

**Resolution:**

13104641D

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 407**

Offered February 7, 2013

*Commending the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.*

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Patrons-- Favola, Ebbin and Howell; Delegates: Brink, Hope, Krupicka and Lopez

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WHEREAS, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington has helped to improve greatly the treatment of animals in Arlington County and throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) provides animal control and strives to find loving, permanent homes for all companion animals in Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, operating one of the top open admission shelters in Virginia, the AWLA has implemented programs to ensure that over 90 percent of its cats and dogs leave the facility, exceeding national standards for “no kill” shelters; and

WHEREAS, the AWLA has implemented many of these programs in the past two years, including a program to trap, neuter, and release feral cats; the creation of the “Pit Crew,” a group that works to promote a positive image of pit bulls as companion animals; the encouragement of foster care initiatives; and work with home-based rescue groups; and

WHEREAS, the AWLA has continued several established programs, including emergency veterinary assistance, education on responsible pet ownership, and pet spaying or neutering services for owners with low incomes; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington County Board recognized the AWLA’s work with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the residents of Arlington County to improve the treatment of companion and farm animals in the area; and

WHEREAS, as part of their efforts, the AWLA and the HSUS have helped raise awareness of inhumane practices involving livestock, leading to pledges from many organizations to stop the use of gestation crates; and

WHEREAS, with its innovative programs and tireless advocacy for animals, the AWLA is an established leader in the field of animal rescue and a model for other animal shelters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Animal Welfare League of Arlington for improving the quality of life of animals in Arlington County and the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Neil Trent, president and CEO of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the compassion and dedication displayed by the organization's administration, staff, and volunteers.