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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Animal Welfare League of Arlington Leashes Up for 2016 Walk for the Animals**

*Citizens and Canines will take one step at a time to help homeless animals*

ARLINGTON, Va. (March 9th, 2016)— Hundreds of animal enthusiasts and their pups will pound the pavement to support homeless animals at Arlington's largest pet-centered event— AWLA's Walk for the Animals on Saturday, May 7th, 2016, rain or shine, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Bluemont Park. Dr. Katy Nelson, Associate Veterinarian for Belle Haven Animal Hospital and host/executive producer for 'The pet Show with Dr Katy' will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event, which aims to celebrate the animals in our hearts and homes, while raising awareness and funds for the hundreds of adoptable animals and community programs supported by the Animal Welfare League of Arlington—the county's only humane society.

“Our mission is to improve the lives of animals. The Walk for the Animals demonstrates the way pets enrich our lives and generates funds to help us sustain community programs and services offered through the League, such as our low-cost spay and neuter vouchers and our monthly rabies and microchip clinics,” said Neil Trent, President & CEO of AWLA.

Participants will leash up their pups, put on their walking shoes, and join us for a one or three-mile walk through the park. Prior to the start of the Walk, AWLA will feature an agility demonstration by WOOFs! Dog Training Center, along with music provided by DJ Ruben Najera, fun activities, informational booths and a kids table. Some of AWLA's adoptable dogs will also be onsite to meet potential new families. Participants will receive valuable pet information, have an opportunity to engage with pet-friendly businesses and learn about animal resources in the Arlington community. Participants are encouraged to bring their own picnics to enjoy after the Walk.

“The Walk not only supports the thousands of animals the League cares for each year, but it is also a way for people to be a part of the solution for improving the lives of animals in our community,” said Trent. “We encourage people to walk with or without a dog, in memory of a beloved pet or in honor of their cat or other companion animal.”

Pre-register now for \$30 or register on-site at the event for \$40. All pre-registered walkers will receive a free 2016 Walk for the Animals t-shirt and participating dogs will receive a free bandana. For Walk information and details visit: [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org).

Thank you to our current sponsors: Caring Hands Animal Hospital, Segue Technologies, AWLA Board of Directors, Clarendon Animal Care, Fur-Get Me Not Pet Care, Mary Hogan, Realtor, The Board Hound, WOOFs! Dog Training Center, NOVA Cat Clinic, Anicura Veterinary Center, Helping Hands Affordable Veterinary Surgery, Northside Veterinary Clinic, Palmer Harned, Realtor, Pet Memorial Services, Wells Fargo Advisors, FVC Bank, and VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital.

*The Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) provides animal adoption and community programs to the northern Virginia and D.C. metropolitan area, as well as animal rescue and control services within Arlington*

*County. For more than 70 years AWLA has remained committed to its mission to improve the lives of animals through sheltering, community services and humane education.*

*Please follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Animal-Welfare-League-of-Arlington> and on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/AWLA\\_Arlington](https://twitter.com/AWLA_Arlington).*