



Animal Welfare  
League of Arlington  
[www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org)

## **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. The League has been helping animals since its founding in 1944. 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 domestic abuse. League volunteers also visit 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 the most important message 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 to how to house train a pet. The League rents humane traps for wildlife that's indoors (Arlington only) and sells used crates and pet supply items.

## **ADOPTIONS & SHELTERING**

The League adopts to residents of Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC – exceptions for adopters outside this area may be made with special approval. Adoption fees include spay or neuter surgery, vaccinations, microchips for cats and dogs, and a certificate for a free initial veterinary exam. The League was chosen by the Purina company to offer subsidized adoptions to individuals 60 years or older, as many studies have shown that pets are wonderful companions for senior citizens.

Adoption fees 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 sometimes required. Rental permission is required for all animals and all household members must meet an animal before adoption may be approved. All pets adopted from the League must be spayed or neutered (part of the adoption fee) and kept as indoor-only companion pets.

The League always strives to find new ways to find homes for more animals including providing medical treatment to make animals more attractive to adopters.

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

In fiscal year 2010, the League took in 3,853 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 reptiles. League staff is happy to refer people to other shelters and specific breed rescue organizations.

The League keeps stray animals, 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 lists stray animals on its Web site 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.

### **RABIES CLINICS**

The League holds eight rabies clinics each year. Please see the events calendar on the Web site at [www.awla.org](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 pick up stray dogs, injured cats and wildlife; and handle any other animal complaints. ACO's are available for to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

The League has a variety of volunteer opportunities including wildlife driving, kennel cleaning, adoption counseling, 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 Web site at [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org).

### **FOSTERING**

The League implemented a foster program in 2004. Since then, the League's volunteer foster families have cared for more than 1,100 kittens, cats, dogs, and puppies that were either too young or ill to be adopted right away.

### **FUNDRAISING**

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

Part of the League's operational funds are covered under the Arlington County contract for Animal Control and sheltering, while additional funds are raised through special events and donated by individuals. 100% of the funds raised go toward the League's operating expenses.

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