



The Animal Welfare League of Arlington

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON

THE LEAGUE'S MISSION

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington is committed to the humane treatment of animals and to the promotion of animal welfare. The League provides temporary care and refuge for homeless and suffering animals; places animals in loving, responsible homes; prevents cruelty to animals; provides animal control services; educates the public; and provides community services.

GENERAL

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington is a private, non-profit, humane society. Founded in 1944, the League is now in its 62nd year of helping animals. The League provides animal control and sheltering for Arlington County under contract, and also offers many community service programs.

The League also has many outreach programs to assist pets and their owners. The Safekeeping program cares for pets at the League when owners face an emergency. Emergencies range from a house fire to a situation of domestic abuse. League volunteers also visit more than 500 patients and shut-in residents through the League's Pet-Assisted Therapy program.

Humane education focuses on school children, to teach respect for all life and responsible interaction with wild and domestic animals. The League gives presentations to local schools and community groups and offers tours by appointment. Adult seminars are also held year round on a variety of topics, such as loss of a pet and resolving pet behavior problems.

Neutering is one of the most important messages to combat pet overpopulation. The League offers programs to help with the costs of vet care and neutering. League programs target low-income families.

League staff is available to answer questions about animals, from how to get a squirrel out of the attic or house train a pet, to which local apartments accept pets. The League rents humane traps for wildlife that's indoors (Arlington only) and rents crates and sells pet supply items.

ADOPTIONS & SHELTERING

The League adopts to residents of Northern Virginia (Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church) and Washington, DC – exceptions to adopters outside the adoption area may be made with special approval. Adoption fees are \$120 for dogs and \$100 for cats. The League was chosen by the Purina company to offer subsidized adoptions to individuals 60 years or older, as many studies have shown how pets are wonderful companions for senior citizens. Adoption rates vary for birds and small mammals, such as guinea pigs and rabbits. There is a thorough application process to make sure that adopters are willing to make a serious and permanent decision and know the time, financial, and other commitments involved in owning a pet. Home visit counseling is required for dog and critter adoptions. Rental permission is required for all animals and all household members must meet an animal before adoption may be approved.

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All pets adopted from the League must be spayed or neutered (part of the adoption fee) and kept as indoor-only companion pets.

**2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive Arlington, VA 22206
(703) 931-9241 Fax (703) 931-2568 <http://www.awla.org>**



The Animal Welfare League *of* Arlington

In fiscal year 2006, the League took in 4485 animals, including wildlife. The League adopts dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, domestic mice and rats, chinchillas, and ferrets. The League does not adopt exotics, pit bulls or feral cats. League staff are happy to refer people to other shelters and specific breed rescue leagues.

The League keeps strays, in accordance with Virginia law, for a legal minimum of 5 days, or 10 days if wearing a collar or some form of identification. The League advertises stray animals in the paper and takes lost and found reports to try to reunite strays with owners.

Injured or orphaned wildlife received at the League are placed with licensed rehabilitators to be cared for until they can be released in the wild.

Euthanasia is a sad but necessary part of our work. Because the League is an open-door shelter, which means that all animals are accepted, some animals are not adoptable due to age, health, or behavior. There simply aren't enough homes for all the animals; however, the League's adoption rate is one of the best in the area.

RABIES CLINICS

The League holds eight rabies and microchipping clinics each year. Please see the events calendar on the website at <http://www.awla.org> for dates. Cats and dogs are required by Virginia law to have current rabies shots.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Officers (ACO's) investigate cruelty complaints, which include proper shelter, food and water, clean conditions, proper exercise and vet care, as well as physical abuse. ACO's also check on barking dogs; pick up stray dogs, injured cats and wildlife; and handle any other animal complaints. ACO's are available for emergencies 24 hours a day.

VOLUNTEERS

The League has a variety of volunteer opportunities including wildlife driving, kennel assisting, special events planning and fostering. Hundreds of volunteers dedicate as much as 900 hours to the League each month. The volunteer application and volunteer opportunities can be found on the website at www.awla.org.

FOSTERING

The League implemented a new foster program in June of 2004. Since then, the League's volunteer foster families cared for more than 250 kittens and puppies that were either too small, young or ill to be adopted right away.

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FUNDRAISING

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The League holds several small fundraising and friend-raising events throughout the year. All events are planned and managed by a volunteer committee. The Walk for the Animals, held each May on Arlington's Neighborhood Day in Arlington's Bluemont Park, is one of the League's largest fundraising events and a community favorite.

Approximately 60% of the League operational funds are covered under the Arlington County contract for Animal Control and sheltering, while approximately 40% of these funds are raised through special events and donated by individuals. Currently the League is a grassroots organization that does not receive corporate or foundation donations.

100% of the funds raised go toward the League's operating expenses.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Toni Copeland – Secretary
Carol Moylan – Treasurer

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