

71 Oglethorpe St., NW
Washington, DC 20011
202.726.2556

Where To Now?

Successes of the Past Few Years Propel the League Toward New Challenges

The best thing about success," reflects Gary Weitzman, the League's executive director, "is that it pushes us to consider what else we can do for animals. The need is there, and we can meet any need if we remain dedicated and have a clear vision of how to help."

With that in mind, he and the League's leadership are looking ahead, setting new goals to build on the successes that came with the renovation and related program expansions. Major goals have been identified and include enhancing and supporting adoptions, increasing the League's partnerships locally and beyond, making the Medical Center a regional shelter referral center, and building a world-class humane education program.

A Proven Record of Achievement

The renovation of the shelter and medical center, completed in 2006, not only made the



League one of the most effective and humane animal rehabilitation centers in the world, but it more than doubled the number of animals helped—both in terms of adoptions and patients in the medical center. At the same time, it increased the number of people exposed to animal rescue through contact with the League by 50%. All of this raises the timely question of how the League can

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A Boxer Gets a Fighting Chance

What options are there for a devoted, low-income dog guardian whose beloved pet suddenly develops a life-threatening illness? Modern veterinary medicine offers a full range of life-saving emergency services, but for many the cost is prohibitive. That is where, as the only full-service veterinary hospital in the area offering financial assistance to guardians with limited incomes, the League's Medical Center can help.

In January of this year, Capone, a four-year-old male boxer, became lethargic and began vomiting. His guardian, George, took him to a 24-hour emergency clinic. They suspected that Capone had leptospirosis, but because the treatment was far beyond George's means, they referred him to the League's Medical Center. By the time Capone reached the

Medical Center, he was dehydrated, was jaundiced and so weak that he could barely stand up. Blood work confirmed that Capone had leptospirosis, a life-threatening bacterial infection that may also affect humans.

Capone was hospitalized at the League and given antibiotics to fight the bacterial infection as well as medications to remedy his vomiting and intravenous fluids to counter dehydration. As Medical Director Dr. Jan Rosen noted, "Capone had a guarded prognosis—his kidneys and his liver were infected with the disease. But George was very bonded to his dog and refused to give up on him."

George truly was devoted to Capone. He and his family came to visit the dog daily, bringing different foods in the hopes of

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For more information
on adoption, education,
medical services, or
other programs we offer,
please call us at
202.726.2556
or visit us at
www.warl.org

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Closed Monday

Tuesday – Friday:
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Saturday & Sunday:
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

In my last letter to you, the one in which I addressed you as interim executive director, I spoke of my deep admiration for The Washington Animal Rescue League. I believe it to be a place like no other, certainly in the country and probably in the world. Nowhere is

more done for more animals in need. And nowhere is the staff more empathetic or more dedicated to the animals who look to us for their last chance for hope and survival.

But that, as I see it, is just the beginning. The League is poised to become a national leader in animal sheltering. We are leading by example, transforming the entire notion of what an animal shelter should be. With our visionary and supportive environment of glass, light, fresh air, and water, the League's facility has already become a teaching model for other communities who are renovating or building animal shelters.

We are leading the national transition from the animal shelter of the past, a concrete and steel-bar holding facility, to today's comprehensive animal rehabilitation center, where physical, emotional, and social scars are healed in preparation for new lives as cherished family members.

Simultaneously, we are reaching out to our community as never before. We are forging new working partnerships with local groups to treat their infirm animals at our Medical Center, house those they have no room for in our innovative shelter, and find permanent homes for even the most difficult to place.

Our new humane education program, led by a nationally known specialist, concentrates on reaching children in areas where animal abuse and neglect is still rampant. Its success in changing attitudes has been noted by teachers and families, and even, at the other end of town, by the White House.

A lot of very good work is going on at the League these days, as it always has. Our doors are always open to anyone who wants to get involved in animal rescue at any level. The number of active, regular volunteers now stands at 400. The list of financial supporters is growing as well, and it includes many who do not live in this area but have heard of our unique approach to animal protection.

I am convinced that there are many more people like these who have yet to hear of the League. So I invite you, not only to support the League's work with your time and donations, but to help spread the word that the face of animal welfare is changing at the League.

Homeless, abused, and neglected animals need all the friends they can find. They cannot save themselves.

On their behalf, I want to thank you for being one of their generous and loyal friends. Better yet, I'd like to invite you to the League, where they can thank you themselves. I can guarantee that you'll be given a hero's welcome by the animals here. And you will immediately see in their eyes what a difference you are making.

Please don't forget to bring a friend.

For the animals,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Weitzman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary Weitzman, DVM, MPH
Executive Director

Dear Friends of The Washington Animal Rescue League,

The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that it has selected Dr. Gary Weitzman to be the League's new executive director. Dr. Weitzman, a licensed veterinarian, has been the League's medical director for the past four year. He also served as the interim executive director since the prior executive director, Scotlund Haisley, left to head up disaster services for the Humane Society of the United States.

Dr. Weitzman has extensive experience in private veterinary practice in California, Colorado and Massachusetts; he directed public health and medical funding programs for the U.S. government; and did extensive work in international public health and tropical medicine. He currently serves as chair of the D.C. Board of Veterinary Medicine and is a peer reviewer for animal welfare and veterinary medical journals.

In addition to his extensive background in animal health, Dr. Weitzman possesses an intimate familiarity with the League, a commitment to provide the best possible care to the animals in the shelter and medical center, and a dedication to continuing and expanding the League's mission. The Board enthusiastically welcomes Dr. Weitzman to his new position and looks forward to continuing its productive working relationship with him.

David S. J. Brown
Board Chairman
The Washington Animal Rescue League

Mutts Strut

On Sunday, June 1st, Mutts Strut proved to be a popular community event for the fourth year in a row. Hosted by American University, Mutts Strut had approximately 600 people participate in either the 5K Fun Run or 2-mile walk, and 200 dogs strutted their stuff along with their guardians. The event raised over \$50,000 for the League.

Caroline Lyders of ABC 7 News was our emcee this year, and League executive director Dr. Gary Weitzman presented the first annual Rescuer Award to Washington Post reporter Mike Wise for his heroic and inspirational rescue of his mixed Labrador, Looly, from the C&O Canal.

Judi Zeigler won the prize for top individual fundraiser: two roundtrip tickets on Southwest airlines and a stay at Choice Hotels International at a destination of her choice. The top fundraising team, Forget Me Not, won a catered party courtesy of Domino's Pizza and Flying Dog Ale.

Mutts Strut 2008 was presented by Choice Hotels Internationals. Other sponsors included DogCentric Dog Walking Services, Hills Science Diet, Thunder Creek, and MUTTS Comics.

Thanks to all the staff and volunteers for making this year's Mutts Strut better than ever!



Where to Now? cont. from page 1

capitalize on this success to benefit even more animals.

The Pathway Home

The League is committed to continuing the rise in adoptions that followed the renovation. To that end, it has incorporated Meet Your Match™, a revolutionary and user-friendly adoption process in which both the animal and the adopter are evaluated for compatibility and ease of transition. In addition, the League is looking to expand its intake housing with the goal of consistently having a steady population of 350 animals in transition.

They Need All the Friends They Can Find

Given convenient and enticing entrees, the League is confident it can attract many new friends for the animals. Some of the public relations avenues being pursued are more and higher quality public events; a redesigned and more comprehensive Web site; an increased presence on the Internet; and greater collaboration with other local and national animal protection groups.

9-1-1 for Animals

Since no other animal shelter in the region has an on-site veterinary hospital, many of them transfer sick and injured animals to the League. On top of that, the League's clinic is the only one in the region that routinely treats patients whose guardians cannot pay for their treatments. Add these two together, and it becomes clear that the Medical Center is meeting an immense need. To do so, the Medical Center is expanding hours, boosting

its efficiency, and increasing emergency coverage.

The Next Generation

Although attitudes towards companion animals are changing for the better, much remains to be done in terms of increasing empathy and compassion. The League is actively working to ensure that the next generation grows up embracing a kinder, more respectful view of animals. Its new manager of humane education, an established leader in the field, is collaborating with the Washington Humane Society to provide the Washington area with one of the most insightful, comprehensive, and effective humane education programs in the nation.

A Community of Caring

"We have ambitious goals that will make the League a national leader in animal sheltering and protection," Weitzman notes frankly. "If I didn't know our community as well as I do, I might think that we are being too optimistic and setting our sights too high. But over and over again I have seen the community come together to support animals. If you look how far we've come and realize that all our achievements have always been 100% dependent on community support, you'll see the reason for our optimism."



Boxer Gets a Second Chance cont. from page 1

enticing Capone to eat. George sat in the cage with his dog for hours, shedding tears and petting him gently.

Dr. Rosen's first concern was for Capone's quality of life. When he did not improve after several days of treatment, she and the staff wondered whether it was fair to have him continue to suffer. "I suggested that we consider euthanasia, and George said he couldn't do it yet." They agreed to wait one more day.

The next morning, Capone was able to stand up on his own and looked much better. "George said he would be better, and the next day, he was!" Dr. Rosen recalled.

Capone was at the Medical Center for a total of nine days. The cost for hospitalization and medication at a private animal hospital would amount to thousands of

dollars, but the League gave George a steep discount so that his bill was only a fraction of this, and George's employer generously donated toward Capone's care.

George and his family were thrilled to bring Capone home in early February. Because his dog was still recovering from the disease, George had to continue the antibiotics and the family had to take precautions to protect them-selves. At his most recent recheck, Dr. Rosen reported that he looked good and was continuing to thrive.

"That is what our center is all about," Dr. Rosen reflected. "Every day we save the lives of those who have absolutely nowhere else to turn."

Tails of Hope!

Katina Receives—and Gives—Much Needed Help

One cold February morning, an animal caretaker reporting for the early shift found her shivering and tied by her leash to the front door. The dog had almost no hair anywhere on her body and she smelled horribly. A note was taped to her back, the tape wound round and round her body. It read, “I’m Diamond, a year-old pit

bull. My family is moving and can’t take me.”

The dog was immediately admitted to the Medical Center, where it was determined that she suffered from mange over her whole body, yeast

infections in both ears, and irritated eyes.

The clinic changed her name to Katina and set to work on the hapless dog.

Katina’s road to recovery was a long one: for three months she had daily doses of ivermectin for the mange. She also got antibiotics and ear medicine. But while she was recovering, Katina made herself very useful.

Katina had a gift for working with shy dogs in the shelter. One of them, Jag, was too scared to leave his den, and once he was out, he was too scared to go back in. Anyone who tried to walk Jag had a real ordeal on their hands. That is, until Katina got involved.

Katina would take Jag’s leash in her mouth and gently lead her to the exercise yard, where they would play. Once they were both tired, Katina would take Jag’s leash and lead her back to her run. As long as Katina had the leash, Jag had no fear of going where he needed to.

Over and over Katina was called upon to coax the shy dogs out of their shells and wear out the hyperactive dogs in the yard. This went on until an injured knee forced Katina into temporary retirement.

Toward the end of her recovery, Katina was adopted by Maureen Henry, the Manager of Shelter Medicine. Despite her rough beginning, Maureen calls Katina “the happiest dog in the whole world.” Together they have completed basic obedience classes and plan on

continuing their training until Katina, who very much enjoys the work, gets her Canine Good Citizen certificate. Then Maureen would like to sign her up as a therapy dog to work with children—and maybe the occasional traumatized dog.

Chauncey, Thrown from Fourth Floor Roof, Lands on His Feet

Officers from the local humane society were on the scene within minutes of getting a report that a cat had been thrown from a roof in Southwest Washington. Their first order of business was to find the cat. With the help of some neighborhood children, that did not take very long. The officers did a quick, initial evaluation and determined that the cat had escaped any major injuries.

Next the officers attempted to find out just what had happened, but no one in the apartment building could—or would—tell them anything. The officers did manage to locate the cat’s guardian, but she too claimed not to know anything about the incident. What’s more, she told them she did not even want to keep the cat.

Stopping at a veterinarian’s on the way back to their shelter, the officers learned that the cat had suffered only a broken tooth and scrapes on his chin as a result of the fall.

After a brief stay at the humane society, Chauncey was transferred to The Washington Animal Rescue League for rest, recuperation, and adoption. He received a thorough examination and a clean bill of health from our veterinarians, and his Feline-ality profile categorized him as a “Personal Assistant,” a cat who just loves to be with his special person.

As of this writing, Chauncey is awaiting adoption and still does not have that special person to be with. But for such an affectionate cat who has been through so much, the wait shouldn’t be too long. He tells us, however, that he’d prefer to move into a single-story house or a ground-floor apartment.



The WARL Street Journal

Veterinary Extern Housing Sought

As one of the country's very first on-site shelter veterinary facilities, the League's Medical Center has become a premier teaching hospital for senior veterinary students. Without exception these students are highly motivated, come with impressive skills, contribute significantly to the center's work, and leave with renewed dedication to helping homeless animals. The League could host many more students and expand this mutually beneficial program if it could provide housing for them. If you or someone you know could donate housing for a period of about 3 weeks, please contact Dr. Janet Rosen at the Medical Center (email: jrosen@warl.org, phone: 202-726-2273). The students usually stay for 2 to 3 weeks, working Monday through Friday from 9-5.

League Humane Education Program Visits the White House

When First Lady Laura Bush decided to invite Uno, the beagle who won Best in Show at the 2008 Westminster Dog Show, to the White House, she wanted to share the star's appearance with an



audience of children. Who better to appreciate a dog than children? But for some children a positive rapport with a dog is anything but natural. The League's new Manager of

Humane Education, Debbie Duel, has been working with children in the District's Ross Elementary School doing just that. Her class was invited to the White House and one of her students, Kytel Catubig read an essay he wrote for the occasion. "A funny thing has happened to us," he said of his experience with Debbie's program, "no one is afraid of dogs anymore. As a matter of fact, many of us love dogs now."

Debbie's other humane education plans are to expand the League's summer Animal Rescue Camp to include children from Martha's Table and the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation summer program. She is also reaching out to three D.C. public schools with low-income students to develop regular programs there beginning this fall. Anyone who wishes to support her work can see the wish list of items she needs on the League's Web site.

Thrift Shop Benefits League Animals

Proceeds from the sale of high-end, secondhand items at the Washington Animal Rescue League Thrift Shop (15938 Luanne Drive in Gaithersburg, Maryland, 301-963-1444) benefit the League and its animals. The shop sells and accepts tax-deductible donations of gently used clothes, jewelry, collectibles, electronics, and other items.

Two Programs for Special Needs Animals

Some shelter animals find their new homes quickly. Others, notably older animals or those with ongoing medical concerns, need extra help. At the League, the Silver Whiskers Club for Cats and the Hope Fund for Dogs provide this help through incentives to adopters: waiving of adoptions fees; lifetime, free medical care through the medical center; and in the case of cats, a gift of all necessary equipment at the time of adoption. More details are on the League's Web site under special needs animals. Contributions can be earmarked specifically for either of these two life-saving funds.

Trap-Neuter-Release Days at the League

With as many as 50,000 feral cats in the District of Columbia, their welfare presents what is arguably the single largest challenge in local animal protection. Currently, it is being addressed by a dedicated, informally organized group of volunteers who trap the cats humanely, have them



spayed and neutered, and then return them to their colonies where they are fed and monitored. The League supports these hard-working volunteers by spaying and neutering the cats free of charge once a month. For that day, the medical center transforms itself into a high-volume spay-neuter clinic capable of treating up to 50 cats. The cats also receive prophylactic vaccinations and treatment for a host of existing and potential parasites.

Making Your Gift Go Further

Did you know nearly 14,000 companies match gifts made to charitable organizations? Yours may be one of them. You can double or even triple the amount of your gift to the League if you are employed by a company that matches donations to animal welfare organizations.

Every year the League receives gifts from companies such as AT&T, Dell, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, GMAC Financial Services, Hewlett Packard, Sallie Mae, Verizon, and the *Washington Post*.

It's quick and easy to support the League at work. Simply pick up a matching gift form from your human resources department, complete your portion of the form, and send it to the League—we'll handle the rest.

For a complete list of companies and subsidiaries that match donations to animal welfare organizations, please contact the Development Office at 202-726-2556, ext. 217. You can also check with your human resources or community relations department if you are unsure if your company matches charitable contributions.

in the "Ruff" Golf Classic

On May 19, more than 100 golfers teed up for the 2008 In the "Ruff" Golf Classic held at Manor Country Club in Rockville, MD. The League and two other rescue organizations benefitted from this year's wonderful event.

The day was filled with perfect weather, competitive foursomes, dinner and a silent auction. Even a few League dogs and volunteers made an appearance at the tournament.

Special thanks to Mary and Jovie McAndrew for organizing this wonderful event and designating the League as a beneficiary. And thank you to all of our generous auction donors.

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Your continued support is appreciated!



This reflects our current record of donations made since our last issue of *Animal Report*. Capital campaign gifts will be reported in a future issue. We apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please bring corrections to our attention by calling 202-726-2556, ext. 217.



How You Can Help the Animals

Your Support is Always Appreciated

Here's how you can help:

ON-LINE at www.warl.org to make a secure credit card donation or to see our current wish list of items we need.

PHONE 202-723-0038 to make a ViSA, MasterCard or American Express donation.

MAIL your gift to The Washington Animal Rescue League, 71 Oglethorpe Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011

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The Washington
**ANIMAL
RESCUE
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Why I Volunteer

By Joyce A. Davis



For years now, Joyce Davis has been an exceptional volunteer and advocate for the League's animals. Her many contributions include photographic portraits of dog and cats for the Web site. Joyce's

captivating photos make the animals shine!

Joyce is also available to do in-home portraits of your animal companions, and she donates a portion of her fees to the League. She can be reached by emailing joyceadavis@gmail.com.

As a native Washingtonian and someone who has had a lifelong interest in animals large and small, wild and domesticated, I have always been aware of the Washington Animal Rescue League. I've had animal companions all my adult life, and over the years, I went to the League with friends who were interested in adopting.

One crisp autumn day, I stopped by the shelter when I heard it was having a groundbreaking for shelter renovations. I was very impressed with what I saw and thought that it would be a great place to spend time with dogs if and when my senior dog, Apri, died. Although

Apri lived until March of 2007, I had signed up to volunteer a few days after the groundbreaking.

On Tuesday, November 4, 2004, I started walking dogs. From there, I progressed to adoptions counselor, home visitor and puppy room socializer. I enjoyed the puppy kisses, cats purring, and seeing the animals change from sick and frightened to healthy, happy, loving and trusting. I made many friends among the staff, volunteers, adopters, and other visitors to the shelter.

When I bought my first digital camera and found I had a natural talent for photography, I was happy to combine two of my favorite passions. In February 2006, I began photographing and capturing the unique qualities of each dog or cat in very appealing portraits for the Web site and other League publications.

That is how I met my current canine companion, Jazz. While photographing him for the Web site, I fell in love with this spirited little dog. His picture never did make it to the Web site because I immediately knew that he had a home – with me.

I continue this work on a weekly basis, spending about six hours at the shelter on Sundays and another six at home reviewing and editing the photos. Photographing animals is hard work —some animals are more challenging than others —but it is the best job I'll never be paid to do!