

PAWP URRI

The Newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Fall 2018
Annual Report



**A DAY IN THE LIFE
OF AN ANIMAL
CONTROL OFFICER**

Photography Chelsea Lindsey

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Letter from the Chair..... 2
- Letter from the President /CEO..... 2
- Cover Story - A Day In the Life of an AWLA Animal Control Officer 3
- In Memoriam: Dr. Christine Cottey 6
- Happy Tails 7
- Get Social with AWLA 8
- Volunteer of the Year 9
- Volunteers 9
- Foster Program 10
- Community Programs 11
- Financial Report 12
- Donor Profile 13
- Donors 14

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



The Animal Welfare League of Arlington

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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.

Letter from the Chairman of the Board

The Annual Report of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington typically signals a time to reflect on the achievements of the past year. And, especially, to thank all the dedicated staff, volunteers, and thoughtful donors who are critical to our success. Indeed, in FY2018 there has been an increase of more than 50% in the number of adoptions, thanks to modifications in procedures, increased transfers from other shelters and rescues, and Herculean effort by all of the above. AWLA's unique Kitten College has expanded exponentially, saving hundreds of neonatal kittens. AWLA summer kids' camps are more popular than ever. AWLA outreach has incorporated movie nights for kids and adults, yoga with kittens, puppies and goats, and partnerships and alliances have strengthened everything we do. Our Animal Control operations took the lead in crafting county regulations and building coalitions with county agencies to make Arlington a safer community.

For all those successes we have enjoyed last year, I would be remiss if I did not recall the courage of the late Dr. Christine Cottey and acknowledge her stunning commitment to the health of every animal that came under her veterinary care at AWLA. Dr. Cottey was a guide to all who seek meaning and compassion in life. She is sorely missed.

As we consider our past, I want to emphasize the future. A key value stated by our Board of Directors is **Progressiveness...** Being on the leading edge of animal care through continual improvement. We are both a humane society and an animal shelter, and these enterprises across the globe are constantly changing. Standing still is not an option in the sea of new ideas and philosophies that grow out of improved research and enhanced best practices. The challenge for the future, then, is to continuously assess changes and embrace those that maintain AWLA as a leading-edge operation to be replicated by attendant organizations.

Gary Sturm
Chairman of the Board

Letter from the President/CEO

Dear Friends,

Thank you for contributing to yet another remarkable year for AWLA! In FY2018, we set an organizational record for animals adopted into loving homes, our Chief Animal Control Officer, Jennifer Toussaint, was named the Virginia Animal Control Officer of the Year, and we rescued more animal lives through transport than ever before. We also went above and beyond by providing lifesaving and specialized care to animals like Timone, a kitten born with a life-threatening defect; we are starting a pet food pantry to help keep pets in homes where they are loved; and our neonatal kitten nursery saved its 1,000th kitten since it was created last year. We did all this, and so much more, thanks to you.

Next year, AWLA will celebrate its 75th anniversary – that's 75 years as the animal welfare leaders and animal experts in Arlington County. It's a testament to the support of our community that we've been around this long, and we look forward to celebrating with you our past successes and those yet to come.

On behalf of all the animals in Arlington County and beyond, thank you.

Sam Wolbert
President & CEO

COVER STORY

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER



PHOTO: Chelsea Lindsey

Have you ever wondered what a day in the life of an Arlington County Animal Control officer is like? We did! So we hopped in the passenger seat of an ACO vehicle and rode along with Officer Karina Swetnam one fine day in July.

1:00PM Officer Swetnam arrives at the shelter. Chief of Animal Control, Jennifer Toussaint, gives her a rundown of the morning shift and passes along three pending calls. Officer Swetnam reviews each and decides that an injured crow takes top priority. We go out to the ACO van, make sure it's loaded with transport crates and towels, and we're on our way. I ask Officer Swetnam

how she decides which calls to respond to first and she tells me that in most cases, injured animals take first priority.

After a 20 minute drive, we find the crow in the backyard of a home with the resident keeping careful watch over it. Officer Swetnam sees that the bird's wing is badly injured - he's holding it out from his side at an odd angle - and she will need to catch him and bring him back to the shelter. After calmly backing the crow into a small corner of the yard, Officer Swetnam expertly lowers a net over him, scoops him up gently with a towel, and puts him in a crate. After only a few minutes we're on our way back to the shelter.

Once we arrive, Officer Swetnam gives the crow a quick once-over to verify her original suspicion - his wing is badly injured. She gets

COVER STORY



Officer Swetnam with an injured crow
PHOTO CREDIT: Chelsea Lindsey

him settled in our wildlife room with water and a heating pad and our front desk staff takes over the next task - locating a wildlife rehabilitator who can care for him until his wing is healed and he can be released back into the wild.

Then it's on to the next call. A mother duck and her ducklings have been spotted on the roof of an office building in Clarendon. When we arrive, we're escorted to a roof deck where we find four large eggs in a nest inside a planter. After a quick scan of the deck, we spot a beautiful mallard and four ducklings huddled beneath her. They seem to be in good health, and as odd as the location may seem, it is quiet, offers good shade, has a high wall around the edge, and few predators. Officer Swetnam doesn't want to immediately remove the ducks from the roof because, if the four eggs we found also belong to the mother duck, the ducklings inside won't last long without her. She calls one of our licensed duck rehabbers and they



Duck eggs hidden in the grass
PHOTO CREDIT: Chelsea Lindsey

decide to leave the ducks where they are until they can meet the next morning and decide the best course of action. Officer Swetnam asks the building manager to leave a large bowl of water out for the ducks, and we head off to our next call.

Officer Swetnam has been asked to pick up another little family - a mother cat and kittens who were brought to a local animal hospital. On our way, we talk more about her work. I learn that Officer Swetnam started at AWLA as an animal care technician and later joined animal control, because "I wanted to work more with wildlife," she said, "and to be in the field, rescuing animals that needed help the most." She tells me that she loves going on calls to help raptors - large birds of prey - like hawks and owls. "It's so special to see those majestic birds. And if I can save one that needs my help? That's awesome."

We arrive at the animal hospital, and take a moment to just watch and "aaw" over the mother cat and kittens - as did most of the staff at the hospital. The mother cat had been showing up for weeks on the porch of one of their co-workers, and then this morning the mama cat was joined by three, day-old kittens. That's when they came to the animal hospital. Officer Swetnam put mama and kittens in a crate and we returned to the shelter where Marnie Russ, AWLA's Kitten Nursery Coordinator, was waiting for us. She whisked the mother cat and kittens away to the nursery, already hard at work contacting our foster network to get them into a foster home as soon as possible.

Now Officer Swetnam has another call for a mother cat and kittens. This group has been spotted underneath a porch. Officer Swetnam puts a few humane traps in her van and we drive over to the home. On our way over, I notice that she is constantly scanning the roads and sidewalks. "I'm keeping an eye out for dogs off leash or animals in distress," she says, "off-leash dogs are illegal, of course, but they can also get themselves into



Officer Swetnam sets traps to catch kittens
PHOTO CREDIT: Chelsea Lindsey

dangerous situations, so I watch out for them while I drive."

When we arrive, the homeowner walks us to the porch at the back of the house, where she's spotted the kittens and points out a hole in her fence where she's seen the mother come and go. We don't spot any kittens, so Officer Swetnam decides to set up a few traps. "The kittens are old enough to be away from their mother, but still young enough to be socialized and adopted" she explains, "and we would hope to trap the mother as well, spay her, and release her back into her neighborhood." She demonstrates how to use the traps, and gives the resident a business card, encouraging her to call if she has any questions or concerns.

When we return to the shelter, Officer Swetnam makes a few phone calls to wildlife rehabbers, as the front desk staff have been struggling to find anyone available to take the injured crow she caught earlier in the day. "It's becoming more and more difficult to find available rehabbers," she tells me, "our rehabbers are overwhelmed - it's such a difficult job - and there aren't many people training to become new rehabbers."

By now it's eight o'clock and the shelter is closed for the night. Incoming calls have slowed down down for the night and the one remaining task is to pick up a deceased squirrel. Though not the best part of any officer's day, it's an important one. We drive out, and she quickly

TOTAL NUMBER OF
ANIMAL CONTROL CASES

3,399

OF PARK PATROLS

3,000

OF CRUELTY/NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS

194

OF ENFORCEMENT CASES

210

OF WILDLIFE CASES

1,612

OF STRAY ANIMAL CASES

648

locates the squirrel, grabs some gloves, bags it up, and gently places it in the back of the van.

The rest of the night is relatively quiet. Officer Swetnam tracks down a rehabber for the crow and finds a volunteer to transport him. Then she tackles paperwork - for every call for service she must create a case and enter detailed notes about any conversations she had with the "witness" or "complainant" (the person who made the call to animal control), her actions while on location attending to the case, and the resolution to the call. Depending on the number of calls, this can take from a few minutes to several hours.

10:30PM Officer Swetnam finishes her paperwork and signs off her shift. She tells me that she feels good about her day's work, happy with the knowledge that today she made a difference in the lives of not one, but many animals, and she adds, "what could be better than that?"

IN MEMORIAM



DR. CHRISTINE COTTEY
By Susan Sherman

Dr. Cottey with Tater Tot

In December 2017 AWLA lost a true friend and champion for animals and the people who love them. The entire League family of staff, volunteers, adopters, and supporters mourned the death of Dr. Christine Cottey, our Veterinary Director. She had battled illness with amazing bravery and perseverance and was an inspiration to everyone who knew her.

Before 2012 there was no staff veterinarian or surgery room at the League. A large addition built in 2010 created space for a surgery room so that someday we could perform surgeries in house. That "someday" came much sooner than expected when we hired Dr. Cottey and outfitted the room for spay/neuter surgeries. Not having to transport animals for surgery and Dr. Cottey's great surgical skill greatly reduced stress on shelter animals and made their recoveries quicker. Dr. Cottey also oversaw the medical care of all the shelter animals, diagnosed disease, conducted tests, and prescribed medication. She performed dental procedures for shelter animals and removed bladder stones. Every animal that she saw received her undivided attention and complete dedication.

Dr. Cottey generously shared her knowledge with shelter staff and was never too busy to explain an animal's condition and treatment plan. She was an extremely dedicated, passionate, and kind person; saying we will miss her is a massive understatement.

During her six years with the League, Dr. Cottey performed more than 6,000 surgeries for shelter animals and feral cats.

During her six years with the League, Dr. Cottey performed more than 6,000 surgeries for shelter animals and feral cats. In March 2018 the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies posthumously honored Dr. Cottey with their TNR (trap, neuter, return) Hero Award for her work to save the lives of feral cats and prevent their procreation.

The League will recognize Dr. Cottey's lasting contribution to animal welfare by dedicating our surgery room to her at a ceremony in October and by naming our low-cost spay/neuter fund the Christine Cottey Spay/Neuter Fund. Supported by generous public donations, this fund has enabled the League to help thousands of low-income pet owners have their animals sterilized. We think that Dr. Cottey would be pleased to have her name associated with donations that help pet owners keep their animals happy, healthy, and "litter" free.

HAPPY TAILS



BUDDY

Buddy first came to AWLA in August 2010 when he and two other cats were seized from a local home where they had been kept in dirty cages with no food or water. He was quickly adopted, but sadly returned eight years later when his adopter no longer had time to care for him. Luckily, the Bradshaw family stopped by the shelter just a month later and fell in love.

908
CAT ADOPTIONS

"About 18 years ago my husband and I adopted a kitten from the Animal Welfare League. He was grey with a hint of Maine Coon in him. His name was Thunder and he was a great cat. After two years without a cat in our house we were ready to adopt again. Eric, our son, and I headed to the shelter one Saturday afternoon thinking we wanted a kitten, but Buddy (now named Frank) changed our minds. Within five minutes of arriving my son was standing in front of Buddy and the two of them were staring at each other, neither one willing to look away, like they were old friends just now reunited. Once we had a chance to interact with him we knew he was the right cat for us, he loves to hang out with us and be gently brushed. It didn't matter one bit that he has reached 16, for whatever years he has left, it will be our privilege to have him with us."



YVONNIE

Yvonne was returned to AWLA after her adopter passed away. Just five years old and cute as a button, it didn't take any time at all for a new family to fall in love with her.

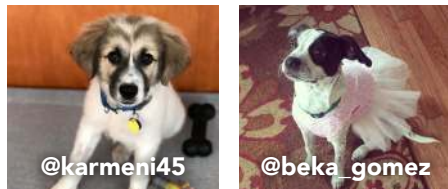
495
DOG ADOPTIONS

"Yvonne is doing beautifully and has used her charm to wiggle her way into either our bed or one of the boys' beds each night! (They usually argue over who gets to have her each night). We love her SO much and are so grateful to have her! She loves playing tug of war with us, using her little soft stuffed animals. She also likes going for walks (unless the weather is poor). She goes on all kinds of field trips and loves riding in the car with me, and poking her head out the window!"

158
SMALL
ANIMAL
ADOPTIONS

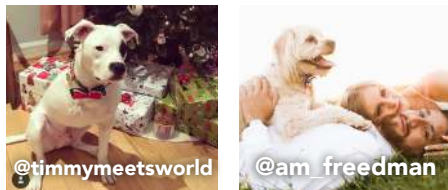
GET SOCIAL WITH AWLA

Connect with us and be the first to learn about adoptable pets, events, programs, and opportunities at AWLA. Tag us in your #AdoptAWLA photos and posts - below are some favorites that were shared this year!



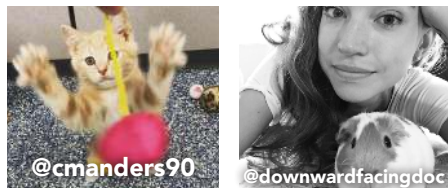
@karmeni45

@beka_gomez



@timmymeetsworld

@am_freedman



@cmanders90

@downwardfacingdoc



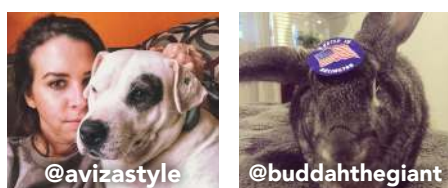
@jillian.miles

@pinkyandtheprincess



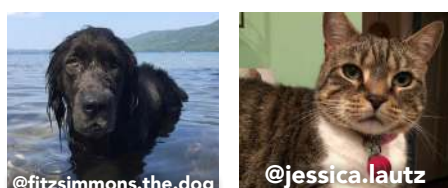
@neonrabbits

@ss17854



@avizastyle

@buddahthegiant



@fitsimmons.the.dog

@jessica.lautz

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to AWLA Volunteer of the Year, Martha Cogdell!



Martha Cogdell

Martha has been volunteering at the AWLA for over 10 years. She began assisting in a variety of areas but her primary volunteer roles have been as a weekly Front Desk / Adoption Counselor, a Special Events volunteer, and as a member of the Volunteer Advisory Committee.

Her volunteer service has expanded to include assisting with behind-the-scenes administrative tasks in support of the volunteer program where her main focus is "keeping the voluminous files and volunteer records current. There have been so many changes at the League over the years, but the integrity of the staff, program quality and guiding principles remain solid. I am proud to be associated with the organization and continue to find the 'work' challenging but fun. AWLA does appreciate the work of all volunteers. This is a very special place, and it is nice to be personally recognized!"

After living in Hong Kong for four years, Martha's support of the League began in 1997 when she adopted Pipa, a beautiful Seal Point mix. After saying goodbye to Pipa 15 years later, Martha adopted the "buff brothers" (Luther and Pickle) from AWLA. Martha says, "They have been my true loves."

VOLUNTEERS



Volunteer Ann with an armful of kittens

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington was established by a group of compassionate volunteers nearly 75 years ago. Today, the legacy of those founders continues in the hearts and helping hands of the shelter's current volunteer corps. Side-by-side with staff, this dedicated group of animal lovers provides quality care for shelter animals and important services to our community. Together we are saving more animal lives and helping more people than ever!

314
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS
42,305
TOTAL NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED



Michelle and Charlie
PHOTO CREDIT: Lexey Moore

FOSTER PROGRAM

Why our foster families love opening up their homes to pets in need.



"Just a handful of days or weeks can change lives. Fostering allows an animal to come out of its shell in a comfortable environment. As a foster, I can help socialize an animal, and I can facilitate that animal's adoption by helping to tell the story of its personality. Armed with that information, shelter staff and volunteers can help to match that pet to the perfect family"

- Megan

"Fostering kittens means I offer a perhaps tenuous little feline an opportunity to experience all the love I can muster, the tenderness of the human touch. By taking kittens into my home, I believe I help pave the way for that kitten to thrive in its earlier months, but also, to increase its chances of being adopted into a feline-friendly home. Since I have the time, and the means, I can teach my foster kittens to trust, to be content - even exuberant - around humans, and I make sure they are nutritionally sound. Decidedly, kitten play is the best form of entertainment around, to boot! Once a foster leaves my home, s/he is a well-mannered, jocular little angel...ready for its purrfect, forever home!"

- Cynthia

"Because puppies! We are just happy to help animals and hopefully improve their lives while they are waiting to find their fur-ever homes." - Iley

"When you think that you wish you could do something to make a difference; all you need to do is look into the eyes of the animal you foster and see that you can. You can give them the ability to heal, grow, and flourish in a safe environment knowing they are safe and loved." - Charles



Want to be part of the Foster Program for AWLA?
Email foster@awla.org!

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

AWLA offers a low-cost spay/neuter voucher program to reduce pet overpopulation in Arlington County.

239 LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS ISSUED

Low-Cost Rabies & Microchip Clinics

AWLA offers eight low-cost rabies and microchip clinics each year. These clinics are open to the public and have no income qualifications.

615 RABIES VACCINES GIVEN

116 MICROCHIPS GIVEN

Low-Cost Wellness Clinics

AWLA offers monthly wellness clinics so that income-qualified pet owners may provide their animals with basic veterinary care, vaccines and treatments.

44 PETS SEEN AT OUR WELLNESS CLINICS

Veterinary Assistance Program

Through our veterinary assistance program AWLA helps pet owners with limited means to provide emergency veterinary care.

51 PETS HELPED THROUGH OUR EMERGENCY VET ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



One of AWLA's summer campers

Humane Education Programs

AWLA offers a variety of opportunities for children in the community to learn about animal welfare, including summer camps, Animal Allies Club, and the Paws & Read Program.

1,196 CHILDREN REACHED THROUGH TOURS, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



We'd like to thank Stephanie Greenwald of Polished Creative Studio for her fantastic pro-bono Animal Allies logo!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operations Budget

Animal Control Services:	(\$453,080.93)
<i>Officer salaries, equipment & vehicle maintenance, officer training, etc.</i>	
Shelter Operations:	(\$1,438,846.58)
<i>Medication and medical care, vaccines, food, animal care staff & foster supplies, etc.</i>	
Community Outreach/Programs:	(\$558,498.10)
<i>In-house veterinary services, low-cost veterinary assistance to the public, adoption services, volunteer management, etc.</i>	
Fundraising Expenses:	(\$447,166.84)
<i>Special events, online appeals, fundraising staff, software, etc.</i>	
Management/General:	(\$35,125.26)
<i>Administration expenses, etc.</i>	

TOTAL EXPENSE: \$2,932,717.71

Income

Arlington County:	\$1,419,517.00
Programs:	\$323,012.89
Events:	\$145,087.64
CFC/United Way:	\$97,360.97
Contributions:	\$1,569,788.41

TOTAL INCOME: \$3,554,766.91

LEGACY GIVING

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Making a gift to the Animal Welfare League of Arlington through a will or revocable living trust is a simple and flexible way to improve the lives of animals for years to come.

BENEFITS

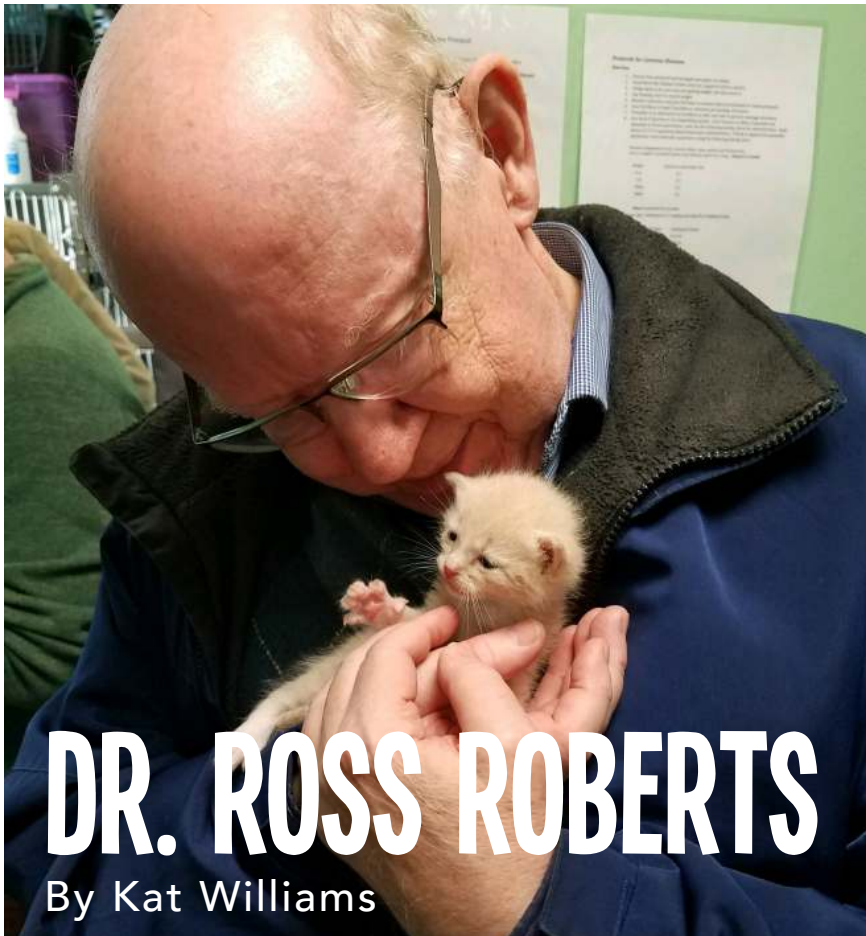
- Your gift costs you nothing now and you retain control of your assets during your lifetime.
- You can change your mind or modify your gift if circumstances change.
- Your gift can remain anonymous if you choose.
- Your gift may provide tax savings or help reduce the tax burden for your heirs.
- You can leave a gift in honor or memory of someone who inspired your love of animals.
- You will be remembered as someone whose legacy included protecting the lives of animals.

THANK YOU

If you have already named the Animal Welfare League of Arlington in your will or trust, or you intend to, please let us know your plans. We'd like to thank you for helping to create a world where all companion animals find compassionate and permanent homes.

Kat Williams
kwilliams@awla.org
Tel: (703) 931-9241 x220

DONOR PROFILE



Dr. Roberts with a Kitten College foster

In 2002, Dr. Stephen Roberts contacted AWLA following the unexpected passing of his wife, Dr. Sue Goetz Ross, who just six months before had named the League as a beneficiary in her will. Sue had loved animals since childhood, so to honor her wishes, Dr. Roberts wanted to find out how his wife's legacy might be able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of animals.

Shelter leadership identified a need for financial assistance for pet owners with limited means to pay for emergency veterinary care. Dr. Roberts learned that this simple intervention would prevent unnecessary suffering and keep pets in homes and out of shelters. That's all it took to create the **Ross-Roberts**



Dr. Sue Goetz Ross with cat Ashley

Emergency Veterinary Assistance Fund. Since then, it has helped hundreds of pet owners to get life-saving veterinary attention for their animals, and it continues to this day.

Encouraged by the success of his first investment, Dr. Roberts approached AWLA again to ask what else he could do for animals in need. He learned that orphaned neonatal kittens are some of the most vulnerable animals in shelters because they require intensive, around-the-clock care for the first four weeks of their lives. Lacking the means to provide this critical care, many shelters are forced to turn away or humanely euthanize neonatal kittens upon intake. However, with a team of properly trained foster caregivers, these kittens can be saved. So Dr. Roberts established the **Ross-Roberts Kitten Care Fund**, which financed the research and writing of a comprehensive, now nationally recognized, kitten care manual and training programs. It is now helping to provide operating funds for AWLA's Kitten College, founded in 2017 by Willa and Ted Lutz.

Most recently, after an eye-opening ride-along with AWLA's Chief of Animal Control, Jennifer Toussaint, Dr. Roberts has begun supporting the exceptional work that the animal control team does to help the animals and people of Arlington County.

AWLA is enormously grateful to friends like Dr. Roberts, who ask the question, "How can I help?" and, upon learning the answer, do just that, again and again.

Please contact our Director of Development, Kat Williams, to learn more about ways in which you too can make a meaningful difference in the lives of animals in our community.

OUR DONORS

Leaders: \$20,000 and greater

Estate of Marilyn Louise Welford
Margot Bateman Estate Trust
Mr. Edward V. A. Kussy
Estate of Darla Cherie Ellis
Estate of Jennie Moehlmann

Rescuers: \$10,000 - \$19,999

The Pietro and Thelma Raffaelli Family Foundation
Dr. Stephen S. Roberts
Julie Gould and Percy Ivy
Ms. Beth Wolfe and Mr. Jim Norton
Estate of Dennis Lisle Moore
Louis A. Pappas Household Pet Foundation

Advocates: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Hon. Brendan B. Feeley and Mrs. Alice Barrett Feeley
Estate of Arlene McCann
Ms. Jackie Borgel
Ms. Sally K. Kaplan and Mr. Larry Gordon
Mrs. Gitta G. Hosenball
Ms. Beth Burrous and Mr. Kevin Baer
Mr. Larry D. Waldron and Ms. Ev Totten
Mr. Marvin Weissberg
Ms. Linda Weissgold and Mr. Paul Tobin
Estate of Elizabeth Ann Armstrong
Maddie’s Fund
The Mills Family Foundation

Guardians: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Jane, Todd, and Madison Ihrig
Ms. Catherine M. Clevenger
Ms. Sherry E. Little
Mr. Robert S. Waters and Ms. Kathleen Renehan
First Virginia Community Bank

Mrs. Rosemary H. Jones
World Bank Community Connections Fund
Estate of Patricia M. Willey
Dogma Dog Bakery
Mr. Gary Sturm
Ms. CarolAnne Nargi
David and Debra Rose
Mr. Martin R. Lee
Ms. Carla von Bernewitz
Drs. Yanping Chen, Ph.D., M.D. and J. Davidson Frame III, Ph.D.
Mrs. Frances DiBari
Ms. Ashley Dobbs
Foundation Source
Arlington Community Federal Credit Union
Novartis
Petsmart Charities, Inc. - US
Mr. and Mrs. David Sherman
Ms. Megan A. Stull and Mr. Gregory D. Hoobler
Patricia and Bob Ragan
Michele and Mathias Hansen
Ms. Katherine M. Wilson
Peter and Shirley Bookman
Ballston Animal Hospital
Caring Hands Animal Hospital of Arlington

Supporters: \$1,000 - \$2,499

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Ms. Julia Aerni
Mr. Enio Aguilar and Ms. Glenda Lopez
Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Alling
Ms. Elsa F. Angrist
Arlington Animal Hospital
Ms. Janet Bailey
Ms. Karen Baragona Wise and Dr. Andrew Wise
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Jerry and Ann Belyea
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Best Friends Animal Society
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Fur-Get Me Not Pet Care
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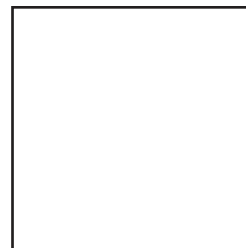




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