



# Newsletter

Montgomery County's Newest Animal Welfare Group

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 4, 2007

**Animal Welfare League of  
Montgomery County**  
P.O. Box 7041  
Gaithersburg, MD 20898  
Telephone: (301) 740-2511  
website: [www.awlmc.org](http://www.awlmc.org)  
Shelter : 18959 Bonanza Way  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

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## Calendar of Events

### Upcoming Adoption Events

#### **Kentlands Petsmart**

- Saturdays 1 – 4 pm (except Apr 7)

#### **Shelter**

- Saturdays 1 – 4 pm (except Apr 7)
- Wednesday evenings, 6 – 8 pm

#### **White Flint Petsmart**

- Saturday April 14

### Upcoming Fund raising events

- None planned in April

### Other

#### **All Hands Meeting (Leisure World)**

- Tuesday Apr 24
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ANY ARTICLE IDEAS? PLEASE E-MAIL ROGER  
OR JONATHAN WITH THEM. GUEST WRITERS  
ARE MOST WELCOME! THANK YOU LAURIE G,  
PAT G, CAREN S, JANET C, AMY J, AND  
KAREN D WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS  
MONTHS NEWSLETTER.

JONATHAN & ROGER

### *Message from the President*

**Laurie Graham**

Dear fellow volunteers,



I hope that everyone got a chance to come out to the Second Annual AWLMC Household Cat Show. It was a great day. We had a lot of fun and got to make some money for the AWLMC at the same time. My cat Emmie Lou won two awards! Mayor Katz from Gaithersburg and NBC 4 news both stopped by. This was our major event of the year. It took a great deal of work by the cat show and fundraising committees to pull it all together, and I thank all of those involved for their hard work and dedication. Everything looked great, including the decorations, the catalog, the silent auction, the picture contest, the food, the vendors, and the cats. I would like to say a special thank you to Janet Culp for taking the lead with the cat show, and to Nona Silver for keeping things running with the fundraising. They were really the dynamic duo who made this event so successful. I also want to thank the judges for an outstanding job, Sandy Spring Bank for partnering with us on the show, and the Pet Pantry for donating a cat tree for auction.

Our new shelter is finally getting settled. We have our cat crews in place and we should be able to start increasing the number of cats we house soon. We have a combination washer/dryer that should be hooked up soon. We also have a new sink and possibly a front door key pad that will be installed soon. The adoption program has started having adoption events at the shelter on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. The traffic seems to be steadily increasing. Posey Fox has graciously agreed to act as shelter/cat care manager. Because we have been

Continued on page 2

approved by the County as a non-profit for students, we are getting an influx of students into the organization as they try and get their student service hours required for graduation. We could really use someone to help work on this part of our volunteer program. If you are interested in this, please contact me at [graham18365@yahoo.com](mailto:graham18365@yahoo.com) or Roger Gagne at [gagnerw@comcast.net](mailto:gagnerw@comcast.net).

Now that the Cat Show is over with, it is time to turn our attention to the election of new Board members. Linda Buel and Caren Stark are completing their terms as Board members and we must elect 2 new members. In the next couple of weeks, we will be sending out applications to run for the Board and posting the application on our web site. The election will be the evening of May 15th at Leisure World. There will be an opportunity at the meeting to talk to the candidates. If any of you have wanted to take a larger leadership position within the organization, this is your opportunity. We will also have an All-hands meeting the evening of April 24<sup>th</sup>, also at Leisure World, to update volunteers on the organization and to talk about the election. I hope to see you all there. ∞∞∞

### ***Treating Bad Behavior in Cats: Tips and Tricks***

#### **Jonathan Allen**

This month, we offer a short feature on treating bad behavior in cats. Note that this is not meant as a comprehensive guide, but rather a compendium of suggestions from around the net. Unlike dogs, cats don't need obedience classes to develop good manners. If you are consistent in your regulations and generous in your affection, most cats will reward you with good behavior. If a cat suddenly begins misbehaving, there's usually an underlying cause, such as separation anxiety, stress in the household, sickness or injury.

Treating Bad Behavior in Cats is continued on Page 3

### ***Treasurer's Report***

#### **Amy Jaslow**

The shelter grand opening and the initial intake for the Cat Show have helped put some much needed money into the coffers. As most of you know, Sandy Spring Bank generously agreed to fund our cat show, so just about

everything we bring in will be pure profit! Below are the net amounts we have made so far on the Cat Show and the total from the Shelter Grand Opening Mailing/Actual Opening Day. Please note that all monies listed below are as of **March 14, 2007**.

#### **Grand Opening**

Mailing/Opening Gross = \$6,960.00

Mailing/Opening Expenses = \$563.20

**Mailing/Opening Net = \$6,396.80**

#### **2007 Cat Show (as of 3/14/07)**

2007 Cat Show Gross = \$3666.00

2007 Cat Show Expenses = \$150.00

**2007 Cat Show Net = \$3516.00**

Below is the breakdown of our accounts, as of **March 14, 2007**

Main Checking Account Balance = \$8,773.69

Shelter Account Balance = \$3,684.54

Dino/Special Needs Account Balance = \$4,016.96

**Grand Total = \$16,475.19 ∞∞∞**

### ***All Hands Meeting***

#### **Caren Stark, Secretary**

We will be having an all hands meeting on Tuesday, April 24 at 6:30PM at Leisure World.

For those of you who haven't been there, Leisure World is located at 3700 Rossmoor Blvd, Silver Spring MD. The meeting will be held in the club house. At the gate, let the guard know that you are there for the private party in the club house. Make a left at the street just past the guard house and then take your first right into the parking lot. For a map of the area, click below:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?oi=map&q=3700+Rossmoor+Boulevard,+Silver+Spring,+MD>

If you have questions for the board to address, please forward them to me [caren.stark@gmail.com](mailto:caren.stark@gmail.com) or just bring them to the meeting. ∞∞∞

### **Aggressive Behavior toward Humans (scratching, biting and hissing)**

This can be caused by natural instinct, improper socialization, fear, irritation, injury, or illness.



Possible solutions:

- Say "no" and discontinue petting if cat becomes aggressive. Avoid roughhouse play.
- Leave cat alone if he displays signs of aggression (tail flickers, ears flatten or cat hisses).
- Avoid petting cat in certain area of body if it triggers aggressive responses.
- Reward cat with treats and affection for good behavior.
- Bring cat to veterinarian if injured or ill.

### **Begging**

This can be caused by natural instinct, improper socialization, hunger, and desire for attention.

Possible solutions:

- Feed cat right before you eat to distract her. Cats like to sleep after they eat.
- Never feed cat from dinner table. Be consistent.
- Ignore cat while she's begging or say "no" firmly.



### **Catching mice, birds and squirrels**

This is caused by a cat's natural hunting instinct.

Possible solutions:

- Understand that it's a natural instinct that provides cat exercise and stimulation.
- Be preventive: Don't leave birdseed or birdhouse where cat can reach it. Supervise cat outside.
- Play with cat using chase toy to provide alternate forms of stimulation and exercise.

### **Caterwauling**



This can be a mating call or caused by a desire for affection, anxiety, injury, or illness. The cat may also be stuck somewhere.

Possible solutions:

- Spay or neuter cat to reduce sexual pursuits.
- Provide cat plenty of petting and affection to decrease feelings of loneliness.
- Bring cat to veterinarian if you suspect cat is injured or ill,

especially if cat wails while trying to relieve himself.

- Rescue cat from vent or elsewhere if necessary

### **Fighting with other cats**

This can be caused by natural territorial instinct or a desire to dominate other cats.

Possible solutions:

- Spay or neuter cat to reduce sexual drive.
- Keep cat indoors if fights occur at night with neighborhood cats. Provide cats with separate space if fights occur between two cats in same household.
- Never break up cat fight with your hands. Spray them with hose, throw jacket on them or use loud noise to distract them.



### **Jumping up on kitchen counters or stove**

This can be caused by improper socialization, hunger, or curiosity.



Possible solutions:

- Put food items away to remove incentive.
- Place double-sided sticky tape on counters to adhere to cat's paws.
- Place cans filled with coins along counter edge to startle cat and alert you.

### **Jumping up on furniture and beds**

This can be caused by improper socialization, a cat who wants to be elevated to see things, a cat who wants a comfy nesting spot, and a cat who just wants company.

Possible solutions:

- Provide an alternate nesting spot, preferably elevated. Rub catnip into it to attract cat.
- Place obstructions (boxes or pots) on cat's favorite nesting spot or spray it with bitter-apple cat repellent.
- Say "no" firmly and remove cat when she jumps on furniture or bed. Be consistent.
- Provide cat plenty of affection when she behaves well.



### **Plant Eating**

This can be caused by hunger, a desire to induce vomiting, and curiosity.



Possible solutions:

- Move plant to inaccessible area.
- Spray plant with bitter-apple cat repellent or hot pepper sauce.
- Provide cat grass (available at some grocery stores, pet stores, nurseries) as substitute.
- Surround plant with double-sided sticky tape.

### **Scratching furniture, curtains or carpets**

This can be caused by a natural instinct to shed old claws or a natural instinct to mark territory.

- Possible solutions:
- Spray area with bitter-apple cat repellent or hot pepper sauce.
- Cover area with aluminum foil.
- Put scratching post next to area cat has been scratching. Rub post with catnip to attract cat.
- Trim cat's nails to reduce damage.



### **Spraying**

This can be caused by a natural instinct to mark territory, a cat who feels threatened, and separation anxiety.

Possible solutions:

- Spay or neuter cat to decrease territorial instincts.
- Determine underlying cause. If cat sprays near window, he probably spotted another cat. Close curtains or drapes.
- Provide safe nesting space if cat feels threatened by other household pets.
- Don't leave dirty laundry around if cat sprays clothing that has owner's scent. This indicates overdependence on owner.
- Wash sprayed area with citrus-based cleaner to remove scent and prevent future sprayings.
- Provide lots of petting and affection to reassure cat.
- Do not punish cat. He will not understand why you are punishing him; it will increase his anxiety.

### Urinating and defecating in house

This can be caused by a dirty litter box, dissatisfaction with litter type or location of litter box, separation anxiety, illness, or a bladder infection.

Possible solutions:

- Check litter box.
- Change litter type or brand if cat displays aversion to it.
- Make sure litter box is conveniently located and provides suitable privacy.
- If cat keeps relieving herself in same spot, move litter box to that spot temporarily. Gradually move box back to its original location.
- If cat stops using litter box when you travel, hire pet-sitter who will spend time with cat. This indicates separation anxiety.
- Bring cat to veterinarian if you suspect she is ill.

### Woolsucking

It is currently unknown as to what causes woolsucking. It could possibly be an oral fixation or nutritional deficit. It is common in Siamese cats.

Possible solutions:

- Keep wool items out of cat's reach. Provide chew toys as alternate.
- Increase fiber in diet or try feeding cat romaine lettuce.
- Jury-rig closet with motion-triggered alarm (such as cans filled with coins) to startle wool-seeking cat and to alert you.



### Suggestions



Have any other suggestions for dealing with bad behavior?

**Send your information to Jonathan at**

**[crimnos@gmail.com](mailto: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.ehow.com/how\\_117316\\_correct-behavior-cats.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_117316_correct-behavior-cats.html)

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/41798/spraying\\_chewing\\_and\\_clawing\\_correcting.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/41798/spraying_chewing_and_clawing_correcting.html)

## ***Preparing for an emergency with Cats***

### **Jonathan Allen**

Emergencies, crises, and major events such as earthquakes, tornadoes, and floods can strike with little or no notice, so it is important that a cat owner be prepared for when these events happen. Cats are often overlooked in emergency planning, and so we end up with forgotten pets much like the ones in New Orleans, stranded without their owners or their homes, where a simple bit of planning and preparation could have made the difference. This article shows how you can prepare for common emergencies and disasters.

### **What to Keep on Hand**

These are the general essentials to keep on hand; keep in mind that needs may vary based on a cat's individual needs, but most groups, experts, and veteran owners recommend:

- Carriers (collapsible carriers are preferable)
- Optional "Evac" bags (mesh bags with drawstring tops)
- Extra blankets (in case heat is lost)
- Extra towels/sheets for bedding
- A two-month supply of bottled water
- A two-month supply of food
- A three-month supply of litter
- A diaper pail with sealed lid, for litter disposal if you cannot go outside
- At least a 2 week supply of medicine (if applicable)
- Medical records, including current vaccination info
- Favorite toys
- Nail clippers, comb, and/or brush
- Recent photos of your cat (hopefully you won't need them, but if your cat is lost in the confusion, you'll want to place posters around the area without delay)

- A pet first-aid book
- A comprehensive first-aid kit, including manual (see **Assembling a First-Aid Kit** for more information)

Always remember the following tips:

1. Rotate supplies so that medications will be fresh.
2. Package spillables in plastic zip-lock bags in case you have to evacuate.
3. Do not use your first-aid kit in lieu of seeing a veterinarian.

### **Assembling a First-Aid Kit**

Cat first-aid kits can be purchased online (<http://www.petfirstaid.org/> offers a feline first-aid kit), but you can also assemble your own kit at home. Listed below are the most common, necessary items to include in your kit. Assemble them in a box with a secure lid and keep the box near your cat food supplies in case you need to find them in a hurry.

- Tweezers (preferably sharp-pointed)
- Rectal thermometer (preferably digital)
- Adhesive tape
- Antiseptic spray
- Small scissors, preferably with blunt ends (for cutting hair, bandages, tape)
- Sterile gauze pads, rolled sterile gauze, white surgical tape.
- Cotton balls
- A roll of cotton padding
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Sterile eyewash solution (the human variety is fine)
- Antiseptic cleaner, such as Bactine
- Hydrocortisone ointment for insect stings
- Eye droppers

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- Emergency ice pack (keep this item in your freezer, and wrap in a towel before using)
- The telephone number of your veterinarian, including night and emergency numbers (keep this information in a waterproof packet, along with your pet's medical records)

You should also ask your veterinarian for a mild tranquilizer to use in case of emergencies

### **Possible Locations**

It's also important to consider where you will take your cats in the event of an evacuation. The American Red Cross says, "leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse." The Red Cross will not accept pets at their emergency shelters, so it is important to make a list of "pet-friendly" motels in case you need to temporarily relocate with your cats. You may also ask your veterinarian and/or local animal shelter if they provide emergency care for pets following disasters.

Contact a friendly neighbor and make a reciprocal agreement to take charge of each others pets in the event of an emergency when one of you is not home. Exchange cell phone numbers if you both have them, and make sure both of you know the location of your Pet Emergency Kits.

If your plan includes evacuating to another area, obtain the numbers to several veterinarians in that area. Make a list of all the above phone numbers for your Emergency Kit.

### **When It's Over**

When the emergency is over and you are back at home, give your cat several days to recover. He or she will have just been through a very traumatic experience. Watch your cat carefully for any signs of overt stress, and call your veterinarian immediately if any unusual behavior problems persist. ∞∞∞

### **References**

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/library/weekly/aa111601a.htm>

<http://cats.about.com/cs/disaster/a/prepareagainst.htm>

## **2007 Household Pet Cat Show**

### **Roger Gagne**

The 2nd annual AWLMC Household Pet Cat Show was held in Building 2 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg on March 31.

This is AWLMC's biggest event of the year. Workers and spectators all had a wonderful time and AWLMC also made money, which was the icing on the cake. It was gratifying to see so many of the volunteers participate in this event contributing so much to the success of the event with their hard work. Special thanks must be given to Janet Culp and to Nona Silver for their almost super human effort in pulling this together. It would not have been as nearly successful without them.

Activity actually began the night before when everything had to be set up. After Mid-Atlantic Show Service set up the exhibitor cages and Judging Rings, the Vendors set out their wares and the AWLMC got to work decorating. The beautiful rosettes and decorations began to make Building 2 look like a Show Hall!



The judging events, not very surprising of course, were the highlight of the show. Cheryl Coleman, Deborah Curtis and Kathy Rutledge did a remarkable job of working with the individual cats to show off beauty, condition and personality. Each Judge interacted with the owners who told how each cat found his/her "forever home".

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Thirty-three cats were entered into our Second Annual Household Pet Cat Show. The Show attracted Exhibitors from as far away as Annapolis and the Hagerstown area in Maryland, and Springfield, Virginia.

The contestants included five AWLMC cats available for adoption. Priscilla was sponsored by Girl Scout Troop 4411. Mag was shown by Mary Ellen McGlone and sponsored by Stephanie Bell. Deb Kramer and Nona Silver sponsored three AWLMC cats – Caruso, Dukey and Patches. Patches was also adopted by Volunteer Diane Anderson that same day.



**Appreciative Audience!**



**Is It Our Turn Yet ???**



**Fun Fun Fun !!!**



**Being Judged is so Much Fun!!!**



**AWLMC 2007 American Feline Idol**

Presenting the award for the AWLMC "American Feline Idol" for 2007 is Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz. *Bonnie* is owned by Ann Virts and was adopted from Friends of Montgomery County Animals. ∞∞∞

A heart felt and sincere THANK YOU to our friends at Sandy Spring Bank for partnering with us to make the AWLMC 2<sup>nd</sup> annual American Feline Idol Cat Show such a success!

Proud to  
Support  
the Animal  
Welfare  
League



We value people who  
make a difference.



1-800-399-5919  
[www.SandySpringBank.com](http://www.SandySpringBank.com)

The cat show committee would also like to thank the following:

**Judges:**

Cheryl Coleman  
Deborah Curtis  
Kathy Rutledge  
Linda Leigh Buel

**Show Sponsors:**

Hard Times Café  
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts  
Capital Cat Fanciers  
The Cat Fanciers of Washington  
David Craig Restaurant-Bethesda  
The Way Goose-Bethesda & Rockville  
Luxuria Salon & Spa-Julienne Rossi  
Papa John's Pizza-College Plaza  
Avenida Spa & Salon of Bethesda

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Saturn of Gaithersburg-Dominique Vattuone  
The Backyard Naturalist  
VIP Auto Detailers  
WPS Parking Systems

**Thank You Nona and Janet**

Once again, AWLMC wants to say a huge special thank you to Nona Siver and Janet Culp for all of the hard work they put into this event that resulted in making it so fabulous and financially successful.