

PAWP URRI

The Newsletter of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington

Fall 2019

Annual Report



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

COVER ART: Meg Torres



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

This year we celebrate our **75th anniversary!** A group of Arlington residents founded the League in 1944, and it has grown, thanks to you, into the world-class shelter it is today.

What have you done in our 75th year?

You've found a home for 2,322 animals. An increase of 49% from fiscal year 2018. You've reduced the length of the average shelter stay by 18 days. A decrease of 40%. You give because you want to make a positive and meaningful difference in the lives of animals and that is exactly what is happening.

Our staff is the best in the animal shelter world. The above outcome statistics prove it. We field a team of all-stars who work intelligently, energetically, and effectively for the welfare of our animals. The resources you provide are put to work in the same manner. Simply put, you're getting a lot of bang for your buck.

As I prepared this letter, a song kept running through my mind. So, with gratitude, and a nod to Tina Turner, I mean it when I say you are "Simply the Best."

Thank you,

Allen Herzberg
Chairman of the Board

OUR VISION:

A humane community in which animals and people live together harmoniously.

OUR MISSION:

Improving the lives of animals and people by providing resources, care, and protection.

OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

LEAD COURAGEOUSLY

We strive to be leaders in our field and community knowing that a leader pursues excellence, fosters innovation, and rises to the hardest challenges.

DO GOOD

Encourage an environment of compassion, respect, kindness, and inclusivity among staff, volunteers, clients, and the community that we serve. Suspend judgment while acknowledging and appreciating the individuality of each person and animal.

BE HONEST

Recognize the critical role we serve in the community and maintain the public's trust through open accessibility and transparency.

EMBRACE CHANGE

Remain open-minded and adaptable to the changing landscape. We learn from our failures and work every day to improve ourselves and the organization.

WORK TOGETHER

Support each other by creating a positive, mission-driven, and team-centered culture. Above all, have fun and laugh.



Amy Childers with Zoey and Shelly

Smoke, a lanky, eleven-year-old hound with long ears, droopy eyes and scarred skin, came to AWLA in June of 2018 as a transfer from one of our rural rescue partners. The rescue found Smoke in a barn and described him as a “gentle old soul” who walked well on a leash and took treats politely.

When he arrived, our Adoptions Team fell in love with his goofy personality, but knew he would be harder to adopt than most. Smoke was out of his element in the suburbs - he was used to being outside all day, where he could bark and sniff to his heart’s content. Shelter life was tough for him and he was passed by for adoption, time and again.

Then life got tougher.

During a routine medical exam, Dr. Galati, our staff veterinarian, noted that Smoke had a lump on his left cheek. After a biopsy, Smoke was diagnosed with fibrosarcoma, a type of cancer that was likely to spread over the next year. Despite this diagnosis,

we believed that there was a chance that someone would want to give Smoke a real home where he could live out his days, however many he had left.

So, while he was waiting, we made Smoke a bucket list. Even if he didn’t get adopted, at least he could have some of the life experiences every dog should have. As soon as we shared the list with the public, offers poured in to help us fulfill Smoke’s wishes. The Arlington County Fire Department gave Smoke a ride in their truck. Smoke received treats and toys from all over the country. A professional Santa offered Smoke the opportunity to tell him his Christmas wish and Smoke was invited to Nationals Park, where he walked the bases and enjoyed doggie ice cream. We couldn’t believe how far and how quickly Smoke’s story spread - he even made the news in the United Kingdom!

But what really mattered, more than anything, was finding Smoke a home. We made him available for adoption as a hospice case, meaning that Smoke

ADOPTIONS

would receive some after-adoption care, and his adoptive family would keep him comfortable for as long as possible. Little did we know that Smoke would find a home within a week.

Amy Childers knew she had to meet Smoke after she saw his picture online. "Every dog that I've ever gotten, there was something about the picture that told me I have to have this dog. That's how I felt about Smoke," Amy told us during a recent visit. Amy and her son, Asa, met Smoke and took him home the next day. We kept in touch with Smoke's family over the next few months, and quickly learned that we had discovered a family with an amazingly soft spot in their hearts for dogs in their golden years.

Sadly, Smoke passed away in September of 2018, just one month after being adopted. It was a shock to Smoke's family, and to the shelter, when his behavior changed overnight. Amy's veterinarian told her that Smoke's cancer had spread rapidly and he was in pain. She had to make the incredibly difficult decision to end Smoke's pain just one day after having to put down her other dog, sixteen-year-old Bailey, after he had suffered a stroke.

Amy called us while she was at the vet to make sure she was making the right decision, and we assured her that Smoke was her dog, part of her family, and that she would know if Smoke was telling her it was

time. We reminded her that she had given Smoke the best month of his entire life, full of warmth, and joy, and love. "He had the high life," Amy told us, "he loved being around my dog, and he slept in my bed. He must have never slept on a bed before. He loved to run and jump up on it, but he didn't have the concept of edges. Sometimes in the middle of the night he would roll right off the bed!"

We kept in touch with Amy and were surprised at what happened just a few months later in February of 2019.

"For awhile, I couldn't even think about other dogs," Amy said, "but then I started looking at [AWLA's] website, which slowly turned into, oh well I'm just gonna look...and then these two ladies showed up."

The "ladies" were two elderly dogs named Shelly and Zoey, who had been surrendered to AWLA when their owners felt their work schedule left the dogs at home alone for too many hours a day. Shelly, at fourteen years old, and her daughter Zoey, at eleven years old, had lived together

their entire lives. Our veterinary team did a thorough senior exam on both dogs and discovered that Shelly was blind, needed an immediate dental, and had arthritis in her hips and legs. Zoey also needed a dental and had cataracts and heart disease.

We performed Shelly's dental procedure and started both dogs on a regimen to treat their conditions. Shelly and Zoey then went up for adoption, with Zoey as a hospice case because her heart condition meant she likely didn't have as much time left as Shelly. We assumed it would take some time for them both to



2,322
ANIMALS ADOPTED

1,463
CATS

648
DOGS

211
SMALL
COMPANION
ANIMALS

get adopted and, as much as we wanted them to be adopted together, we knew it was unlikely to happen given their needs.

But we were wrong.

Shelly and Zoey's photos on our website caught Amy's eye instantly. She told herself she was just going to look at them. Then she met them, and despite thinking that they were ridiculously cute, she held fast. She was not going to get a dog. A week went by, and she couldn't get them out of her head. Once again she told herself that she just wanted to check and see if they were still available. Well, she admitted, "I was totally fooling myself - I knew full well that if I went into the shelter I was getting those dogs. Of course, I fell in love and adopted them the next day."

While happy for the dogs, we were a little surprised at Amy's decision to adopt another hospice dog, along with a second elderly dog. We couldn't quite believe that someone was willing to take this on again, and so soon. We shouldn't have underestimated Amy and her family's capacity for love.

"I consciously pick old dogs," Amy said, "the personality and affection you get from an older dog versus a puppy is just...monumentally different. These guys seem so much more appreciative. I'll take them on, these compassionate hospice situations. I know it sounds weird, but I enjoy having those dogs. I spoil the living daylights out of them."



Shelly

Both Shelly and Zoey's relative good health has surprised Amy and her veterinarian. They both take daily medications, and even though Shelly can't walk far, she rules the roost with her 'I don't care' attitude. Shelly also likes to go outside and sunbathe "belly up to the sky" and, according to Amy, Zoey is a "puppy in an old lady body."

Amy recognizes that adopting these dogs during the last few months of their lives is difficult. "Yes, it is sad. I get really attached. But a lot of things are sad. The ability to see and show them love, and to know that they have that before they pass away, is worth it. I've done it before, I'll do it again. No matter what, in the end it's going to hurt, but it's going to be worth it. It's worth the pain. Even in the short time they have, they know they've come home."



Zoey

1,679

ANIMALS TRANSFERRED TO AWLA FROM ACROSS
THE REGION AND EVEN THE WORLD, INCLUDING

1,222

ANIMALS TRANSFERRED TO AWLA
FROM SHELTERS IN VIRGINIA

AWLA

ACHIEVED A

97%

POSITIVE OUTCOME
RATE IN FY2019!

ANIMAL CARE

MEDICAL

By Dr. Matt Galati & Chelsea Jones

In February 2019, five small puppies named Brandy, Mandy, Sandy, Randy, and Andy, arrived at AWLA from a shelter in southern Virginia. For the first few days, the puppies were in good health. They were given standard vaccinations, dewormers, and check-ups, and we hoped to make them available for adoption soon.

On their third day at the shelter, however, their health took a surprising and unexpected turn for the worse. Two of the puppies, Brandy and Mandy, became very ill and tested positive for parvovirus. Parvovirus is a highly contagious, very dangerous disease that attacks the intestinal tract and immune system, and can have up to a 50% mortality rate. We quickly tested the three other puppies and confirmed that all five of them had been exposed to the virus.

We are lucky here at AWLA; our wonderful supporters ensure that we can treat puppies with severe health conditions, like this virus.

Many shelters do not have the funds to treat parvovirus. It requires intensive medical care and is expensive to treat. We are lucky here at AWLA; our wonderful supporters ensure that we can treat puppies with severe health conditions, like this virus. Brandy and Mandy were immediately taken to one of our local veterinary partners. There, they received IV fluids, anti-nausea medications, antibiotics, feeding tubes, and isolation. Sandy, Andy, and Randy were treated here at AWLA with an outpatient protocol developed by Colorado State University. Their treatment was taken day by day, but with an immense effort from our Veterinary and Animal Care Teams, all five puppies pulled through. Once they were cleared and feeling better, they all were adopted into loving new homes.

We are so grateful for the support of our donors for helping us save the lives of these puppies, and thousands of other animals that come through our doors every year.

1,596

SPAY & NEUTER
SURGERIES
PERFORMED BY OUR
VETERINARY TEAM

6

DOGS SUCCESSFULLY
TREATED FOR
PARVOVIRUS

46

DENTAL SURGERIES
PERFORMED

2,613

CATS AND DOGS
VACCINATED

BEHAVIOR TRAINING

By Kat Heckert, Teresa Villatoro, and Chelsea Jones



When Hector arrived at AWLA in August 2018 from a large scale neglect case in Mississippi, he was scared and overwhelmed. Everything was new, and frightening, especially people.

Recognizing this, our Behavior and Training

team created a quiet space for him in their office, away from the noise and stress of the kennels. They designed a behavior protocol to work with Hector on his terms, letting time and treats work their magic. Since Hector had spent most of his life in the company of dogs, they also made sure that he had plenty of dog play time, which boosted his confidence and made him feel more secure. Staff also learned that Hector loved to be outside, so they made a point of just sitting with him in the sunshine.

Still, Hector remained uncomfortable with human interactions. To help Hector become more comfortable, especially with being touched, Behavior and Training staff member Kat Heckert explained, "I would toss food behind him, then feed him near me, then toss food behind him again, to reward him with space, as well as food. Eventually, he started to get more playful and offer me play-bows and chase toys. In this way, we used play as a way to get him to relax and interact with us, without having to be touched."

Finally, after two months of hard work with staff, and some time in a foster home, Hector was adopted! His new family reported, "He is doing amazingly! He ended up loving the car ride home and has socialized well with our dog and cats. The first night he slept on his back right beside us. We love him so much. He is a great dog!"



Harry was transferred to AWLA from our shelter partner in Wise County, Virginia, in March 2019. When he arrived, he was very nervous, fearful and stressed to be at the shelter. He would panic when he was uncomfortable and bolt out of his cage. So our resident cat specialist, Teresa Villatoro, worked with Harry to build his confidence around people.

It turned out that Harry loved food. So Teresa used food puzzles to encourage him to explore his kennel. Our veterinarian also put Harry on medication to reduce his stress levels. Bit by bit, Harry improved. He started moving around the open spaces of his kennel, and soon could be seen out and about, even when visitors were in the cat room. Eventually, Teresa began to introduce him to other cats, to see if that would help him be more comfortable. It worked like a charm! As soon as Harry saw his new kitten friends, he became more relaxed and social. He would ask for pets, and generally behaved like a "normal" cat.

Harry was adopted after one month at AWLA. "We adopted Harry (who we've renamed Wise) last month. Whoever said he would be good with another cat was certainly right! He and his new brother, Casper, have been buddies from the moment they met!"


**149**
SHELTER
DOGS

**49**
SHELTER
CATS

RECEIVED EXTRA HELP
FROM OUR BEHAVIOR AND
TRAINING TEAM

**80**

PET OWNERS
ATTENDED TRAINING
SESSIONS AT AWLA

**104**

CLIENTS SERVED THROUGH
AWLA'S BEHAVIOR HOTLINE

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our
2019 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR,
LANCE LUDWICK!



Lance receives his Volunteer of the Year award from AWLA President

By Jennifer Katac

Lance has been a dedicated volunteer with the League for more than ten years. He started as a Front Desk/Adoptions Counselor and Special Events Volunteer, but after a year and a half, he moved his focus to data entry and other office assistance. Our volunteers are invaluable and our behind-the-scenes volunteers are no exception. For years now, not only has Lance been a diligent AWLA Rabies Clinic volunteer, but he enters all of the clinic's client and animal information into our database. Lance will tell you, "I enjoy the office work and computer input. It keeps my mind sharp and challenged." Lance's favorite part of volunteering at AWLA is the fact that it led him to meet his kitty, Patience. In the fall of 2008, Patience was found abandoned and badly injured. She received the name Patience because of how well she tolerated the daily care she needed from our medical staff. Although there were many complications that went along with her injuries, Patience finally healed enough to go up for adoption in January 2009. Despite Lance being a "dog guy," he met her, immediately fell in love and signed the adoption paperwork to take her home right away. Lance says that "Patience is how AWLA has changed my life in a large way, and now she is the queen of the castle." **Congratulations again Lance; we can't thank you enough and we appreciate all that you do for the League!**



314

VOLUNTEERS

13,575

VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$1,044,510.00

VALUE OF AWLA
VOLUNTEER HOURS
IN FY 2019



THANK YOU, GARY!

By Sam Wolbert, President & CEO

On July 1st, AWLA said farewell to our outgoing Board Chair, Gary Strum, who finished his sixth, and final year, on the Board.

Gary went above and beyond as a Board Member. He served as Board Chair for four years, two more than anticipated after his planned successor's unexpected move from the area. During his tenure, Gary hired a new President/CEO of AWLA and oversaw a large period of organizational growth that resulted in thousands of additional animals saved and the expansion of multiple lifesaving programs. Gary's steady leadership and calm demeanor improved the Board's governance and for me, personally, he was a mentor who was always available with sound advice or to bounce around ideas.

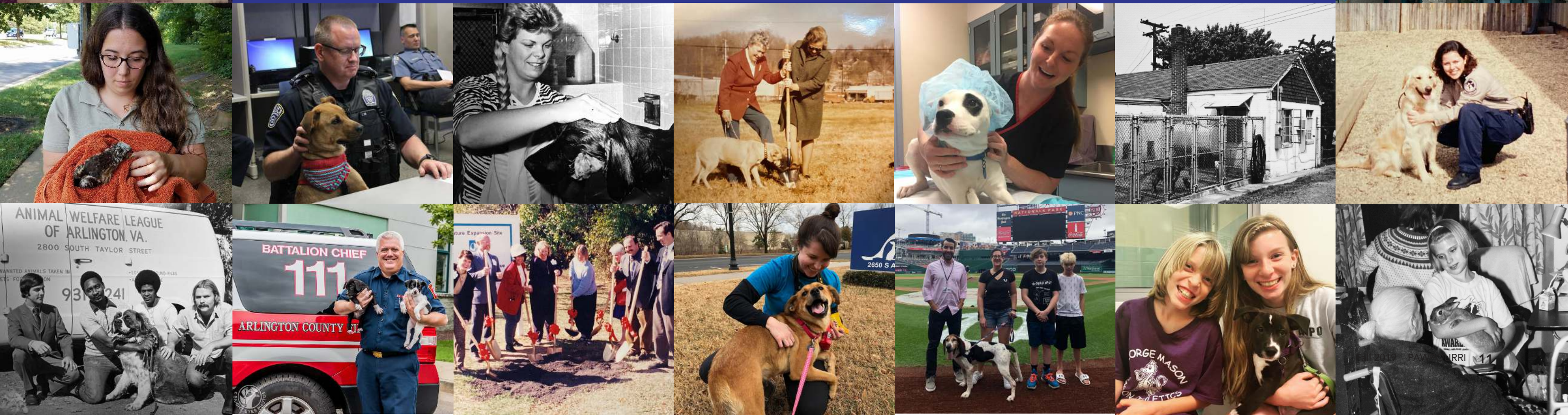
Though Gary's presence on the Board will be missed, he is still a regular at the shelter volunteering as a dog walker or in dog playgroup. Board Members like Gary often don't get the credit they deserve for their selfless and behind-the-scenes work. So, if you see Gary, please make sure to say hello and to thank him for everything he has done for AWLA.

Founded 75 years ago by a small group of volunteers, AWLA continues to be supported by hundreds of volunteers who share their time and talents to ensure that AWLA achieves its mission of improving the lives of animals and people by providing resources, care, and protection. We want to thank each and every one of our dedicated volunteers for all that they do - without them, our work would not be possible.



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

OF IMPROVING THE LIVES OF ANIMALS AND PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY





MORGAN

Morgan, a six-year-old dog with giant paws and cropped ears, got a second chance to find a family at AWLA. She was transferred to us from a partner shelter where she had been for almost a year, having arrived emaciated and terrified of people. During her stay at her previous shelter, she transformed into the "sweetest dog ever" and

discovered a love of hashbrowns and peanut butter, but few visitors ever asked to meet her.

The shelter contacted AWLA and asked if we might try to find a home for her. We agreed and Morgan arrived in February 2019. Despite the progress she had made, she was still very fearful of strangers, especially men. She would bark and back away when people approached, so it became our mission to help her learn that meeting new people could

1,473

INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS WHO
BENEFITED FROM FOSTER
CARE

be a fun, positive experience. Our Behavior and Training Staff worked and worked with her and, though she improved each day, she wasn't making the progress we had hoped.

So we tried another tactic and placed Morgan in foster with Danielle, who admitted, "I was a little nervous about starting my foster experience, but within a single day, Morgan completely erased any concerns I had. Morgan was a little bit standoffish when first meeting us, but immediately after arriving home, Morgan made her true colors known. All eighty pounds of her were in our laps any time we sat down on the couch! She could always be trusted to be a couch companion during a TV session."

"It was also really amazing to see her build trust in people. As she trusted us more and became more familiar with her new neighborhood, she was calmer while meeting new people when we were out and about. Within a few weeks, she started to become playful with us in our apartment and was always happy for a game of tug!

It was very rewarding for us to be able to give her new family all of the information that we learned that could allow them to be more comfortable in bringing her home."

Morgan was adopted in July by a wonderful couple who fell in love with the photos taken while in her foster home. They took it slow and

got to know Morgan on her terms, first spending time with her at her foster home, and then inviting her home for a three-day sleepover to see how she would do at their house. On day two of the sleepover, her adopters were ready to officially make Morgan a part of their family.

Morgan is still learning to trust new people, but every day her family sees improvement and they couldn't love her more.

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



AWLA's Kitten College

In July of this year, AWLA's Kitten College celebrated its third anniversary and busiest 'kitten season' yet, taking in hundreds of orphaned and sick kittens from shelters and rescues in DC, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. While a few remain in the College for intensive care, most spend the first two months of their lives in the loving arms of our expansive network of fosters. We are so grateful to all who open their homes and hearts to save the lives of these vulnerable animals every year.

314

ACTIVE FOSTER HOMES

548

LOW-COST RABIES
VACCINES GIVEN

78

LOW-COST
MICROCHIPS GIVEN

301

SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS
GIVEN

40

PETS SEEN AT
WELLNESS CLINICS

53

PETS HELPED THROUGH
EMERGENCY
VET ASSISTANCE,
EQUALLING

\$17,084.47

IN MEDICAL GRANTS
PROVIDED

843

KIDS REACHED THROUGH
CAMPS, TOURS, SCHOOL
VISITS AND ANIMAL
ALLIES CLUBS



A pet emergency can happen at any moment, and AWLA is committed to helping all who need it. Emergency Vet Assistance is one of the programs we offer to support those residents who need emergency veterinary care for their pets, and Sloan is just one of the many pets we helped this year.

"[In July 2019], my cat, Sloan, suddenly became very sick. It scared me because of how sudden and severe it was. At first she was throwing up her food, but I thought she just didn't like the brand of cat food we had gotten for her. Soon, things got worse when she stopped eating and drinking, and began to throw up frequently. I took her to the vet, worried. They checked her and gave her fluids, and told me it was just an upset stomach. Everything would have been fine if Sloan had gotten better.

"Her condition didn't improve, and on top of that I had a hefty bill to pay from the vet visit. I knew I needed help, but money was starting to become a big problem. But Sloan was only getting sicker. I had adopted Sloan from AWLA in January [2019] and I thought if anyone was going to support and help me, it was them. The staff there were so warm and friendly and helped with my situation. They taught me how to give my cat her pills (since I had no experience), and told me to come back the next day if my cat didn't get better. Sloan did not get better, and sure enough, AWLA worked with me to find an affordable doctor and was kind enough to work out a financial grant for me. The appointment went great and thankfully Sloan was starting to feel like her old self.

"I can't begin to explain how grateful I am for all the support AWLA has provided me. Money aside, you can walk in and ask them about anything and they are willing to lend a hand and help."

~ Amira A.

ANIMAL CONTROL



In late 2018, our Animal Control team, along with the Arlington County Police Department, went to do a welfare check on a local woman and her dog. Her family had called the police expressing concern due to ongoing substance abuse issues. When Officer White arrived it was immediately apparent that, while the dog was in very good condition, the owner was personally struggling.

The next day, Officer White, still concerned about the woman, stopped by her residence to check in. There, she found the woman in need of immediate medical attention. We were able to take her beloved dog, Izzy, into our safekeeping program (a free boarding program at the shelter for individuals in crisis) allowing the owner time to start the path to recovery. Thankfully, Izzy's owner is back home, and she gave us permission to share her story and these words:



"I wanted to thank you for not only saving Izzy's life, but saving my life as well...For the first time in my entire life I have hope and want to live my life. I don't have children. Izzy is my child. I love her more than anything, and now, thanks to you and the other officers, she has her mom back and has a loving and safe home to live in. Please thank the other officers for me. In sobriety, I can now see that without all of you, Izzy and I might not be alive today."

Sometimes, extraordinary measures must be taken to keep pets with their families. Here at AWLA we honor the bond between pets and their owners and have safety nets in place to aid during a crisis. To learn more about our safekeeping program, our pet support pantry, or other community services please check out our website at www.awla.org/services/community-services/.

3,341

TOTAL NUMBER OF
ANIMAL CONTROL CASES
INCLUDING:

2,248

PARK PATROLS

209

CRUELTY/NEGLECT
CASES*

*AWLA WON CUSTODY OF 82 ANIMALS
IN CRUELTY/NEGLECT CASES

147

ENFORCEMENT CASES

(LEASH LAWS, COUNTY LICENSE
COMPLIANCE, PET LITTERING, ETC.)

1,506

WILDLIFE CASES

576

STRAY ANIMAL CASES

SPECIAL EVENTS

WALK FOR THE ANIMALS \$93,330.62

Special thanks to our individual fundraising winners Marnie Russ, Debra Rose, and Jenni Barnes for raising thousands of dollars during our 75th Anniversary Walk for the Animals!



PINTS 4 PAWS \$43,252.15



BARKS & BARRELS: \$13,278.20

Special events are one of the ways that AWLA raises much-needed funds for animals in need. But an event is nothing without people, so thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our events and programs this year.



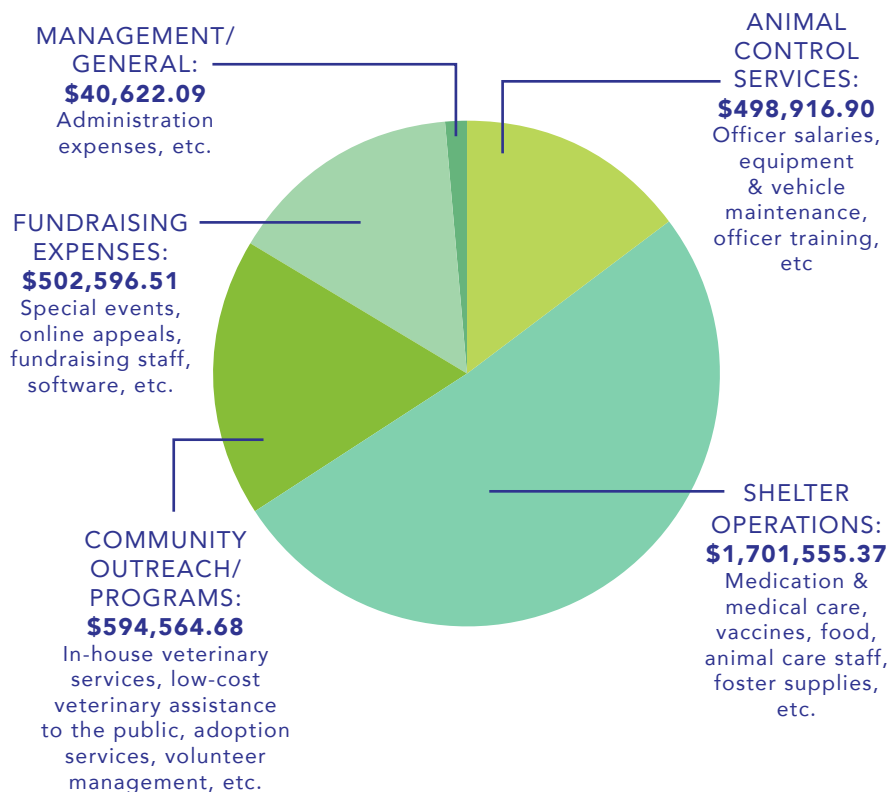
OTHER EVENTS: \$24,043.40

Thanks to all our FY2019 sponsors for their support!

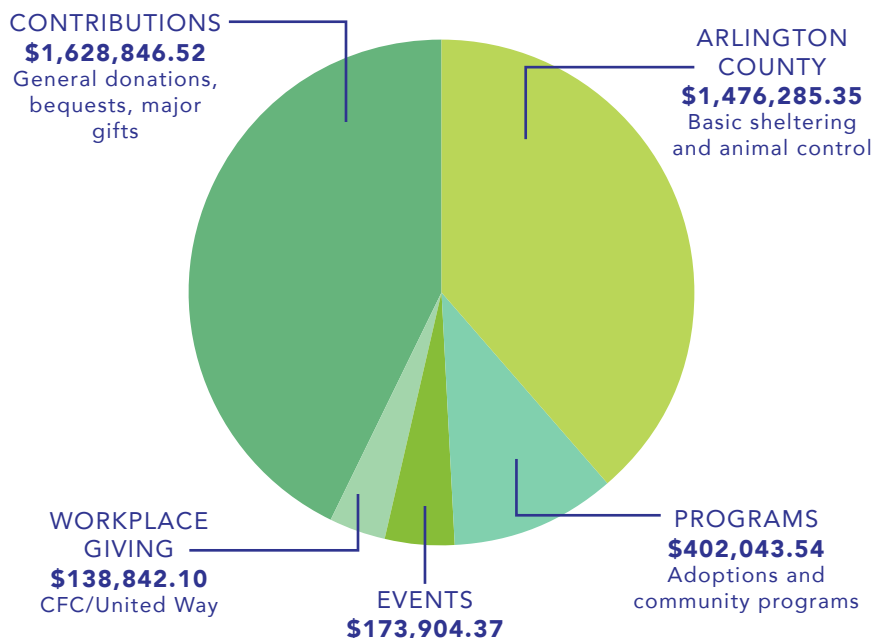
Clarendon Animal Care, Dogma Dog Bakery, Ballston Animal Hospital, Caring Hands Animal Hospital of Arlington, Fur-Get Me Not Pet Care, Northwest Federal Credit Union, Shirlington Animal Hospital, The Kiger Group, Federal Lock and Safe, Capitol Z Homes, Segue Technologies, Sit-A-Pet, Geico Philanthropic Foundation, EMMAvet, Palmer R. Harned, Realtor, Northside Veterinary Clinic, Wells Fargo Advisors, The Board Hound, First Virginia Community Bank, Paradigm Mgmt Co. - Meridian at Courthouse Commons, Regional Veterinary Referral Center, Window Nation, Antech Diagnostics, Arlington Community Federal Credit Union, Armour Veterinary Ophthalmology, Bean, Kinney & Korman Attorneys, Compass, VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, Col. and Mrs. Jonathan H. Kosarin

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPERATIONS BUDGET \$3,338,255.55



INCOME \$3,819,921.88



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

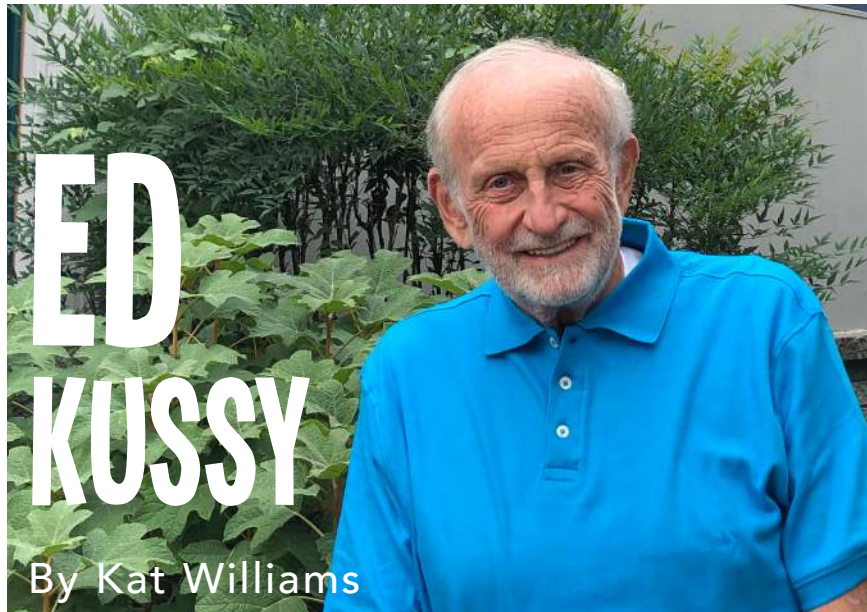
**YOU TOO CAN MAKE
A MEANINGFUL
DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIVES OF ANIMALS,
AND PEOPLE IN OUR
COMMUNITY:**

**CHOOSE A FUND
TO SUPPORT**

- **General**
Where help is needed most
- **Bob Ragan**
Humane Education
- **Dr. Christine Cottey**
Low-Cost Spay/Neuter
- **Ross-Roberts Emergency**
Veterinary Assistance
- **Woody & Mickey**
Healthy Pet

CHOOSE HOW:

- **Online**
- **Monthly**
- **By Mail**
- **Gift of Stock**
- **Bequest**
- **Workplace Giving/CFC**
- **Send something from
our Wish List**
- **Donate Your Vehicle**
- **Purchase a Virginia
Animal-Friendly
License Plate**
- **Buy (and sport) AWLA
Merchandise**



Ed Kussy and his wife, Erika, first visited AWLA in 1996 when they were looking to adopt a dog. That day, they saw Nicki, a three-year-old spaniel-type pup who introduced herself by standing on her hind legs and barking at them. She was bigger than what they were looking for, so Ed and Erika left the shelter that day empty handed.

Ed and Erika, though, unable to get Nicki out of their heads, eventually returned several times. Finally, they adopted Nicki and enjoyed what Ed describes as her "puppy-like personality in the body of an adult dog" until they had to say goodbye to her at a remarkable 21 years of age.

When Ed's beloved wife passed away in 2014, he walked into the shelter and indicated that he would like to make a gift in memory of her. As it turned out, it was a very big gift, which enabled AWLA to renovate the dog kennels, vastly improving the facilities and the quality of life of AWLA's resident adoptable dogs. Now when Ed comes the shelter, he always makes time to visit his "Roomful of Dogs."

Ed continues to be a very generous donor, and also sits on AWLA's Board of Directors, helping to guide the organization as it embarks on the next 75 years of its service to the community. "I'm proud to be associated with the AWLA. The staff is terrific, and what we are able to do for the animals we take is nothing short of remarkable. I can really see the results we achieve because of the generous support we get from the community."

AWLA is enormously grateful to friends like Ed Kussy, who generously share their time, talent and means to improve the lives of animals, and the people who love and care for them.

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.

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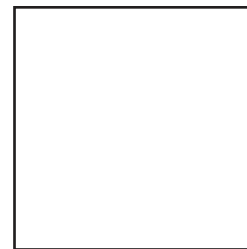
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