2020
Looking Forward,
Looking Back

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
Celebrating 75 years
When I started in the role of Executive Director in November 2019, I had big plans for my first year. Needless to say, 2020 was not the year I expected.

While there has been so much to lament this past year, what I’ve noted above everything else is the resilience and dedication of our community. For every person who lost their job, there’s been another who’s stepped forward with food and supplies. For every business that temporarily had to shut their doors, another pivoted, producing much-needed items like masks, meals and other support services. And we saw that same level of support from our friends and neighbors to help animals impacted by the effects of this pandemic...along with the people who love them.

Our newly created Community Programs department (more on page 6) jumped into action, finding new ways to provide food, supplies and even vaccinations to pet owners who needed them, all from a safe physical distance. Our Foster team found temporary housing for dozens of animals in homes across the community while we briefly closed our doors for the safety of our team and our visitors. Our Adoptions team worked quickly, finding ways for adopters to meet with animals online and find their newest family members from the safety of their homes. And every member of our staff innovated and excelled, learning from national best practices and their own years of experience, to keep the ship that is our organization moving full steam ahead.

2020 is not a year we’ll soon forget, and we have so much in store for 2021. We’ll be exploring more ways to connect with our community, from adoption events to support services to humane education. We’ll be looking for more opportunities to find homes for animals in need, not just in Alexandria but throughout the region and even across the country. And we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and commemorating those who’ve helped the AWLA become the community leader it is today. We’ve learned so much this past year, and we can’t wait to expand upon these learnings in the momentous year to come.

With your support, we anticipate 2021 will be our biggest year yet!
96% placement rate

1,291 adoptions

488 volunteers

507 animals fostered
When we launched our new Community Programs department in the fall of 2019, our goal was to provide more services that would help pets stay in their homes, with the families who loved them. When COVID-19 reached the region in spring of 2020, that objective became more important than ever.

We knew members of our community were having to make difficult decisions, choosing to pay for food and care for their pets or themselves, in times when budgets were especially tight. Through the expansion of programs like our community Pet Pantry, we were able to offer pet food and supplies to anyone who requested them, at no cost. Our new drive-up clinics offered vaccinations against rabies, distemper and other dangerous viruses. We found new ways to help pet owners whose companions needed veterinary care or grooming, helping residents avoid making difficult decisions about their pets in a time when they were needed most.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pet Pantry weight</th>
<th>13,978 pounds of pet supplies provided through the Pet Pantry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animeals # of meals</td>
<td>29,927 meals provided via the AniMeals program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>186 vaccinations</td>
<td>given via drive-up vaccine clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325 visits</td>
<td>to the Pet Pantry</td>
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Community Support
Animal Services Chief
Tony Rankin

At the AWLA, every staff member is dedicated to helping animals across the community. Our Veterinary and Animal Care teams make sure they receive the food and medical attention they desperately need. Our Community Programs and Animal Services Departments are out in the community, making sure animals and animal lovers have the support they deserve. Our Volunteer and Foster staff work with those generous enough to donate their time to our mission, both at home and in our facility. Our Humane Education team helps to foster the next generation of animal lovers, and our Administrative staff works tirelessly to raise and monitor the funds to help these animals and to bring attention to their plight. Every day our staff goes above and beyond in their commitment to help animals...because we know that's what our community would want!

2,216 calls made to Animal Services

Nearly 27,000 meals provided to sheltered animals

134 animals assisted by the Behavior Hotline

Nearly 400 students participated in Humane Education programs

950 volunteers participated in ongoing trainings (virtual and in-person)
Harry came to the AWLA from West Virginia in late 2020. Our partners knew he needed medical attention, but we had no idea the extent of the damage. X-rays showed that this 1-year-old cat had been shot, and along with scarring to his stomach, he had two broken legs. On one of his legs, the bone was poking out through the skin, and on the other, his bone had been completely shattered at his ankle. But he kept sticking his good front leg out of his kennel, trying to reach out to anyone who passed by to get their attention and a little bit of love.

Because he had major damage to two of his limbs, one front and one back, our veterinary team knew how important it would be to stabilize both legs as much as possible so he had the best chance at recovery and future movement. We immediately bandaged his back leg (complete festive, seasonal decoration) to help the bones heal, and sent him to a specialist to determine what options were available. His front ankle bone was in dire shape, and while amputation was an option, we knew it would put extra stress on his damaged back leg and probably cause him mobility issues later in life. Instead, we decided to try a specialized surgery: a procedure called arthrodesis that would fuse his bone at the ankle joint and provide Harry with a solid base to stand on even if his back leg never fully recovered.

Through the generosity of our community, we are able to give animals like Harry the support they need to heal: not only medical attention to address their injuries but the broadest level of care to give them the best chance at success, health and, ultimately, a brand new family and a new lease on life.

Changing Lives

From respiratory infections to bone fractures, skin issues to paralysis, the AWLA’s Veterinary team has seen — and treated — it all. Every day this team takes on every aspect of the health of each animal in our care. Spay and neuter surgeries, senior health, heartworm, newborn animals, regular vaccinations and chronic health issues are just some of the items they deal with on a daily basis. With the support of our community, including several local veterinary practices, we are fortunate to be able to go above and beyond to help animals with all types of medical concerns.

268 animals received major medical treatment
Our pet-loving community doesn’t stop at Alexandria’s borders, and neither does the reach of the animals we help. Every year, we support under-resourced shelters and those undergoing emergencies by taking in animals from their localities and providing those shelters with food and other supplies. In 2020, we expanded our life-saving efforts by teaming up with several new shelter partners, bringing in more than 600 animals to find their homes in Alexandria.
Thank You!

Every animal who comes to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria receives the highest level of love and care we can offer, made possible by the generosity of our community. Our supporters provide their time and expertise, goods and financial assistance to make sure that animals across the community have the opportunity for a better life, regardless of whether they were helped at the shelter or in their loving home. We take this responsibility seriously to ensure we are best stewarding your generous gifts, and the successes of the AWLA would not be possible without YOU and YOUR support. THANK YOU!

Revenue

- Donations
- City Contract
- Shelter Revenue
- Events

Expenses

- Animal Care & Adoptions
- Community Relations
- Animal Services
- Fundraising
- Administration

82% of funds directly support animal welfare programs

Please note these tables represent the AWLA’s 2020 fiscal year, which took place July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. The 2020 fiscal year audit is not yet complete, so these totals are subject to minor fluctuation.
Fundraising Administration

Connect with Us!

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In case of animal emergency, please call 703.746.4444.

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