



The Animal Welfare League of Arlington

What the Community Says About The League

Excerpts from letters sent to the Arlington County Manager in support of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington

“The AWLA is a state of the art facility, which provides invaluable services to the people and animals of Arlington County. People can come there to have their animals spayed or neutered, or to receive rabies shots. Willing owners can bring in their pets to be used for pet therapy with the sick or the elderly. Owners also can get reliable and helpful information on how to care for their pets. . . . The League is an irreplaceable part of the community, and the county would suffer greatly without its services.”

“I am 16 and I enjoy volunteering at the League. Far from a “pound,” the League is a place where I feel comfortable with the other staff members and animals there. . . . I believe the League is an essential part of our community.”

“Most shelters dream about the adoption rates that the AWLA achieves. Few open door shelters *in the entire country* have euthanasia rates as low as the League. The policies and practices at the AWLA are well thought out by intelligent people who care very deeply about their community and the animals within it.”

“The shelter is the responsibility of all Arlington County residents. I would hope that all citizens would support the shelter and help guide responsible policies. I would also hope that everyone concerned about the huge societal problem of unwanted animals could work together for real solutions”

“It is so rewarding at the end of the day to know that we have helped an otherwise helpless animal to keep his or her behavior good so that he or she may one day soon have a permanent, loving home. My dad and I hope that nothing will ever happen to the shelter so that we can continue volunteering for a long time.”

“I do not believe [other groups] could ever provide the services or receive the volunteer and community support that the AWLA does.”

“As a front desk volunteer I have seen . . . a young man in tears because he had to give up his two cats because he would be hospitalized for several weeks and didn’t have any family/friends to care for the cats. We told him about the Safekeeping program and offered to keep his cats for him. . . . When he reclaimed the cats several weeks later this young man had managed to scrape together \$100 as a donation to AWLA. He said it was important to him to show his gratitude to us for keeping his family together.”

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“Humane animal sheltering is no small or easy task. In Arlington, however, you should be proud of the superior service and progressive practices in place at the AWLA.”

“I encourage you to visit the shelter on any given day or night and see what really goes on there on a daily basis. You won’t find a more dedicated group of people”

“The AWLA accepts every animals that comes to its door, and it treats those animals well, whether it’s the cute, pure-bred puppy that everyone wants to adopt or the injured pigeon that needs to go for rehabilitation and release. I’ve seen the care and affection that the AWLA staff members give to their animal charges, and the professional manner in which they educate the public and screen adopters. The League fills a critical role in our community, and serves the needs of all County residents.”

“The AWLA is an asset in our community and has an overall track record of which the county should be proud. The AWLA has served as a role model for other groups throughout our metropolitan area and in other parts of the United States.”

“As a taxpayer of Arlington County and an animal lover, I firmly believe that Arlington County is getting a great deal by entrusting the welfare of its animals to the League. The League combines animal-loving staff and volunteers to provide dedicated, caring, low-cost animal-related services to the humans in the county.”

“In the past year in which I have been a volunteer I have consistently observed outstanding caring, compassion and service to the animals housed there. I also appreciate the opportunity to bring my 9-year-old daughter to the League and teach her about caring for animals and volunteering.”

“[M]y husband and I adopted a cat from AWLA. We went through an adoption process that ensured we were adopting for the right reasons, had a conducive home environment, and would be able to care for our pet for the duration of its life. AWLA made a follow-up call several weeks after the adoption to make sure all was going well. They were also available when I called several times on my own with questions. Finally, I was so impressed with their operations that I financially supported this organization that has the animals’ best interests at heart.”

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