year. Another 10 million stray and abandoned animals die from abuse and neglect.

SpayDay USA is Feb. 28. For more information, contact the Doris Day Animal League (phone 202/546-1761 for more information). Or, to learn about reduced-cost spay/neuter services available in our area, call the Shelter at 703/838-4775. This simple surgery can help your pet live a longer, healthier life!

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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

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!

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.

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.

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



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