



Newsletter

Montgomery County's Newest Animal Welfare Group

Volume 2, Issue 4

May 12, 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

Upcoming Adoption Events

Kentlands Petsmart

- Saturdays 1 – 4 pm

Shelter

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

White Flint Petsmart

- Saturday May 12

Upcoming Fund raising events

- None planned in May

Other

- None Planned
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ANY ARTICLE IDEAS? PLEASE E-MAIL ROGER .
GUEST WRITERS ARE MOST WELCOME! THANK
YOU LAURIE G, PAT G AND CAREN S WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER.

ROGER

Message from the President

Laurie Graham

Dear fellow volunteers,



It has really been a busy couple of months for the AWLMC: preparing the shelter, opening the shelter, and then the cat show. We should all take a minute and pat ourselves on the back. We have all done a great job.

Now, we are nearing the point when we will elect two new Board members. I hope that you will all join me in thanking our departing Board members, Linda Buel and Caren Stark, for their work on the Board. We would not have a shelter without them. We all owe them a great deal for their drive and efforts to get the shelter open. They have been instrumental in laying a great foundation for the AWLMC. Being at the start of a new organization, while a lot of work, is also a lot of fun. We spent months looking at properties, getting the permits, preparing the shelter, doing fundraising, etc. I sincerely want to thank both Caren and Linda for stepping up and taking a leadership role in our organization. They have been true assets to the AWLMC.

We will be sending out information soon about the election. I would like to ask all of our volunteers to consider running for the open Board positions. It is a great experience, and you will have the opportunity to help the AWLMC grow. We have such a dedicated volunteer base that there is no doubt that we will grow into something great. It is really a privilege to be part of it. If you share our enthusiasm and mission, then send in your application today!

For those of you who do cat care, you know that our

Continued on page 2

shelter manager is Posey Fox. Posey has lots of experience and knowledge about cats and shelters. This is a very big job and Posey is doing a wonderful job. We still have some plans for the shelter. We should have a new sink installed soon and a keypad on the door. O'Shea is getting all of this done for us. We also have a new volunteer listserv. If you would like to be on this email list, please contact Candice Kramer at kramerlearning@verizon.net. We will use this list to distribute important information about the AWLMC.

One more piece of business as you read this newsletter, one of our newsletter producers, Jonathan Allen, needs to take a break from the newsletter. Thank you Jonathan for volunteering your time and doing such a great job.

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Cats Just Want To Have Fun

Roger Gagne

While surfing the "net", I came across interesting information explaining the benefits of playing with your cats as well as providing tips on things to do.

The question asked was - is your cat bored? Feline boredom is often at the root of a variety of behavior problems including aggression with pets as well as people, compulsive grooming, and depression. We all know feline couch potatoes--sedentary cats who tend to be chubby. A daily dose of aerobic exercise is as important for cats as it is for their owners. A couple 10-15-minute play sessions a day will improve your cat's attitude toward life and will bring him into the land of the fit and trim. And by the way, interacting with your cat in a positive way is healthy and relaxing for you as well. Invest in a couple of well-made fishing pole-type toys and take them out during the scheduled playtimes. (Cats love routine, so try to plan play sessions for the same time every day.) You can sit on the couch while kitty is getting a workout. When kitty is lying on his side and batting at the toy, it's to end the play session and put the toys away. (If these toys are not put behind closed doors, the cat will continue to hunt for them and could get into trouble by chewing the string or feathers.) Have fun. These play sessions are great times for bonding with your pet.



Ideas to make your cat's life (and consequently, your life) more fun are:

- Get a feline companion for your cat--one with a compatible personality.
- Schedule at least one 15-minute interactive play session with your cat and a fishing pole-type toy each day.
- Cats love to hunt for their toys, so consider getting your cat a [Peek-a-Prize Toy Box from SmartCat](#). Be sure to rotate toys frequently so Kitty doesn't get bored.
- Install a window perch with a view of the birdfeeder.
- Provide a goldfish bowl or an aquarium to watch when the birds are not at the feeder.
- Drop a couple of ping pong balls in the bathtub (feline racquetball).
- Slide milk bottle rings or ice cubes across the kitchen floor (feline ice hockey).
- Stuff cotton socks of varying sizes with cotton balls and catnip.
- Set out something new to explore from time to time like a cardboard box or a paper grocery bag (without handles).
- Flash a beam of light on the walls and floor of a dimly-lit room (use a flashlight or a laser pointer).

Continued on page 3

- Provide your feline with some cat furniture-- something great to climb, perch on, and to scratch.
- Get a video made for cats or a wildlife show featuring birds.

Sources:

http://www.catsinternational.org/articles/fun_for_cats/just_wanna_have_fun.html

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Appreciation: Jonathan Allen

Roger Gagne

As mentioned by Laurie Graham in the message from the President, Jonathan Allen will no longer (at least for the foreseeable future) be able to participate in the preparation of the monthly AWLMC newsletter. Work, going back to school and other reasons no longer afford him the time to commit to AWLMC activities.



To say that I will miss him is a great understatement. Jonathan contributed two or three articles each month. The articles were always interesting, informative, well written, and well researched. In my opinion, his articles were the heart and soul of the newsletter. It is very difficult and stressful to come up with new material each month but he did it for almost a year. It was a pleasure working with Jonathan. In addition to being such a good writer, he is also a very nice guy which we all will attest to.

Thank you Jonathan and good luck in all of your future endeavors. ∞ ∞ ∞

**In Memoriam
Adela Bar**

On Friday May 11, 2007, Laurie Graham emailed the following message concerning the passing of longtime MCSPCA and AWLMC volunteer Adela Bar.

“I have to share some sad news with you today. One of our volunteers, Adela Bar, passed away this morning. Adela had been battling cancer for some time. I am not sure if many of you had the opportunity to meet Adela, but she was a great friend. Adela was on the cat crew that I worked, oh so many years ago, at the MCSPCA shelter. Adela was always full of life and had one of the most memorable laughs that you will ever hear. She was also one of the most animated talkers. She always brought a spark of life into the room. Adela was a true animal lover and was always able to get, even the most stubborn cat, back into his/her cage. She had a big heart. I am going to miss her, but I am glad that she is now out of pain. I want to express my sympathy to all of Adela's friends. I know that Posey, Dee, and Sher have been helping Adela. I think that it is a fitting tribute to Adela that she had such wonderful friends, and was surrounded by people she loved. Her generous heart and giving spirit are something that I will strive to carry on in my life.” ∞ ∞ ∞

Editor Note: Our deepest condolences to Adela's family and friends.

A Cat Tale

Pat Gagne

9:30 on a Sunday evening and the phone rang with an all-too-familiar request for many of us. “Mom, we found this cat...”

The tri-colored male had been on his own since his owner moved away this past fall. But Quincy (formerly

Continued on page 4

named Crash) was left to roam the condominium complex where he'd lived with most people believing he had a home because his owner didn't bother to remove his collar or his tags. Over time, the filthy collar rubbed his neck raw of hair and grew loose as he dropped weight.

Only one young man knew that Quincy was homeless. His owner had said she was moving and her cat liked it there so she was just going to leave him behind. The young man fed him when he could and Quincy survived. Sweet and talkative, he approached everyone asking after his human. He took up residence underneath the outdoor pool equipment where he became a fixture. Noticing how thin and dirty he'd become, someone checked his tags and called the number listed.



QUINCY (formerly Crash)

"Yes, he's my daughter's cat. She moved to Virginia and she's been looking for him. I'll have her call you back."

No one ever called back. We were told a resident called the Humane Society. They didn't come either. Quincy continued to live on the kindness of others until he approached my son and his girlfriend. They called the number on the tags and got the same story, but this time when no one called back, they called me.

With few fosters available, fellow AWLMC Volunteer

Laura Woolf and I intended to take him to the Humane Society but the gaunt, dirty cat we discovered melted our hearts. We agreed his gentle nature made him a wonderfully adoptable pet. He's a big boy with a heart to match.

The vet discovered a loose tooth and an infected gum. The tooth was broken in three places and had come loose. It appears to be an injury - maybe a kick to the face. The tooth has been removed and Quincy is recovering fine. Laurie Graham agreed to keep him until he can go to the shelter to find a loving new home. In fact, he was shown at the Petsmart adoption event at Kentlands on May 12.



QUINCY – a Real Lap Cat

If you have a lap, Quincy will melt your heart. ∞∞∞

Cat Owners Rank Diet As Top Health Factor

Roger Gagne

Linda Buel provided me with the results of a survey reported in Pet Product News Industry Update in March of 2001. Although dated it probably still is representative of current thinking although the recent

Continued on page 5

pet food scare might skew some of the results on the use of dry versus semi dry versus canned food.

Sixty-four percent of American cat owners ranked diet as more important in maintaining feline health than visits to the veterinarian or human attention, according to a survey of 750 U.S. cat owners commissioned by Friskies PetCare Co. and the Cat Fanciers' Association.

The study found that 21 percent of cat owners said regular veterinarian visits was the most important factor in cat health while 32 percent ranked the quality of the human/cat relationship as most important.

Results of the telephone survey, conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide Inc. in August 2000, indicate that 52 per-cent of cat owners are concerned about their cat getting proper nutrition in its daily diet.

The survey also found that 32 percent of cat owners consider the cat a member of the family and 22 percent said their cat is "a good companion they can count on." On the other hand 20 percent of owners felt their cat was "just a pet."

Other findings of the survey indicate:

- 35 percent of cat owners said that cats are easier to care for than other types of pets.
- 29 percent of cat owners said cats are more independent than other pets.
- Dry cat food is the most popular meal for cats; 88 per-cent of those surveyed said they had fed their cat dry food in the last week.
- Canned food was the second most popular meal for cats; 40 percent of respondents said they had fed their cat canned food in the last week.
- Only six percent of cat owners reported feeding their cats semi--dry food.
- One-third of cat owners said tuna or fish was their cat's favorite flavor of cat food.
- 15 percent reported feeding their cats a supplement with meals.

- Only one percent of the people polled had shown their cats at a cat show.
- Nine percent of the respondents reported owning a pedigreed cat.
- One out of five cat owners has tried to train their cat to do more than use the litter box.
- One out of 10 cat owners has gone to a cat show.
- One out of 10 cat owners who don't currently own a pedigreed cat would like to get one. ∞∞∞

Election Delayed

Caren Stark, Secretary/Laurie Graham, President

The Board of Directors has decided to postpone the planned upcoming election for a few weeks. The election had been scheduled at an "all hands" meeting to be held on May 15. It has become evident that people require more time to complete their applications, and we want to make sure that everybody interested in running for election has the opportunity to do so. We will soon send an email to the volunteers announcing the application deadline date and the new election "all hands" meeting date. The May 15 "all hands" meeting is, of course, cancelled.

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone who is interested in taking on a leadership role in the agency to please fill out the Board application form and return it as soon as you can. Our organization is growing and we would like your unique talents and perspectives to help develop the AWLMC.

Please return the completed application to:

AWLMC

P.O. Box 7041

Gaithersburg, MD 20898

You can also return the application via email.

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Volunteer Status Update

Roger Gagne

This has been a very busy month for me processing volunteer applications, responding to emails directed to volunteer@awlmc.org and responding to the volunteer telephone line. As of May 12, we have a net of 111 volunteers in the data base taking into account new volunteers as well as deleting a small number of former volunteers, almost all of whom felt that they could no longer participate due to time limitations.

We have recently received an almost overwhelming number (on the order of 100 or more) of requests from young students (or their parents for them) wanting to volunteer for student service learning (SSL) hours. The Montgomery County Public School System recently included AWLMC in a listing identifying potential sources of such hours. Almost all of the students indicated they would be available on weekends and many of those specifically wanted to help out at the Kentlands Petsmart. We have finally decided to (temporarily) stop accepting student volunteers (except for special cases) pending review of what our policy should be regarding SSL hours and how we can effectively and productively use the young people. We are advising the students (or their parents) to try us again in a couple of months. ∞∞∞

AWLMC Shelter Snaps

Pat Gagne



Dukey near Donation Box



Caruso at Door

**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



Checking Out Laundry