

**PawpouRri**

The newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Spring 2014  
Volume 70 Number 1



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# AWLA Celebrates 70th Anniversary

By Jennifer Pickar

Director of Community Programs



The Animal Welfare League of Arlington is the oldest animal protection organization in Northern Virginia: June 7, 2014, will mark our 70th anniversary. Our mission began in 1944, when a small group of concerned residents in Arlington saw the need to establish a humane organization dedicated to improving the welfare of stray, injured, and neglected animals in Northern Virginia. At the time, the League volunteers took stray animals into their homes and found adopters for them. They also used a borrowed truck to respond to calls in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax. Since 1944, the League has transformed into a world-class, progressive organization helping 3,000 companion animals and wildlife each year. The small group of 12 volunteers has grown to more than 500 who are integral to every aspect of our mission to improve the lives of

animals.

From its beginning, the League has advocated and financially supported spay and neuter as the preeminent way to reduce the stray population and prevent unwanted litters. In

the 1950s AWLA was the first shelter in Virginia to require all female pets adopted from the League to be spayed and all male cats to be neutered. In 1972, all adopted male dogs were required to be neutered.

Through humane education and our Low-cost Spay/Neuter Fund, the League’s focus on spay/neuter has changed the lives of Arlington’s pets profoundly. The League annual report from 1970 documented an intake of 9,000 animals, “the majority of these (being)... the unwanted products of careless, indifferent owners who let their pets breed as often as nature permits.” By 1980 annual animal intake had dropped to 5,000. Our intake of animals has continued to decline, which not only allows animals to stay at the League as long as needed to find good homes, but allows the intake of animals from other areas where spay/neuter has not become the norm.

# A Timeline of Advances at AWLA Over The Last Decade



## ***Foster Program***

**2004**

The foster program was created to help kittens brought to the shelter that are too young for adoption. These animals are highly susceptible to disease and sometimes need round-the-clock care and medical treatment before they are ready for adoption. More than 1,000 kittens that might not have survived have been adopted from our foster program since 2004. Since 2011 the program has expanded to include puppies, rabbits, as well as adult cats and dogs that may need special attention and environments.

## ***Behavior Helpline***

**2005**

In an effort to decrease the number of owner relinquishments and to keep more pets united with their families, we established the helpline to assist pet owners in resolving common behavior issues. Some frequently cited issues for cats are not using the litterbox and scratching furniture while for dogs issues are excessive barking, hyperactivity, and destructive chewing. League staff members provide advice and direction and referrals to other professionals when needed.

## ***Sunday Adoption Hours***

**2006**

League leadership recognized that in a busy metropolitan area with many people working long hours, Sundays may be the best day for some people to visit the shelter and meet their new best friends. Sunday quickly became our second busiest day for visitors (after Saturday).

## ***Bonded Pairs for Adoption***

**2006**

Since we sometimes receive pairs of animals that have spent their whole lives together, we instituted the “bonded pairs” program that requires two bonded animals to be adopted together. The pairs qualify for reduced adoption fees.

## ***Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Initiative***

**2006**

The League was the first shelter to partner with the Washington Humane Society to launch the National Capital Spay/Neuter Center. We made a financial contribution to help build a facility that could perform 30-50 surgeries a day, five days a week for both shelter animals and animals owned by the public. When the center was complete, the League began sending shelter animals there for sterilization prior to adoption.

## ***Microchipping for Adopted Cats and Dogs***

**2006**

In 2006, the League began microchipping all cats and dogs that were adopted from the League to give owners an extra level of security if their pets become lost.

## ***Animal Emergency Response Plan***

**2007**

Following the disastrous effects of Hurricane Katrina on people and animals, it became clear that people need a place to shelter their pets in emergencies. The League joined forces with Arlington County’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to use a grant from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase and outfit a 20-foot trailer stocked with everything needed to set up a pet-friendly, temporary shelter to be co-housed with a human shelter. If Arlington County OEM sets up a shelter for people in a disaster, the League will set up housing for those people’s pets in the same location. No one will have to leave their pets behind when they are forced to evacuate.

## ***Ross-Roberts Emergency Veterinary Assistance Fund***

**2007**

Since 1993 the League has funded small, no-interest loans to people whose pets’ experience unexpected medical emergencies. While owners may be prepared for expected costs such as vaccinations, they may not be able to fund treatment for a sudden emergency. Sue Goetz Ross and Stephen S. Roberts established the fund to allow the League to help more people care for and keep their beloved companions when they are faced with medical emergencies.

# A Timeline of Advances at AWLA Over The Last Decade Continued



## ***Adoption of Pitbulls*** **2008**

The League's Board of Directors overturned a 20-year-old policy of not placing pitbull-type dogs for adoption. At the time the policy had been enacted pitbulls were often in the news for attacks on people. Our leadership was concerned about genetic traits that might not be mitigated by training. The Board decided, however, to examine its long-standing policy. Staff recommended the change, and in the first year we adopted 13 pitbulls. Follow-up with those adopters showed that pitbulls can be great companions and many adopters are dedicated to working hard on socialization and training.

## ***Baby-Ready Pets Class*** **2009**

Every year thousands of animals are brought to shelters by parents who are concerned about how their pets may affect the health and safety of their new babies. We instituted a free class endorsed by the ASPCA to help expectant parents prepare their homes and pets for the arrival of new babies. After the class participants may contact League staff for additional information and support. The goal of the class is to keep pets in their homes and make the transition safe for all involved.

## ***The League Joins Social Media*** **2009**

The League joined Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube and began connecting with adopters, supporters, and the virtual world online. Today, the League posts every day to connect our followers with adoptable animals, adoption updates, event announcements, and useful animal information.

## ***Dog Intake Addition and Veterinary Suite*** **2010**

To better serve our community and to help more homeless dogs, the League constructed a 4,000 square foot addition that includes 10 additional double dog runs, storage space for supplies, physical examination room, laundry area, behavior evaluation space, and veterinary surgical suite.

## ***Trap-Neuter-Return of Feral Cats*** **2010**

The League's Board of Directors endorsed the trap-neuter-return program as a humane way to try to control and eventually reduce the population of feral cats. Both the Arlington County Board and the county's Health Department endorsed the program. We offered free spay/neuter, rabies and distemper vaccination, and ear-tipping for any feral cat in Arlington or the City of Falls Church. In conjunction with Alley Cat Allies we held our first Helping Community Cats workshop in November 2010 to teach feral cat advocates and caregivers how to trap and release safely and to explain the new program.

## ***Volunteer Pit Crew*** **2011**

This volunteer group formed for the purpose of:

- Facilitating adoption of "bully breeds" from the AWLA shelter and other local rescue groups;
- Educating the community about responsible dog ownership; and
- Supporting guardians of pitbull types in the community by offering training, socialization, and education opportunities.

The Pit Crew has staffed tables at events to educate people on the breed and has regular events for pitbull guardians.

*Pictured above: AWLA rescue coordinator Amy LaFerrera with Tallulah, a 1-year-old pit bull mix. Photo by Stacy Zarin-Goldberg for Arlington Magazine.*

# A Timeline of Advances at AWLA Over The Last Decade Continued

## *V(ery) I(important) P(et) Lounge*

**2011**

A generous donation allowed the League to create a small animal viewing/meeting area right at the front window of the shelter. As visitors approach our front door, they may notice a pet that they might otherwise have overlooked. Later a donation of materials and labor from Lowe's enabled us to enclose the lounge so that it could also be used for compatible groups of cats.



## *On-Site Spay/Neuter*

**2011**

Using space in the Dog Intake addition, the League outfitted a surgical suite which was granted a license by the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine. We hired our first shelter veterinarian, Dr. Christine Cottey (pictured at left), and began performing all spay/neuter surgery for shelter animals. Avoiding the stress of transport made an immediate impact on recovery from surgery and decreased the incidence of upper respiratory infection in cats.

## *The League Gets an "App for That" 2011*

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington became the first humane society in the entire area to launch its own free iPhone application (now available as an android app, as well). Created by Segue Technologies, Inc., this innovative mobile phone service provides potential adopters with quick and easy access to up-to-the-minute information about home-

less animals at the League. The application provides a current list of cats, dogs, and other companion animals that are available for adoption. It is available for download FREE in the iTunes Store or in Google Play under the name "Arlington Pets."

## *Live Release Rates Increased*

**2012**

The League was able to improve its overall live release rate from 74 percent in 2008 to more than 92 percent in 2012. This improvement was due to the implementation of new programs, such as the adoption of pitbulls, trap-neuter-return of feral cats, funding from the Woody and Mickey Healthy Pet Fund, and cooperative relationships with rescue partners.

## *State-Wide Recognition*

**2013**

At its annual conference the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS) presented the Animal Welfare League of Arlington with its Compassion Award. This annual award is presented to an organization that has demonstrated strong leadership qualities and whose accomplishments reflect the VFHS strategic plan's goal of reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable dogs and cats in the community.

The Virginia General Assembly adopted a resolution in honor of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's efforts reducing the number of animals that need to be euthanized because homes cannot be found for them. The measure notes that recent efforts by the organization have led it to exceed national standards, with more than 90 percent of the cats and dogs it takes in ultimately leaving the facility. The resolution also honors the organization's efforts to trap, neuter, and release feral cats, and the establishment of the "Pit Crew."

Where do we go from here? See page 6 for our current project to improve the lives of animals by improving our cat and small animal housing.

## *70th Anniversary Celebration*

Please join us in celebration of our 70th Anniversary at a Sunset Soiree Cocktail Reception at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington on Saturday, June 7th from 5:00-8:00 PM. See details on page 5.

*Pictured above: Christine Cottey, DVM, and Eva Armour.*

## League Services

### Emergencies in Arlington

We respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day.

### Adoptions

We always have animals who need good homes. If you live in Virginia, DC, or Maryland call us about adopting a companion.

### Animal Control & Cruelty Investigation

Animal control officers pick up stray dogs and respond to citizen complaints about animals in Arlington.

### Community Services

The League sponsors community services that help people and animals. Visit our Web site at [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org) or call (703) 931-9241 x 200 for information.

### Lost & Found

Call (703) 931-9241 x 200 or visit our Web site at [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org) to report all lost and found animals. We can help find animals' owners and return lost pets home again.

### Wildlife Rescue & Problems

We'll help get injured or abandoned wildlife to a licensed rehabilitator whenever possible. We'll also help you discourage wildlife from moving into your home.

### Rabies Control

See the calendar on the back cover for clinic dates and times.

### Speakers & Humane Education

If your neighborhood is having animal problems or problems with irresponsible animal owners, you might want a League representative to address your civic association. We also present educational programs on many topics to schools and clubs. Visit our website at [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org) or call (703) 931-9241 x 213 for information.

Pawpourri, the newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr., Arlington, VA 22206, <http://www.awla.org>, is published bi-annually and mailed to League supporters. If you receive multiple copies, please notify us and pass them along to friends.

A COPY OF THE LATEST FINANCIAL REPORT AND REGISTRATION FILED BY THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING the State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

# Please Join Us As We Celebrate Our 70th Anniversary at Our Sunset Soiree



In celebration of our 70th Anniversary, we will be hosting a “Sunset Soiree” Cocktail Reception at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington located at 2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive on Saturday, June 7th from 5:00-8:00 PM.

Don't miss out on our best summer celebration! Come down and get your paws on a drink with fellow animal lovers while listening to tail-wagging, live music from the Smithsonian Jazz Master Works Orchestra Quintet. Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres as the sunset rolls in. Take a tour of the League with our dedicated staff and volunteers as your guides, featuring our newly renovated state-of-the-art cat room and small companion animal room. Spend an evening with Arlington dignitaries, League supporters, volunteers, and staff to help us celebrate our 70 years of success! This is a rain or shine event—no one will rain on our parade as you celebrate with us—we have a tent to keep you dry!

Tickets are \$70 per person and can be purchased online here: <https://awla.ejoinme.org/sunsetsoiree2014>.



# CAT Capital Campaign

Care And Transform the lives of cats and small companion animals at AWLA



On January 18 an area resident found Arrow near Ballston Mall and brought him to AWLA where our shelter veterinarian immediately found cause for concern. Arrow was blind, with his right eye shrunken and a dilated pupil and lens opacity in his left eye. The result of his x-rays were even more shocking. Arrow had at least 20 BB pellets in his head alone with more than 60 lodged throughout his body. Through AWLA's mission to "Care and Transform" animals' lives, diagnostic work and medical care continued. Arrow was neutered, his painful, badly damaged right eye was removed, and a dental cleaning with extractions was performed.

As this sweet boy recovered at the League, our medical team watched him closely and worked toward the goal of full recovery and eventual adoption. Arrow received loving care and support from AWLA until he found his permanent home. Our work is only made possible with the support of the community. Your donation to the CAT Campaign will ensure that AWLA can continue to serve our community and cats like Arrow. You may use the Pledge form printed here or make an online donation at [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org). Please note that you are a "Friend of Arrow."

## *How You Can Help*

Imagine being thrust into an institution full of strangers and living possibly for months – eating, sleeping, exercising and eliminating – in one very small space. This is the reality for shelter cats that are confined to small cages containing their beds, food bowls, and litter boxes.

According to the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV), poor cat housing is one of the greatest shortcomings observed in shelters and has a substantially negative

impact on both health and well-being. It impacts the animal 24 hours-a-day and affects everything from anxiety level and disease, to food intake and sleep quality.

Annually, AWLA receives over 900 cats with an average length of stay of 35 days. With no time limit for any of our animals, some cats may live at the shelter for as long as a year prior to finding permanent homes. While the existing facility offers adequate space and enrichment for short stays, it is not sufficient to impact the overall quality of life for our long-term feline residents and small companion animals (SCA).

To best serve our animals, AWLA has launched a capital campaign to support construction of a building renovation that will improve the intake and quality of life for cats and SCAs.

"We believe that while cats are in our care we must do everything that we can to enrich their lives and that includes opportunities to stretch, climb, and play. By improving our feline housing, we anticipate a reduction in the average length of stay for cats, which is not only better for them, but will free space to accept more cats." - Neil Trent, AWLA President and CEO

# CAT Capital Campaign

Through the CAT Campaign, AWLA strives to provide world-class care for cats and small companion animals with a facility that adheres to ASV guidelines. We are asking the community to join us in bringing shelter and comfort to animals in need by investing in this important project and making a donation today. Every gift makes a difference!

## *The new cat facility will feature:*

- Six (6) cageless cat colonies and a separate kitten room;
- Cat adoption area with enlarged windows to provide more natural light;
- Larger cages with spaces for hiding, perching, and stretching;
- Two (2) private “get acquainted” rooms for potential adopters to meet cats;
- Larger cages for cat receiving and holding rooms and two (2) cat isolation rooms for treatment of infectious disease;
- Direct access to the cat room from the AWLA lobby;
- State-of-the-art HVAC system with individually vented cages to promote animal health.

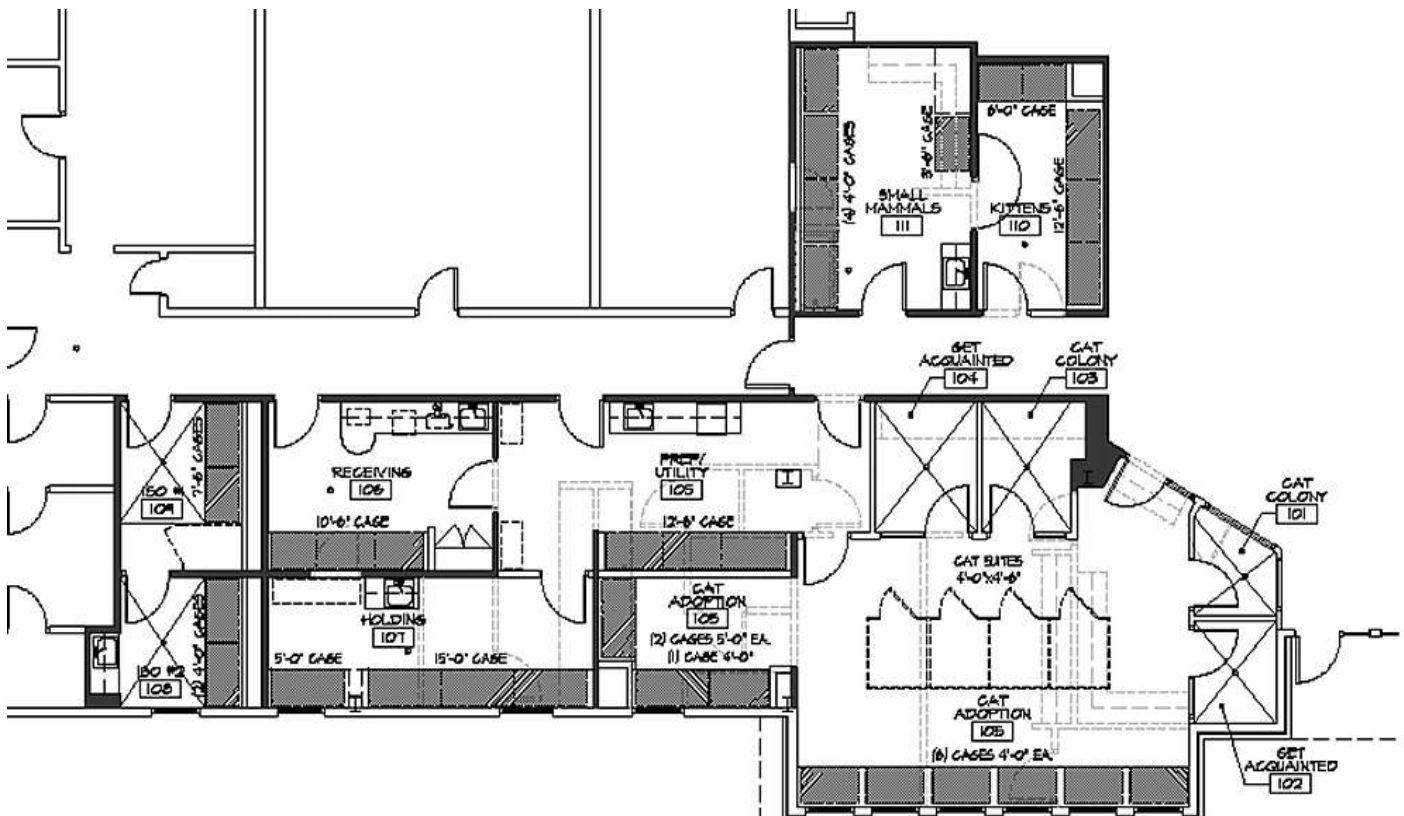
## *Named Giving Opportunities*

A tax-deductible donation to the CAT Campaign is the single best investment you can make to help animals like Arrow!

We are honored to recognize our generous campaign donors or the memory of a person or pet. See Named Giving Opportunities and the CAT Campaign Pledge Form on page 8. Should you have any questions about the CAT Campaign or Named Giving Opportunities or would like to schedule a tour, please contact us at [catcampaign@awla.org](mailto:catcampaign@awla.org) or (703) 931-9241.

## *CAT Campaign Committee*

Mark Treadaway, Chair  
Jeanne Broyhill  
Joanne Hannett  
Diane Greenlee  
Bob Ragan  
Pat Ragan  
Debra Rose



# CAT Campaign Named Giving Opportunities

AWLA is honored to recognize campaign donations and gifts made in memory or honor of loved ones.

Should you have any questions or if you would like to schedule a tour, please contact us at (703) 931-9241 or [catcampaign@awla.org](mailto:catcampaign@awla.org).

To donate on-line, visit [www.awla.org/donate](http://www.awla.org/donate) and select "Cat Campaign."

## Cat Room

Entire Cat Room | \$75,000 SOLD  
Cat Colonies | \$10,000 (One Remaining)  
Get Acquainted Rooms | \$10,000 (One Remaining)  
Cat Suites | \$7,500 (Four Available)  
Cat Cages | \$3,000 (27 Remaining)

## Kitten Room

Entire Kitten Room | \$30,000 (One Available)  
Kitten Cages | \$3,000 (12 Remaining)

## Cat Receiving Room

Entire Cat Receiving Room | \$20,000 (One Available)  
Cat Cages | \$1,500 (Eight Available)

## Cat Holding Room

Entire Cat Holding Room | \$15,000 (One Available)  
Cat Cages | \$1,500 (12 Available)

## Cat Isolation Rooms

Cat Isolation Rooms | \$10,000 (Two Available)  
Cat Cages | \$1,500 (16 Available)

## Small Companion Animal Room

Entire SCA Room | \$30,000 (One Available)  
SCA Cages | \$3,000 (12 Available)

## Commemorative Plaques

CAT Campaign Plaque | \$2,500

**YES!** I/WE WANT TO SUPPORT THE CAT CAMPAIGN. ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON WITH "CAT CAMPAIGN" IN THE MEMO. TO DONATE ONLINE, VISIT [WWW.AWLA.ORG](http://WWW.AWLA.ORG).**

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULL EXTENT ALLOWED BY FEDERAL LAW. TAX ID# 54-0603502

**DONOR INFORMATION** (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)  THIS IS A PLEDGE. PLEASE CONTACT ME TO DISCUSS.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AS IT SHOULD APPEAR IN AWLA MATERIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

**MATCHING GIFT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**  VISA  MASTER CARD  DISCOVER

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO: AWLA CAT CAMPAIGN

2650 S. ARLINGTON MILL DR.  
ARLINGTON, VA 22206



# 19th Annual Walk for the Animals

Join us for the 19th Annual Walk for the Animals on Saturday, May 10 (rain or shine) at Bluemont Park and demonstrate your devotion to your four-legged friends while helping homeless animals, one step at a time. The Walk will unify the community in a celebration of the human-animal bond, while raising awareness and funds to directly benefit the hundreds of animals and community programs supported by the Animal Welfare League of Arlington—the County's official humane society.

Leash-up Fido, strap on your walking shoes, and join hundreds of animal enthusiasts for a three-mile walk or one-mile stroll through the park followed by a festival of entertainment. Past Walks have included agility and law enforcement demonstrations. Many of AWLA's adoptable dogs will be onsite to meet potential new families. Walk attendees will have an opportunity to engage with pet-friendly businesses and learn about animal resources in our community.

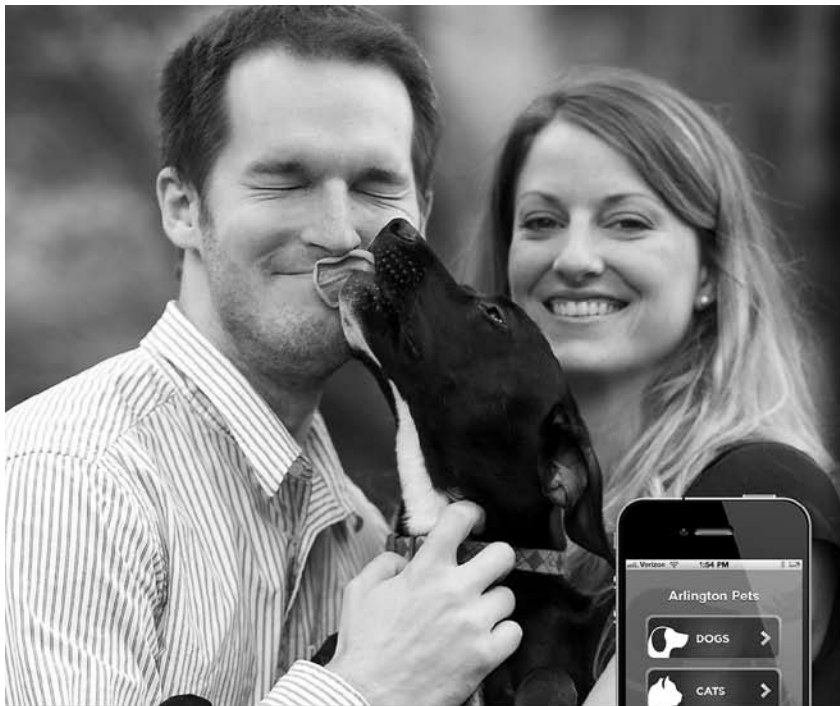
Be a part of the League's largest fundraiser and Arlington County's largest pet-centered event. Visit [awla.kintera.org/Walk2014](http://awla.kintera.org/Walk2014) for event and registration details. All pre-registered walkers will receive a free 2014 Walk t-shirt and participating dogs will receive a free bandana. A doggone good time is sure to be had by all!



Saturday, May 10  
Bluemont Park

Register Online  
[awla.kintera.org/  
Walk2014](http://awla.kintera.org/Walk2014)

## Walk for the Animals Sponsors



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[www.vcaalexandria.com](http://www.vcaalexandria.com)  
 Main 703-751-2022  
 Emergencies 703-823-3601

**VCA Animal Hospitals**

# In Memoriam

## Jean Marshall Crawford

### June 29, 1946 - February 5, 2014



In February the League lost a good friend and devoted volunteer. Jean M. Crawford had been a volunteer with the League for the past 18 years. For those of you who may not recognize her name, you'd probably recognize her as a front desk volunteer who was a regular on Thursday nights for many years. Jean never met a stranger and greeted

every visitor with warmth and good humor.

In addition to helping out as a front desk volunteer, Jean had helped in our gardening projects and as a special events volunteer, among many other assignments. She served on the Board of Directors of AWLA for six years, including her role as the Board president from 2004-2005. Jean was also a donor and a wonderful League supporter.

We will greatly miss Jean's generosity, talents, her warm smile and her easy way with people here at AWLA. While Jean loved all animals, she was a definitely a cat person. Her family has requested that all donations in her memory be directed to the CAT Capital Campaign. Please use the pledge form included in this newsletter and mark your donation in memory of Jean Crawford.

## Join Our E-newsletter Mailing List

AWLA publishes two issues of our print newsletter Pawpourri (spring and fall). To stay connected with us and keep receiving news about the League and how you can help improve the lives of animals, sign up for our bimonthly e-newsletter, Shelter Tails. Just go to our Web site at [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org) and enter your e-mail address to get all the latest news and tips on animal welfare.

Another way to join the animal welfare conversation is to "like" our Animal Welfare League of Arlington Facebook fan page. It's the quickest way to know what's happening at the League and to see the stories of our animals posted by their loving adoptive families.



The Animal Welfare League of Arlington  
 2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive  
 Arlington, VA 22206  
 (703) 931-9241  
 e-mail: mail@awla.org  
 Web site: www.awla.org

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## 19th Annual Walk for the Animals Saturday May 10 , 2014

Thanks To Our Sponsors

Top Cat Sponsor:  
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 The Regional Veterinary Referral Center,  
 Fur-Get Me Not Pet Care

Look for more info online at <http://www.awla.org>

## League Hours

Visiting:

Noon – 7:00 p.m. Monday

Closed Tuesday

Noon – 7:00 p.m. Wed. - Fri.

Noon – 4:00 p.m. Sat. - Sun.

Receiving Stray Animals:

8:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. daily

Emergencies: 24 hours a day

## Pawpourri

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 Neil Trent

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## Rabies & Microchip Clinics

Please bring dogs on leashes and cats in carriers.

Rabies Shot: \$10 • Microchip: \$30

April 24 • May 22 • June 26 • July 24

Aug 28 • Sep 25 • Oct 23 • Dec 4 (1st Thursday)

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Please bring proof of a prior rabies shot (a rabies certificate, not a tag) to get a three-year rabies shot.

Without it, your pet will receive a one-year shot.