



AWLMC Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 8

October 18, 2007

Oct./Nov. Adoption Events Calendar

Sat. October 20:
Shelter
Kentlands

Wed. October 24:
Shelter

Sat. October 27:
Shelter
Kentlands

Wed. October 31:
Shelter

Sat. November 3:
Shelter
Kentlands

Wed. November 7:
Shelter

Sat. November 10:
Shelter
Kentlands
White Flint

Wed. November 14:
Shelter

Sat. November 17:
Shelter
Kentlands

Wed. November 21:
Shelter

bark!: TBD

Message from the Board

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, one and all, for your generosity, encouragement, and support of the AWLMC.

The AWLMC is only two years old, but in that short time we have:

- opened the county's only no-kill cat shelter in Gaithersburg;
- saved over 340 cats and kittens and found permanent loving homes for over 300 cats and kittens;
- helped lower the euthanasia rate of adoptable cats and kittens by taking in felines from the county shelter who were at risk for being euthanized;
- established partnerships with local veterinarians in an effort to have every cat and kitten spayed and neutered prior to adoption; and
- established a network of foster homes to help care for our cats and kittens.

As we enter our third year as an all-volunteer organization, we are over 140-strong and counting. In addition to adult volunteers, we also get valuable assistance from students all over Montgomery County, who can earn Student Service Learning hours for the time they spend with the AWLMC. We also have families who volunteer their time together, as a foster home, at the shelter, or at an AWLMC event. It is heartening to all of us to be able to transfer this love of animals and commitment to animal welfare to the next generation.

We cannot emphasize enough that all donation and fundraising monies are spent caring, feeding, sheltering, and providing health care to the animals that come to us. Whether you support the AWLMC by PayPal, provide the essentials for foster cats and kittens, or "Feed the Kitty" at a community event, all donations enable the AWLMC to continue to give additional cats a chance for a healthy and happy life.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the AWLMC

Some words from Laurie Graham, AWLMC President

In mid-September 2007, the Board of Directors of the AWLMC announced that there would be plaques installed at the shelter designed as a tribute to the deceased pets of AWLMC volunteers. This is intended as a way for our AWLMC family to memorialize their pets and, hopefully, to get through a difficult period.

The plaques at the shelter will have the names of AWLMC volunteers' deceased cats and dogs engraved on them. This is NOT a fundraiser in any way. The AWLMC will be providing the plaque and the engravings. If you have a cat or dog that has passed away and would like to have his or her name on an AWLMC plaque, please contact Nona or Fred Silver. You will just need to provide them with the name of the cat or dog and, if you like, the birth and/or death dates. You can reach Fred and Nona at hfs@nfix.net, 301-774-4111 (Fred), or (301) 237-6339 (Nona).

In October 2007, an AWLMC kitten, Wasabi, was admitted to the VCA emergency clinic in Gaithersburg. The diagnosis from the VCA was unclear, but it seemed that there was a problem with one of her kidneys. The VCA was able to get Wasabi stabilized, and, thankfully, Kingsbrook Animal Hospital and Dr. Brent Cook donated the surgery to help her.

Wasabi had a large bulge in her intestine that seemed to have some perforations. She also had a buildup of scar tissue around the kidney leading to a urethral ligation. The veterinarian removed part of the intestine and the kidney. The prognosis is very good. Wasabi is now home with her foster and doing great. Right now, we could use some help with the bill from the VCA, which is \$2200.

Our commitment to being a no-kill organization means that we are going to be faced with situations where an animal has a treatable, but expensive, medical condition. The veterinarians in our community have really come through for us, and now we would like to ask our AWLMC friends and family to help. Any amount that you can donate is greatly appreciated. Donations can be mailed to our address (PO Box 7041, Gaithersburg, MD 20898), dropped off at any of our adoption or fundraising events, or done online via PayPal at www.awlmc.org.

New adoption event site: Sunday, 12-3 p.m.

Thanks to **Lee Briggs** for contacting the people at **bark!** to try an adoption event. This pet food store just opened next to Roots market in Olney. We already have two individuals interested in volunteering, so let's cross our fingers that this site will generate some interested adopters!

Volunteer Status Update

AWLMC volunteer participation has increased dramatically, almost doubling since this time last year. We currently have 148 active volunteers who have signed up, including 31 students. The volunteers are involved in a myriad of activities including shelter cat care, adoption events, vet transport, fosters, fundraising planning and events, publicity, grant writing, clerical tasks, and web design/updates, just to name a few. I tell each new prospective volunteer what a wonderful group of volunteers we have at AWLMC, and I mean it sincerely. We also have had great interest shown by students wanting Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. Unfortunately, we have had to turn away many interested young people simply because we had no open slots compatible with their interests and availability. We generally encourage them to try us again in a couple of months to see if the situation has changed.

Shelter cat care and related activities require the greatest number of volunteers. Candice Kramer, AWLMC Cat Crew Manager, advises that we currently have 46 active cat crew members: 42 adults and four students. Of the total, four are on the subs list only, but are active in the foster program. While there are solid crews that do not change, there is always a need for additional people at all times, especially as holidays approach. Cat crew needs are quite fluid. The shifts that are in need of additional people at the moment are **Wednesday** and **Thursday evenings**. 'Holes' in Thursday and Friday mornings were recently filled by new volunteers.

Candice advises that **there will be a need for trained helpers during the holidays**. Please contact her at candice.kramer@verizon.net if you are interested in being a "Holiday Helper" for the cat crew, or just to be on the subs list. Training sessions are held weekly by arrangement.

Thank You, Volunteers!!!!!!

Roger Gagne

National Capital Area Spay & Neuter Center

On Thursday, October 4, the Washington Humane Society, along with founding partner Alley Cat Allies, unveiled the first-ever low-cost regional Spay/Neuter Center, created specifically to serve the entire DC metropolitan area. The new facility will be known as the **National Capital Area Spay & Neuter Center** and is located on Capital Hill, 1001 L Street, SE.

It was also announced that there are plans to open a Washington Humane Society Training Center in the space on Georgia Avenue that housed the original low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic. This new training facility will offer an array of dog and cat training classes to the public.

The new **National Capital Area Spay & Neuter Center**, nearly four times the size of the original low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, will address the desperate need for low-cost spay/neuter of domestic animals in our region with a goal of providing sterilization surgery for up to 75 animals every day, five days a week. The volume of animals will come from the Washington Humane Society Animal Shelter, the DC Animal Shelter (operated by the Washington Humane Society), and many other partnering shelters, rescue groups, and animal control agencies from around the region.

New AWLMC Brochures!

We now have a series of new brochures (to be kept in the shelter), one each for:

- **About the AWLMC**
- **Shelter Information**
- **Intake Program**
- **2008 American Feline Idol Cat Show**
- **Adoption Program**
- **Foster Program**
- **Spay/Neuter Program**



These brochures are to be used individually when someone wants more information on a particular AWLMC program or in a package that describes all the AWLMC activities. We have a tri-fold brochure that provides an overview of AWLMC, who we are and what we do - to hand out for general information to those who just want to know a bit more about us.

Shelter Requests

- ◆ More volunteers, especially for the holiday season coming up. We'll need subs.
 - ◆ Smaller desk/computer table (up to 36" wide)
- ◆ Towels: we need your old towels. Also, one of our volunteers directs a Girl Scout troop and may conduct a towel drive soon.

Coming in November's newsletter:

- * Cat of the Month
- * New Volunteers of the Month profiles
- * Guest submissions



Our Fall Festivals: Fundraising Recap

October 6 was the Germantown Oktoberfest, and it was a great day - the weather was beautiful. Our volunteers started arriving at 9:00 a.m. and were Marsha Barbour, Janne Cummings, and Posey Fox. At noon there was Diane Stasiewicz and Judy Winfield. The 3:00 p.m. shift was Debbie Kramer and Irene Brody, and closing was Laurie Graham, Posey, and Irene.

On **Sunday October 14**, we had two festivals: At the Kentlands there was Posey Fox, Linda Antil, Heidi Weber, and Sonia Ledesma.

At King Farm the crew consisted of Janet Culp, Mary Culp, Caren Stark, Rick Bonocora, and Tahir Malik.

And **every Wednesday** from June to October, Posey Fox and Peg Weber set up two tables at the Rockville Farmers Market.

All of the volunteers do such a great job getting our message out to the community. We are such a great organization – the cat care crews, all the fosters, the folks who go to events, and our Board of Directors. Our success comes from all you do each day.

Our next event is the **Capital Cat Fanciers Show at the fairgrounds on November 10 and 11**. So far we have: Saturday - Sonia Ledesmas, Mary Ellen McGlone (who may be showing a cat), Ginny Ziders, Kathy Reiner, Tina Khoie, and Francine Pivenski. On Sunday there will be Laura Wolfe, Marsha Barbour, and Janne Cummings.

Coming up

December: gift wrapping for donations at the Barnes & Noble Rio complex.

January or February: spaghetti dinner at Washington Grove.

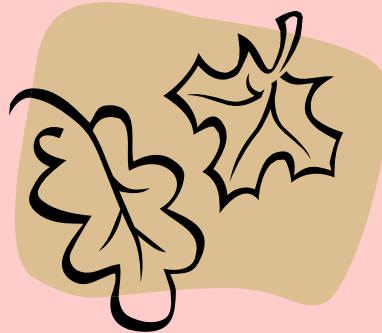
February: a big celebration for our shelter's First Anniversary. We will definitely plan an event for that occasion - something to be proud of!

April: American Feline Idol Cat Show.

Again, I can't thank all of you enough for all you do. If we haven't called you and you want to volunteer, please give me a call (Nona Silver, 301-237-6339) and we will put your name on the next event.

Thank you,

Nona Silver



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



Thank you also to...

The Pet Pantry for donating shelter supplies.

<http://www.thepetpantrystore.com>

They deliver to your home! :)

