



Newsletter

Montgomery County's Newest Animal Welfare Group

Volume 2, Issue 5

June 16, 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 20879

Calendar of Events- June

Adoption Events

Kentlands Petsmart

- Saturdays 1 – 4 pm

Shelter

- Saturdays 1 – 4 pm
- Wednesday evenings, 6 – 8 pm

White Flint Petsmart

- Saturday June 9
- TBD

Fund raising events

- Yard Sale- June 9

Other

- None Planned

ANY ARTICLE IDEAS OR ARTICLES? PLEASE E-MAIL HEIDI AT HEIDIWEBER1@GMAIL.COM. GUEST WRITERS ARE MOST WELCOME! THANK YOU LAURIE GRAHAM, PAT GAGNE, AMY JASLOW, AND CAREN STARK FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS MONTHS' NEWSLETTER.
ROGER GAGNE

Message from the President

Laurie Graham

Dear fellow volunteers,



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Roger Gagne and Janet Culp on their election to the Board of Directors of the AWLMC. I look forward to working with them over the next year. It was a close election and I want to thank the other candidates, Dave O'Connell and Cheryl Coleman, for being willing to take on a Board role. I also want to announce that O'Shea Watson is going to be acting VP on the Board for the next 3 months. O'Shea will try out the job and see how she likes it.

We all need to say thank you to Linda Buel and Caren Stark for their service on the Board. They really stepped up and helped the AWLMC. We accomplished so much in the last year, including getting our shelter open. Caren and Linda's leadership roles on the Board played a tremendous part in getting the AWLMC where it is today. I also want to say goodbye to Deb Kirby, who is retiring and moving to Tennessee. Deb helped start our foster program and is one of the all time best fosters. Since I got started in animal welfare, Deb has been a great resource for information and advice.

For all of you who participated in our flea market in Washington Grove, thank you! The flea market was at Linda Buel's house, so we owe a big Thank You to Linda. We had some great items for the sale, and a number of volunteers helped work the event. Our volunteers are certainly incredibly hard workers. The day was a big success with the AWLMC netting almost \$1600. At the election meeting, Amy Jaslow gave a financial report indicating that we had \$25,000 in the

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bank! I also heard from the Montgomery County Council that they are going to fund my grant request for an air filtration system for the shelter. We are certainly moving in the right direction! On the shelter front, we are currently in need of people to help with cat care. I hope that you will consider helping with this very important task. If you can help, please give Posey Fox a call at 301-977-6033. We are also going to be having a shelter cleaning day. If you would like to help with this, contact Candice Kramer (kramerlearning@verizon.net) or O'Shea Watson at 301-674-6998.

Thank you for your continued support of the AWLMC.

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Newsletter Editor Change

Roger Gagne

With my election to the Board, it is appropriate that I give up my newsletter position and hence this newsletter will be my last. Change is also good for variety sake to avoid staleness.

Heidi Weber has generously agreed to retake the task of putting out the newsletter. As many of you know, Heidi did the newsletter until a year or so ago when she had to cut back due to a new job situation. Thank you Heidi and welcome back.

I believe that the newsletter has been generally well received. I had the very good fortune of having Jonathan Allen as a partner in this endeavor for most of the last year which made my job relatively easy. Work, going back to school and other reasons unfortunately no longer afforded Jonathan the time to commit to the newsletter.

I also need to thank those of you who also contributed to the newsletter. We could not have done it without you! Laurie Graham for her monthly Message from the President column, Pat Gagne for articles and pictures, Kacey Nolle, Janet Culp for articles and pictures, Amy Jaslow, Caren Stark, Nona and Fred Silver, Heidi Weber, Mary Ellen McGlone for topic ideas, just to mention a few. Needless to say, Heidi will appreciate your continued support.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve AWLMC in this capacity!. ∞ ∞ ∞

Missing Pets – A Guide to Finding Them

Caren Stark

You just discovered your pet is missing. You are likely feeling overwhelmed by panic and fear for your pet's safety and well being. Like many people, you may not know how to go about the search process. Here are some tips to help you increase the chances of finding your beloved furry friend.

Begin searching your area immediately

Your pet will probably remain in the area for several hours, so get out and start to search as soon as you can. You should begin with your home and yard. Make sure during your search to check every single space in the area, no matter how small. If your pet was last seen in the home, thoroughly check inside; under and behind furniture and large appliances, in closets, attics, basements, behind drapes, etc. The world outside your home has many accessible places for your pet to hide. Check under your porch and under vehicles, inside open pipes, in sheds, sewers, wells, trash bins, bushes, and up on rooftops and in trees (if it's a cat). Be sure to bring a flashlight to see inside dark places. Indoor cats tend to be overwhelmed by being outside and will often find a safe spot and hide there in silence. This makes it even more important for you to be completely thorough in your search.

Keep in mind that your pet may leave clues as to its whereabouts. Look carefully for paw prints or fecal matter on the ground or clumps of hair caught on a bush. These signs may point your search in the right direction.

Once you've covered the home territory, it's time to move on to the rest of the neighborhood. Get all the family members involved and have each person call out your pet's name as you walk through the neighborhood. Bring anything that makes a familiar sound for your pet. Dogs and cats have great hearing (frequencies up to 45 kHz and 65 kHz, respectively...compared to humans with a range of up to 20 kHz). You want to get out there and make

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some noise for your pet to hear. If your dog has a favorite squeaky, fleece llama or your cat has a treasured crinkly mouse, bring them along and squeak and crinkle away! Bags with treats or dry food may make a rattling sound that normally has your pet come running. Bring those along and shake while you search. And make sure you stop and listen to hear if your pet responds.

Talk to the neighbors

Someone in the neighborhood, a resident or person working in the area, may have seen your pet or may come in contact with it later. It's important to talk to as many of these people as you can. Stop at each house and talk to the residents. Give them a description of your pet and your phone number. If nobody is home, leave the information on their door. Also speak with the local letter carriers, delivery persons, joggers, people out walking dogs, etc. You increase the odds of finding your pet as you increase the number of people keeping a look out for it.

Set up a familiar scent zone outside the home

If your initial search is not successful, you should leave items with a familiar scent outside your home. You may want to put your pet's bed or favorite toys outside. Also consider leaving something out there with your scent. One of your worn t-shirts or pair of socks would work well.

Your pet may return to the area hungry or thirsty, so provide food and water close to the home. Some people also use strongly scented food to lure their pet. Cats and dogs are attracted to things like tuna, mackerel, cooked liver or chicken. So are wild animals, so be alert when you head out to check the area.

You may want to try a humane trap outside your home. Be aware that once you set it, you need to return on a regularly basis (at least once per hour) to check the trap.

Make poster signs

You want to post signs in your area to alert people to be on the lookout for your pet. The design of the poster is important because most people passing by will only see your sign for a few seconds. You want to emphasize the

important information in large letters so that your message is conveyed immediately.

On a letter sized (8.5" x 11") sign, write **LOST DOG** or **CAT** in large, bold, capital letters at the top. Then find a good clear color photo of your pet and attach that underneath. Write descriptive information about your pet below the photo. This could include breed, color, markings, size, or anything else to help identify your pet. You should leave a couple of details about your pet off the flyer. It will help to confirm your pet's identity when someone calls to report finding your pet later on. Write down the location and date your pet was last seen along with your phone number. Finally, if you want to offer a reward, write **REWARD** in large letters at the bottom. Never include your name or address on the poster and don't write a specific reward amount. Unfortunately, there are people out there who will lie about having your pet to try to con you out of the reward money. That's why it's important to have those couple of details to ask about over the phone.

Either print many color copies of this poster or take it to a local copy shop to have color copies made. Post these all around your neighborhood, on telephone poles at busy intersections in the area, and in local shops. Any posters placed outside should be placed in a protective sheet cover and sealed with tape at the bottom to prevent damage from the elements. You should also hang posters at animal related places - dog parks, pet stores, vet offices, animal shelters, and groomers.

And consider placing an ad in local newspapers or on websites (Petfinder.com, Craigslist.org, local animal group sites).

And you should also leave a message on your answering machine letting callers know they should leave detailed information about the time and location of any sighting along with their contact information.

Check with vets, animal shelters, and animal control

If your pet has been found, he or she may have been

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brought to a local veterinarian or animal shelter. Call all of the vet offices within 20 miles and be sure to check with any animal shelters and government animal control agencies. Some of these shelters will only hold animals a few days before euthanizing them so it is crucial to check back with them every other day. And you should physically go to the shelters rather than calling. Animals that have been living outside for any length of time may become dirty and matted and may not fit the description you give over the phone. Ask vets and shelter staff to refer you to local rescue groups and check with them to see if your pet has turned up in their system.

Sadly, many lost pets become victims of car accidents or wild animals. You will need to check with the Department of Transportation road crews and with local shelters for deceased animals.

Protect your pet now!

The reality is that no matter how careful you are, there is always the risk of your pet escaping. But there are steps you can take now to safeguard your pet later. There is a website from the Missing Pet Partnership with some very good tips on preventative action. Visit them at: http://www.lostapet.org/prevention_tips.htm to find out what you can do to help protect your pet. They include discussions on using collars, tags, and microchips, securing your property, keeping current photos of your pets in your records and at your vet, and training your dogs and cats among other topics.

Never give up

Although the task of finding your missing pet may be a daunting one, never give up on your search. There are many reports of dogs and cats being found months or even years later, sometimes a long way from home. There was the recent story of Mickey, a terrier from Missouri, who was found four years from the time he was reported missing. He showed up 1,100 miles from home at a shelter in Montana. Because he was microchipped, he was successfully returned to his family. ∞∞∞

In Memory Of Blackie



Beloved Pet of Nona and Fred Silver.

Blackie passed away quietly on June 5 of natural causes at age 21 years, 2 months.

Treasurers Report

Amy Jaslow Treasurer

The following financial summary information was given by Amy Jaslow at the election meeting on June 14.

AWLMC Financial Summary as of June 11, 2007

Account Name	Income	Expenses	Net
Main Account	\$25,985.97	\$11,915.52	\$14,070.45
Shelter Maintenance	\$17,339.77	\$6707.70	\$10,632.07
Dino/Special Needs	\$785.00	\$144.15	\$640.85
Totals	\$44,110.74	\$18,767.37	\$25,343.37

June 9, 2007 Yard Sale:

Income collected (6/11/07) = \$1,580.58

Expenses

Food to sell = \$61.58

Income net (6/11/07) = \$1,519

Additional Income Expected = \$108

Additional Expense Expected (newspaper ads) = ~ \$50

Approx. Final Net = \$1,577 ∞∞∞

Yard Sale

Roger Gagne

A very successful (as indicated in the Treasurer’s report) AWLMC yard sale event was held at the home of Linda Buel in Wahington Grove on June 9 from 8:00 am to about 3:00 pm when attendance waned. The amount of items available for sale was truly amazing as evidenced by the following pictures. Thank you so much to all who generously provided items to sell!

Wow - where can we put it all!!!



The turn out was very good especially in the early part of the morning as the Washington Grove “locals” came to shop for bargains.

SHOP! SHOP! SHOP!



AWLMC made almost \$1,600 as a result of the extreme hard work of dedicated volunteers who had to collect

the items, transported the items to Linda’s house, set up the items for sale, prepared food, participated in selling the items, and then cleaned up afterwards. Some of the remaining items were donated to the Life For Animals thrift shop and to Goodwill with some items retained for the next yard sale event later this year at King Farms.

Special thanks in particular to volunteers Linda Buel, Janet Culp, Posey Fox, Dee Martynuska, Nona and Fred Silver, O’Shea Watson, and Judy Winfield for their extremely hard work that made this event such a success. Also special thanks to Linda’s Washington Grove neighbors for all of their efforts. They really pitched in and helped in all phases of the yard sale effort. ∞∞∞

Editors Note: yard sale pictures courtesy of Janet Culp

Election Results

Pat Gagne

An “all hands” meeting was held on June 14 to elect two individuals to the Board of Directors of AWLMC for two year terms. There were four candidates for the two positions. Janet Culp and Roger Gagne were chosen by the volunteers in a close vote.

Laurie Graham also announced that O’Shea Watson had agreed to take over the vacant Vice President Board position for a 3-month trial period. The first “official” picture of the newly reconstituted board is shown below.

The New Board



From left to right; Roger Gagne, Treasurer Amy Jaslow, President Laurie Graham, Vice President O’Shea Watson, and Janet Culp.

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Retiring Board Members Caren Stark and Linda Buel were thanked by AWLMC President Laurie Graham, and applauded by all the volunteers that were present, for their service that contributed so much to our success to date. A thank you cake brought in by Laurie Graham commemorating their service was then consumed by the group. ∞∞∞

Editors Note: Board picture courtesy of Pat Gagne

Shelter Help Needed

Roger Gagne

Shelter Manager Posey Fox sent the following email plea on June 5 to the Volunteers.

Vols, PLEASE, we have NO CAT CREW for Saturday mornings. Everyone has quit for one reason or another. No one is taking take their places.

We can't have a cat shelter with no one taking care of the cats, and right now the shelter is full of kitties who need your help.

Please step up and help out by signing up. I need people:

- ***Saturday morning at 9 a.m., and Saturday night at 6 p.m.***
- ***Wed morning at 10 a.m., and Wednesday night at 6 p.m.***
- ***Thursday night at 6 p.m.***

All in all I need a minimum of 8 people right now...but to make the work go faster, we could easily take on 20!!!!

Since her email, we have had a student volunteer sign up for the Wednesday am shift and an adult volunteer sign up for the Thursday pm shift. We also have a new student volunteer (maybe 2) for the Saturday morning shift but still need adults.

If you can help, please call Posey at (301) 977-6033 or email her at posey_fox@yahoo.com. Posey is now accessible by email. ∞∞∞

AWLMC Shelter Snaps

Pat Gagne

Out at Last !!!



Indie Relaxing!



**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