



Newsletter

Montgomery County's Newest Animal Welfare Group

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 31, 2007

**Animal Welfare League of
Montgomery County**
P.O. Box 7041
Gaithersburg, MD 20898
Telephone: (301) 740-2511
website: www.awlmc.org
Shelter : 18959 Bonanza Way
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Adoption Events

Kentlands Petsmart Saturday Adoption Events

- Feb 3
- Feb 10
- Feb 17

White Flint Petsmart Sunday Adoption Events

- Feb (TBD)

Upcoming Fund raising events

- Shelter Grand Opening on Feb 24
(Invitations have been sent out to approximately 1,200 people)
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ANY ARTICLE IDEAS? PLEASE E-MAIL ROGER OR JONATHAN WITH THEM. GUEST WRITERS ARE MOST WELCOME! THANK YOU LAURIE, JANET, AND PAT WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER.

JONATHAN & ROGER

Message from the President



Laurie Graham

Dear fellow volunteers,

The next 2 months will be a busy time for the AWLMC. We finally have our shelter and the certificate from the county to operate. Things are in full swing to get the shelter open. Our grand opening is set for February 24, 2007. We hope to have cats in the shelter by the second week of February. We already have the cages and are working hard to get them ready for the opening. Thanks to all who came out to help with cage preparation on January 21. We had a lot of fun. It also looks like we have a local pet supply place. The Pet Pantry will provide food and litter to the shelter. We still have a lot of work to do over the next few weeks. If you would like to help with planning the shelter, please contact Caren Stark at caren.stark@gmail.com. We are also getting our cat care shifts together. You should be getting a call within the next week or so. If not, please contact Pat Gagne at danisinclair@comcast.net to sign up for cat care. We still do need some supplies to get the shelter operational. There is a wish list posted on our web site, www.awlmc.org. You should all be getting an invitation in the mail for the opening. Thank you to the "invitation" committee for getting this done. I hope to see you all on February 24.

In addition to the shelter opening, we also have our cat show coming up. The cat show will take place on March 31, 2007 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. We will need lots of people to help out at this event. Janet Culp is doing a fabulous job getting this show organized. This event was so much fun last

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year, and I am not just saying that because Dino won best in show! I hope that you will all try and attend. It is a great showcase for our organization. We will have our cats in the show again this year. You can come out and cheer for your favorite AWLMC cat. Of course, you can always enter your own cat(s). I am going to put my cat Emmie Lou on a diet and exercise program so that she can attend.

While we have a lot of exciting things going on in the AWLMC right now, we also have to say goodbye to one of our most active volunteers, Debby Shore. I know that most of us have been amazed at all of the things that Debby has done for the AWLMC over the last year and a half. She has been one of the go to people for the AWLMC. It will be difficult to fill her shoes, and I know that it will take more than one person to get it all done! Thanks Debby. We will miss you. ∞∞∞

What is a Household Pet Cat Show?

Janet Culp



Cat Fanciers Clubs in the Washington, DC area host Cat Shows where pedigreed cats are judged according to physical standards for each breed of cat.

One of the cat categories that is also shown at these shows are Household Pets. The AWLMC Cat Show features just these cats – cats without “papers”. Specifically these are cats of mixed breed and unknown backgrounds, cats that come from all “walks of life” These include cats and kittens adopted from animal welfare organizations or from shelters, the kitten from a neighbor’s litter, or the stray cat that has been rescued and shown a better way of life. They will all be judged by professional cat fanciers on beauty, condition and personality. Rosettes and prizes are awarded.

All of the cats must be pre-registered for the AWLMC Household Pet Cat Show. Each owner must present proof of current Rabies and distemper vaccinations before the date of the show. All of the cats must be spayed or neutered, clean, and healthy. All claws (front

and back) are required to be clipped prior to the show. Any cat suspected of having fleas, mites, fungus or a contagious disease will be disqualified and the owners asked to remove the cat from the show hall immediately.

Each cat entered into the show is benched (placed) in an individual wire cage measuring 22” x 22” x 22”. Two cats from the same household are benched in adjacent cages and a large cat is benched in a double sized cage. The cages are rented from a Show Service. Owners will provide their cat with a litter pan, food and water.

The cages are arranged in rows in the show hall with roomy aisles in between. One of the features of the AWLMC Cat Show is a contest for owners or families to decorate their cat’s benching cage for prizes. Spectators can view the cats and the decorated cages during the course of the day.

Each cat entered in the Cat Show is assigned a number. During the course of the Show, each cat’s number is called to one of the judging rings when it’s time for judging. The owner carries the cat to the ring and places the cat in the cage marked with the number. Owners and spectators take a seat in the gallery chairs in front of the judging area.

The judge then takes each cat out individually, examines and evaluates the cat, and then puts the cat back into the cage. After all of the cats have been judged, the judge awards merit ribbons. The cats are taken back to their benching cages. Cats are called to each judging ring in groups of ten.

When all of the cats entered in the show are judged in each of the judging rings, the finals begin. Judges award rosettes and prizes to the top ten cats in each ring. A Happy Household Pet Cat Club rosette is awarded in each ring. The top scoring cat of the day is awarded *Best in Show* – the AWLMC “American Feline Idol” of 2007!
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Put it on your calendar

AWLMC “American Feline Idol” Cat Show

Saturday March 31, 2007

Gaithersburg Fairgrounds

Administering Eye Medication to Cats: Tips and Tricks

Jonathan Allen

Last month we looked at methods for giving cats liquid medication; this month we look at methods and techniques for eye medication, an even more challenging prospect. The lucky cat owner will find a cat who will happily sit on his or her lap or on a table while eye medication is applied; however, most require some form of restraint. Most owners or vets recommend wrapping the cat in a towel or using a restraint bag.

Of the four methods listed below, the first assumes a compliant cat; the rest assume some level of restraint is required. Eye medications are either drops or ointments. Ointments stay in the eye longer than drops so are usually applied less often. Your veterinarian will prescribe specific medications for specific conditions.

Method 1

- Drape your left forearm across the cat's body to keep him/her in your lap. Cradle the head in one hand, usually the left hand if you are right-handed. Use the thumb of the holding the head to pull down the lower eyelid to create a pouch.
- Hold the medication in your right hand with the tip a few millimeters away from the eye, the heel of your right hand balanced on the cat's head.
- Squeeze a small ribbon of ointment or the prescribed number of drops into the pouch when you pull down the lower eyelid.
- To distribute ointment across the eye, massage the ointment across the surface of the eye with eyelids closed. **Note:** Eye drops disperse across the surface of the eye rapidly and do not need to be rubbed across the eye by massaging.
- Speak soothingly and give him or her plenty of praise and petting. Consider giving him or her a treat or some catnip.



Method 2

For cats that are a little more resistant:



- Have someone restrain the cat by holding its front legs and chest, or wrap the cat firmly in a blanket or towel. Let the cat sit on the counter or table and hold it closely against your body.
- If you are right-handed and the right eye needs medication, rest the heel of your right hand on top of the cat's head with your hand near the inner side of the eye closest to the nose. Place your left thumb near the lower eyelid and left forefinger near the upper eyelid. This also works if you are left-handed and the cat needs medication in his or her left eye.
- If you are right-handed and the left eye needs medication, stand on the right side of the cat, facing the same direction as the cat. With the medication in your right hand, rest this hand on top of the head to stabilize. Reach across the cat and place the index finger of your left hand near the lower eyelid and your left thumb near the upper eyelid. This also works if you are left-handed and the right eye needs medication.
- Spread the eyelids apart using your thumb and forefinger.
- Squeeze a small ribbon of ointment or the prescribed number of drops into the pouch created when you pull down the lower eyelid.
- To distribute ointment across the eye, massage the ointment across the surface of the eye with eyelids closed. **Note:** Eye drops disperse across the surface of the eye rapidly and do not need to be rubbed across the eye by massaging.
- Speak soothingly and give him or her plenty of praise and petting. Consider giving him or her a treat or some catnip.

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Method 3: Ointment Only

- Follow whatever restraint method you need
- Hold the cat's head in an upward position and make it look toward the ceiling.
- Approach the eye with the bottle of medication from the front of the head or over the top of the back of the head. As the bottle gets closer to the eye, the cat often closes its eyes. Drop a single drop of medication onto the crease where the eyelids come together.
- Continue to hold the head in an upward position for a full minute after the drop is applied to the crease. Gravity will cause the solution to ooze downward through the small gap in the eyelids.
- With this method, some of the solution may be lost onto the skin around the eye, but cats may tolerate this method better.
- Speak soothingly and give him or her plenty of praise and petting. Consider giving him or her a treat or some catnip.



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- Speak soothingly and give him or her plenty of praise and petting. Consider giving him or her a treat or some catnip.

Suggestions?

Faced down a difficult cat and lived to tell the tale?

Have any other suggestions

for administering eye medication? Send your stories to **Jonathan at**

crimnos@gmail.com; if we

get enough responses, we'll

write a follow-up with the

best stories and suggestions

from AWLMC volunteers. ∞∞∞



Sources:

http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ClientED/cat_eyes.asp

<http://www.petplace.com/cats/how-to-administer-eye-medication-to-your-cat/page1.aspx>

<http://www.sniksnak.com/cathealth/eyemeds.html>

Method 4: Eye Drops Only

- Follow whatever restraint method you need.
- Hold the cat's head in an upward position and make him or her look toward the ceiling.
- Approach the eye with the bottle of medication from the front of the head or over the top of the back of the head. As the bottle gets closer to the eye, the cat often closes its eyes. Drop a single drop of medication onto the crease where the eyelids come together.
- Continue to hold the head in an upward position for a full minute after the drop is applied to the crease. Gravity will cause the solution to ooze downward through the small

Help Wanted

- Publicity Person or Persons
- Cat Crews
- Grants Writers
- Cat Show Help
- Newsletter Writers

For more information about these jobs or others please email Pat at danisinclair@comcast.net

Spay Day USA

Janet Culp



What: A national campaign to promote spay/neuter as a simple, humane and effective way to end the tragedy of euthanizing homeless pets.

When: February 27, 2007, but events and activities will take place throughout the month of February.

Where: Across the United States and U. S. territories.

Why: Thousands of kittens and puppies are born every hour in the United States. While these baby animals are adorable, the fate of most of them is tragic. Spaying or neutering our pets and feral cats is the most effective way to reduce the vast numbers of animals who are born only to die prematurely and without a family who loves them.

Participate: The AWLMC is a registered supporter of SPAY DAY USA. Our volunteers are involved in a number of activities that support the Spay Day USA campaign including Spaying and Neutering animals, raising funds to spay or neuter animals, educating the public on the importance of spaying and neutering animals, and helping the public locate spay and neuter services. The theme of this year's campaign is DO IT FOR LOVE Spay or Neuter. We will have information to hand out at the Shelter. ∞∞∞∞

Sources:

<http://www.spayday.org>

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

2007 membership cards, nametags, and an updated membership roster will be available by the grand opening. All volunteers have a file folder at the shelter so please plan to stop by and check your folders periodically once we get rolling.

Shelter Startup

Roger Gagne

There is a considerable ongoing effort to get the shelter in an operational mode prior to the scheduled grand opening date of February 24.

A volunteer Shelter Startup Committee has been established comprised of Caren Stark, O'Shea Watson, and Pat and Roger Gagne. Tasks and needs have been identified by the Committee and efforts begun to meet these needs. Special thanks to O'Shea Watson for bringing her expertise and experience to the committee.

Cages: The major effort is to obtain and prepare cages for the eventual kitty occupants. Linda Buel is generously donating, in memory of her mother Polly, large new cages that will be placed on the inside front of the shelter. The Committee reviewed various potential cage configurations with Greg Grewe and selected the optimum configuration for our needs. Greg was to order the cage components which are expected to be delivered on February 7. Greg has volunteered to assemble and install the cages. Thank you Greg.

We are also refurbishing a number of existing AWLMC cages to obtain the full complement of cages needed by the grand opening. The cages themselves must have rust removed and be painted. The cage base also has to be sealed, sanded, and painted. A piece of linoleum will be cut and placed inside the base and glued in place. A silicon bead will be placed at the linoleum/wood peripheral interface as a sealant. Linoleum remnants have been obtained in sufficient quantity for the initial complement of cages. Cage refurbishment is well underway as described below.

On January 21, a group of volunteers braved the snowy weather and met at the shelter to sand cages and seal the inside of the base of the cages. Special thanks to Lee Briggs, Pat and Roger Gagne, Laurie Graham, Amy Jaslow, Dave O'Connell, Rebecca Soubra, and Caren Stark for their very hard work.

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Cleaning Cages



On January 28, a group of volunteers met at the shelter to sand, prime and paint the cage bases. Special thanks to Pat and Roger Gagne, Caren Stark, MarJan Henkin, and Christine Vercellino for their hard work. Lee Briggs has undertaken the very tedious effort of painting cages and is doing a wonderful job. Thank you so much Lee. The Shelter Committee members are in the process of finishing the cage bottoms. All in all, we expect to have the requisite number of cages available for use before the middle of February.

Cat Crews: We need volunteers to man 2 shifts per day to feed, clean cages, and play with the cats. Laurie Graham has activated the phone tree and each volunteer should receive a call. Pat Gagne also recently sent out an email to each volunteer that has an email address to determine how they would like to participate in the organization including cat care. Volunteer response to her email request to date has been slow. **Please** contact Pat Gagne at danisinclair@comcast.net to let her know how you would like to participate in AWLMC.

Other: The AWLMC Shelter Startup Committee is in the process of identifying and obtaining items needed to operate the Shelter including administrative needs. An email has been sent to each of the activity heads to ascertain what they need at the shelter. There is also a wish list posted on our web site, www.awlmc.org.

I'm sure that we'll make it! ∞∞∞

Wild Birds Unlimited – A Sharing Partner



**Please don't forget to donate to
AWLMC:**

<http://awlmc.org/Donate.html>

Or, please send a check to:

P.O. Box 7041

Gaithersburg, MD 20898