DIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE Newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Fall 2016 Annual Report

DOING OUR PART

Learn more about the dogs rescued from a Mississippi Puppy Mill

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LETTER

from The Chair of the Board of Directors

n behalf of the Board of Directors, the entire staff, and the 3,000 animals with no voice who pass through the shelter each year, thank you for supporting the mission of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. It is now an annual \$3 million enterprise that is committed to appreciation and compassion for living things. An open admission shelter, AWLA has enjoyed outstanding success in FY2016, attaining a 96% positive outcome for the animals in its care. The coinciding benefits to Arlington's quarter of a million people, as well as its Virginia neighbors, are less apparent. That is, AWLA programs generate public understanding of the underlying circumstances that create the need for humane sheltering-and implement solutions. It hosts summer camps to reach and enrich Arlington's youngest minds. It provides resources, and especially, affordable assistance, for the health, safety, and management of companion animals in the community at large. Key staff exchange knowledge and experience with colleagues nationally to take the lead with high quality and cutting edge protocols. And the Animal Welfare League has been doing this since 1944, unquestionably touching hundreds of thousands of lives. Supporters like you enable AWLA to bring unconditional joy and well-being into the lives of so many. Thank you.



The Animal Welfare League of Arlington

2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive Arlington, VA 22206 (703) 931.9241 e-mail: mail@awla.org www.awla.org GARASTIKIN

Gary Sturm Chair of the Board September 2016

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

MISSISSIPPI DOGS

Puppies Transferred in from Mississippi Puppy Mill Rescue

n early August, nearly 200 malnourished, dehydrated, parasite-ridden and flea-covered animals were rescued from a puppy mill in Tate County, Missisissippi, by Animal Rescue Corps, one of our rescue partners. After saving hundreds of dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and even a donkey from abysmal conditions, they reached out to shelters across the country asking for assistance in finding homes for these animals. We knew we had to help. A few days after we got the call, we welcomed four frightened and severely neglected dogs into our shelter and set to work giving them the loving attention that they so desperately needed. Sadly, one five-week-old Maltese

705 NUMBER OF TRANSFERS FROM RESCUE PARTNERS



Animal Rescue Corps

Brad Novak Photography

puppy simply didn't have the strength to survive after living in such horrific conditions since birth. The other three dogs, Chloe, Lia and Fiona, were able to recover from their ordeal and grew stronger each day they were with us. After a few weeks of rest, rehabilitation and lots of love

from our staff, all three puppies were adopted into happy new homes. Their story spurs us to try harder, to help more of our partners save animals living in misery in the thousands of puppy mills in our country, to save more healthy animals facing euthanasia simply for lack of space, and to give adoptable animals the time and resources they need to find happy homes.

HAPPY TAILS MASON 747 CATS ADOPTED

A son, a three year old, FIV+ cat, had been at the shelter for almost a year with no interest from adopters when the staff decided they needed to try a different approach to finding him a home. They came up with the idea of 'Mason's Unniversary', a social media campaign that focused on the fact that no-one, especially



Mason himself, wanted to celebrate his one-year anniversary of being in a shelter. A week or two after the campaign started, a young woman who had just moved to the area saw one of the videos about Mason and couldn't get him off her mind. She watched the video over and over again and knew she had to come and meet him. When she and her husband met Mason in person, it was love at first sight. They took him home that day and have never looked back! "Thank you, thank you to AWLA for trusting that my husband and I could give Mason a loving home. We are so incredibly smitten by his sweet soul and funny personality! He has already made himself right at home...following us around our apartment, 'making biscuits', and snoozing on his new favorite blanket." - Mason's adopter

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

260

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED

12,581

"On behalf of the League staff, I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers. Your time, talents and dedication are invaluable in so many ways. Without you, we could not support the animals and the community to the extent that we do. Words can't express how much our volunteers mean to the organization. Please know that we recognize your generous, unconditional support every day.

We appreciate all that you do - thank you."

Adrienne Mintz Volunteer Manager

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Congratulations to our 2016 AWLA Volunteer of the Year, Pat Romano!

At is a long-time League volunteer and a former Board member. She began helping as an afternoon dog kennel assistant and a morning dog scrub volunteer. Once she retired, she expanded her volunteer role to include front desk/adoptions counselor, special events and the Pawpurrazzi photography team.

"I enjoy everything that I have been involved in at the shelter. The thing that I love the most is the dedication and compassion of the staff for all the animals that come through the front door. The staff goes to the end of the earth to improve the animal's condition or behavior so that they can be adopted."

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Pat}}\xspace's$ favorite story from volunteering at AWLA is the

hound mix that could open doors. One day she was cleaning kennels and Pat let him out in the back yard so he could do his business. As she was mopping, she felt something behind her. She turned around and there he was sitting there looking at her. She thought "How did you get in here? I just let you out." She let him out again and watched through the window as he opened the door with his paw to let himself in again.

Congratulations again Pat, we really appreciate your long-time dedication and all that you do for the League!

Jeremy Robbin Photography

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



159 Pets spayed or neutered through Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

awprints Photography

Brad Novak Photography



1,029 children educated through tours, Paws & Read program and Summer Camp



21 Pets and their owners given Emergency Veterinary Assistance

Pets given refuge during an owner's emergency through our Safekeeping Program 3rad Novak Photography

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATIONS BUDGET

Animal Control Services: Officer salaries, equipment & vehicle maintenan	(\$416,998.03) nce, officer training, etc.	15%
Shelter Operations: Medication and medical care, vaccines, food, an plies, etc.	(\$1,392,020.21) nimal care staff & foster s	
Community Outreach/Programs: Spay & neuter surgeries, adoption services, vol		17%
Fundraising Expenses: Special events, online appeals, website, etc.	(\$401,115.56)	14%
Management/General:	(\$31,574.91)	4%

Administration expenses, etc.

TOTAL: \$2,732,692.79

TOTAL INCOME: \$2,764,459.34

Arlington County: \$1,453,679.89 Private Donations & Community Programs: \$1,310,779,45





HAPPY TAILS Snow & Goosh



now, a Florida white rabbit, was transferred to AWLA from another shelter when they received a large number of rabbits in a short amount of time. She quickly became a staff favorite with her friendly personality and first-class cuddles. A few weeks after her arrival, a local couple came to AWLA with their rabbit, Goosh, looking for a friend. Snow and Goosh got along well at the shelter, and they decided to take her home. It was a rough start, but after some time, patience and work from their owners, Snow and Goosh are now best friends.



"Snow has made Goosh a happy healthy boy and they ALWAYS snuggle - they're almost never apart from each other! I feel adopting Snow was the best decision for our little family when I see her so happy. Every morning, Snow and I are so happy to see each other; I feed her and she acts so crazy while waiting for her fresh veggies, and she gets Goosh excited too! I can't wait every afternoon to go home and see them!" - Snow & Goosh's adopter

FUNDRAISERS



Bright Eyes Photography

WALK FOR THE ANIMALS

n May 7th, after weeks of rain, the clouds parted and the sun shone down on 485 people and their canine companions in Bluemont Park as they enjoyed dog agility demonstrations, ven-

dor booths, music, friends and the main event, the Walk for the Animals. In total, more than 600



animal lovers raised over \$80,000 to provide critical medical care, food, shelter, training and adoption services to the homeless animals at the League.

HAPPY TAILS

pona was in the second group of dogs we received through our partnership with Humane Society International. She was rescued from a miserable existence on a dog meat farm in South Korea, and her whole world changed when she was loaded onto a plane and brought to AWLA. At first, it was dif-

ficult for her to adjust to her new surroundings, but after lots of love and patience from the staff, she began to come out of her shell and we saw her true personality shine through. She was adopted a few weeks after arriving in Arlington, and now is thriving in her new home. "We named her Koda (which means 'friend' in the Lakota Indian language.) She is doing great, weighs about 105 pounds today, still acts like a





Joanna Edwards

AWLA CALENDAR CONTEST

n June 1, AWLA launched our Calendar Contest, and this year it was bigger and better than ever! We received more than 180 entries, all vying for the chance at our Grand Prize – their pet's

likeness turned into a mural on our building, as well as the cover of the calendar. After one month and an intense final day of



voting, we announced our winners – Bailey the dog, Jazzy Coco the cat, and Fiver the rabbit. Thank you to everyone who entered, voted, and donated!

363 DOGS ADOPTED

puppy, and we often refer to her as our 'Gentle Giant.' At first when we brought her home she was scared of almost everything, including doors. But made friends with our other dog (who we adopted from AWLA about five years ago) almost immediately. Within a few days she was going in and out the door to our back yard

on her own. Starting about four-six weeks after we adopted her, she began coming up to us and 'hitting' us with her paw when she wanted to play, or be petted, and started joining us when we are on our couch. Today, she goes to the dog park most mornings and on long walks most evenings. She is very popular at the dog park because of her playfulness yet gentleness, especially with smaller dogs." - Koda's adopter

ANIMAL CONTROL

n May of this year, Animal Control received a call from a student at Gunston Middle School in Arlington - he was concerned about a group of kittens he had seen outside his classroom on the roof of the school! Their feral mother had decided that the roof was the safest place for her kittens, and was able to

come and go freely from the roof, but the kittens were not, and the school was concerned the kittens might fall off the roof. Luckily, the kittens were old enough to be separated from the mother, and



Officers Corcoran, Solano and Barrett were on hand to help the kittens. They were able to safely remove them from the roof and bring them to the shelter, where they were all socialized in a foster home and adopted just a few weeks later.



WILDLIFE

Each year, our officers responds to more calls about wildlife than any other animal-related situation. Whether it's helping to reunite a baby bird with its mother, save a fox that got stuck on a fence, or simply speak to and educate the public on wildlife issues,

our officers know that the wild animals in our community are just as important as the pets in our shelter. Officer Toussaint was able to save this Barred Owl af-



ter he was attacked by a group of crows. She scared the crows away and safely retrieved the owl. She then took him to the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia where he was treated for his injuries and released back into the wild.



FOSTER PROGRAM



ach year, our foster families help to care for animals that are not yet ready for adoption. From unweaned kittens and puppies to pets recover-

life, and our Animal Care team knew that she needed a calmer environment in which to have her puppies. Luckily, the owner of WOOFS! Dog Training Center

ing from surgery, our foster families are a vitally important part of shelter life. This year, our foster families took in 270 cats and kittens, 46 dogs and puppies, and four small companion animals. Harlie, a three year old Doberman, was one of the animals that benefitted from our foster program, as one very quickly turned to twelve when we dis-



covered she was pregnant with eleven puppies! Harlie was already having a hard time adjusting to shelter that need a little extra help.

offered to foster Harlie and her future puppies. They watched over her during a difficult delivery, and made sure Harlie's puppies had the best start in life they could possibly receive, with one-on-one training from their dog trainers from a very early age. We want to thank each and every one of our foster families for the hard work they do to care for our animals

NATIONAL KITTEN COALITION BOTTLE BABY CLASSES

his year, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington and the National Kitten Coalition (NKC), teamed up to provide kitten care educational programs to potential volunteer caretakers. Kittens too young to eat on their own, or too young for adoption, are

one of the largest groups of animals to be euthanized in shelters every year. The NKC and AWLA classes fo-

how to provide life-saving care to these fragile babies in a foster home. AWLA and



cus on these kittens and FOSTER VOLUNTEERS how to provide life-saving TRAINED

NKC have offered classes about Bottle Babies, Nursing Moms and Queens, Diarrhea, Upper Respiratory Infections, and Parasites and Ringworm. Thanks to these classes we have many new volunteers dedicated to the care of these tiny kittens and have saved numerous babies throughout the year.



OUR DONORS

Leaders: \$20,000 and greater

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PAWPOURRI Fall 2016

10

Anonymous

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To view shelter statistics and financials visit www.awla.org/about-us



Animal Welfare League of Arlington



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(CFC) #90065

United Way

(UW) #8804

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To do

To view adoptable pets at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington download our **Arlington Pets app**!

Workplace Giving

The League depends on our many donors who donate each year through their workplace giving programs, the United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign. These donations allow the League to continue its good works. As this year's campaign begins, if you work for a participating organization, please consider designating the Animal Welfare League of Arlington with the appropriate codes.

Rabies & Microchip Clinics

Please bring dogs on leashes and cats in carriers. Rabies Shot: \$10 • Microchip \$35 Dec 1 • Jan 26 • Mar 23 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 recieve a one-year shot.

Nonprofit Organization US Postage **PAID** Waldorf, MD Permit No. 42

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.

Emergencies: 24 hours a day Contact us: 703-931-9241

PAWP 🛣 URRI

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