

The Good News Network

St. Mary's Animal Welfare League

Fall 2008

Adoption and Rescue Center News

We are excited to announce the launching of "ARC News," a new page on the SMAWL website (www.smawl.org). This page will be dedicated to SMAWL's Adoption and Rescue Center, or "ARC," located on our six acres of property in northern St. Mary's County. Here, we house adult cats waiting for foster homes and furever homes.

Currently, there are twenty-five cats at the Adoption and Rescue Center. The cats live in open social groups at the facility, and each cat is free to pick her or his own friends. Dedicated volunteers visit the cats at least once a day. They provide food, water, poop scooping, grooming, and love.

Some of our ARC cats need intensive human socialization to learn to trust humans again, and the volunteers provide this also. In fact, miracles have been known to happen at the ARC.

An excerpt from Jen Hunt, our ARC News Reporter:

"Wow! What a week we had at the ARC. First, **Jordan** (right) has been placed in a great foster home where she is enjoying her new pet friends, which include dogs.

"**Basil and Thyme** went to their furever homes today. We will all miss that wacky double team of back jumpers. They will live together as they should.

"**Mr. Sparkles** is back at the ARC with a cold in one of the black quarantine cages. He is in there in hopes that he won't spread the cold around the ARC.

"All the cats are doing great! Feral **Smokey** is starting to let me rub her belly now. **Ben** is very happy again roaming the floors making sure his friends are being good to each other. The cats are so lucky to have such a great group of helpers!"



Message from the President

Barb Whipkey

Dear Members and Friends,

Our current membership list has grown to over 1,300 member businesses and households! That's good news for the local animals—but bad news for the trees. In an effort to leave less of a paw print on our environment, SMAWL is offering our members the option of going green.

If you would like to sign up to receive your newsletter through email, please do the following:

1. Send an email to smawl@yahoo.com.
2. In the subject line please put: NEWSLETTER.
3. In the body of the email, include the mailing address from the back of this newsletter so we can remove you from our hardcopy membership list.

By joining our SMAWL e-newsletter list, you will also help us reduce mailing costs, which in the end will allow us to save more lives. Your membership dollars will take a direct route to the animals in need, bypassing paper, copying, and postage costs, going instead to food, medical care, and spay/neuter costs.

There is an obvious connection among our human community, the animals, and our earth environment. At SMAWL, we're finding ways to help in and among that larger connected community. Together, we reach hundreds of animals in need each year. So let's continue our work together and save a few more trees while we're at it. Let's work together to reduce our paw print.

And remember, your membership donation enables us to rescue animals, sometimes from desperate situations. We hope that when you receive your membership renewal, you will once again renew your subscription. Without your membership donation, the "Good News" in this newsletter would not be possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

We Need a Furever Home



Hi, I'm **Alex**, a male Keeshond mix. I am a calm fellow who is housebroken, and I weigh only 53 lbs. I love car rides, and I get along great with children. I'm looking for a family to call my own. How about it?



Hello! I'm **Hudson**, a beagle mix. Look at me showing off! I was found living as a stray, but now I am in a foster home enjoying life. I am a sweet and gentle dog who loves children and other dogs. I am very playful and love to impress the people around me.



My name is **Jack**, and I am looking for a furever home. I am a good-looking Labrador mix with deep brown eyes that will melt your heart. I'm a pretty big boy even though I am still under a year old. I think someone loving like you could make my life complete.

Visit all of our wonderful animals waiting for a home at www.smawl.org. Or come to one of our adoption events held the first and third Saturday of every month at the PETCO in California, 10am-2pm. Email smawl@yahoo.com for more information.



I'm **Dundee**, and I'm still waiting patiently for my furever home. I'm a perfect friend and companion—so it's a mystery why I haven't found my family. I have a lot of kitten energy in me, so please adopt me while there is still time to play.



Yes, that's right. I am **Mr. Sparkles**, known as Mr. Love or Mr. Purr. I like to stay on laps and get all of the love that I can. I used to be a stray, and so I know how to appreciate the good life now that I've got it. I enjoy other cats and children, too.



Hello, my name is **Benjamin**, and I am the father figure to all of the cats at the ARC. I watch over my friends with great pride. I need a human who will work with me to bring me out of my shyness. I have been at the ARC a very long, long time. Will you adopt me?



I'm **Breille**, a very shy girl who is looking for a special home. I live at the ARC, too, and helped write the article on page one. I love to be around other cats. When I get to trust our volunteers, I let them hold and cuddle me like a new born baby! I am very petite—like a kitten, only furever. I sure would like to try living in a real home.

Paws Up For Animal Fair 2008!



Above, a Pet Pageant contestant declares a "Paws Up" in celebration of Animal Fair 2008.

The fourth annual SMAWL Animal Fair was a resounding success, raising more than \$9,000 for the homeless, abused, and neglected animals in our community. Even the rain couldn't keep the crowd away from the fun and games. Visit our photo gallery at www.smawl.org for more proof.



Above, Pets with Disabilities steals the show as Grand Marshal of the All Animal Pet Parade.

The fifth annual Animal Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2009. Please join us for this annual event celebrating animals who have been rescued and those who are still waiting. Until then, be sure to practice your silly pet tricks and your team, timed pie eating. Be sure to consider also being an Animal Fair sponsor. Join us in making Good News happen.



Above, Search and Rescue Team members Elvis and Michele Gray take first in the pie eating contest.



Above, the Rev. Greg Syler blesses pets in the outdoor arena after the parade.



Above, County Commissioner Jackie Russell gets an education from students about greyhound rescue.

Animal Fair 2008 Sponsors

When out in our community, please be sure to thank the following businesses and individuals who helped to make Animal Fair 2008 a fundraising success. Because of our sponsors, SMAWL can spay or neuter and medically treat an additional two hundred animals this year alone. Thank you, sponsors!

Platinum:

Cole Travel
JW Windsor Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.
Maryland Bank & Trust Company
Pottery Chick

Gold:

All Kinds Veterinary Hospital
Chesapeake Pet Resort
Trails End Pet Sitting, LLC
Melissa Carnes, Longaberger Consultant

Silver:

Captain Pete's Fishing Charters
Indian Bridge Kennels & Suites
Mattedi Gallery
The Bernard Family
Re/Max, Judy Fulir
Wyle Labs

Bronze:

A Dog's Haven, Inc.
Betty Jo Blagdon
Exceptional Pet Care
Jahn Corporation
Positive Pups Dog Training & Obedience
Southern Maryland Pet Waste Removal
Stacie Cranford
PETCO
Allied Partners Veterinary Emergency Service

Congratulations on Your Adoption!

These animals have recently found furever homes:

Cats: Darcy, Homer, Tuck, Stripes, Markie, Mattie, Joe, Romeo, Kitty, Mia, Amelia, Hollie, Benjamin, Callie, Paris, Nikki, Mr. Ed, Smokey, Diego, Shadow 2, Maisy, Sophina, Casey, Manny, M&M, Sydney, Kitty, Muffin, Murphy, Mitzi, Patches, Sprinkles, Rose, Zeus, Mozzarella, Cheddar, Ralphie, Randy, Ricky, Yuri, Swiss, Maddie, Lillie, Mittens, Michelle, Marco, Mobi, Liam, Ethan, Macy Gray, Basil, Thyme, Jett Li, Daphne, Blue Star, Hewie, and Cricket.

Dogs: Alex, Annie, Ginger, Petey, Scotty, Pixie, Colleen, Buddy, Katie, Rascal, Zeus, Bungee, Mylie, Oakley, Roxie, Scottie, Bubbie, Hunter, Lady Lucy, Taz II, Kiki, Jill, Sallie, Jake, Charlie, Jack, Max, Duke/JoJo, Hank, Gizmo, Laszlo, Amelia Bedelia, Skip, Jake/Harlowe, King/Chip, Ella, Oliver, Nemo, Abella, Iron Man, Mattie, Katie, and Buster.



Sir PounceALot is still waiting for his furever home. Do you know someone who could put this playful kitten in the "Congratulations" column?

Volunteer Appreciation Night Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Please join us in a night of celebration for you, the volunteers who make SMAWL rescue a success. Following our general meeting at 7pm, the SMAWL board would like to honor our volunteers with an evening of punch, people kibbles, and tokens of appreciation.

If you are a foster parent, a poop scooper, a PETCO volunteer, an adoption event dog handler, an ARC socializer, a rabies clinic devotee, a newsletter folder, the website master, a home visit maker, a case manager, a cat laundry person, a bottle feeder, or serve SMAWL animals in any capacity, December 10 is your night to shine.

Let's get together and bask in the good news that we have made together. Come share your rescue stories. We want to know which dog barked her way into your heart. We want to know which cat clawed his way into your dreams.

The celebration will be held in the Garvey Center in Leonardtown in the Governmental Center Complex, across from the Public Safety Building. We look forward to seeing you there.

Happy Endings, New Beginnings

Letters from home:



"Sorry I forgot to send pictures last week, but here they are. **Manny and Mittens** were caught sleeping in the same chair after everyone passed out in front of a movie this weekend! Not cuddling, but definitely closer than I'd ever seen them before. I should have gotten a picture, but we all just headed off to bed once we realized the credits were rolling. As soon as I do finally catch them cuddling, I'll be sure to snap a picture and send it."

"So Mittens and Manny are really getting along famously now. They're still working out dominance a little, but I think Manny understands that Mittens is going to be the Queen of the House. Which kind of surprised me, with her background and generally submissive demeanor, but she just doesn't take any crap from anyone! That, and Manny is pretty understanding and submits so long as it means he's making a new friend."

"I even caught them playing this morning. Mittens chased Manny off into the bathroom, and he hid behind the door. Manny stuck his feet out under the bathroom door, and Mittens was swatting at him like a game of Whack-a-Mole. It was too cute."

—Rio

"We are pleased to say that **Abella** will be staying with our family. She has bonded with everyone in our home! Our other dog Daisy and Abella have become sisters. We just love her to pieces. Let us know what we need to do to finalize Abella's adoption. Thank you for giving us a chance with her; we really feel she is ours and meant for us."

—Julie and Brendan

"I am a proud dog mom... He's got my eyes...."

"Meet **Nemo**, the newest addition to the Holder-Windsor clan. You can't see all the ankle and hind quarter bites in this photo that Nemo has received the past few days from Cotton getting the "pack" reorganized...."

"I think I had a cheeseburger in my hand while taking this shot (although I like to think his gaze is just maternal adoration)."

"Yes, I'm sorry to say there will probably be Santa photos of the whole clan together for your Christmas card this year. Poor Santa. Ha ha."

—Nemo's Mom



"Here is a picture of Garrett, Alex, and, of course, **Jett Li**. She is doing great—almost overtaking the house from Hays, our dog. They get along well because Hays knows to back off."

"Thanks for letting us adopt Jett Li. She's a really loving cat."

—Terry

We invite you to please visit our updated website at www.smawl.org to see more Happy Endings, New Beginnings.

If you'd like to see your SMAWL pet on our website, please email your Happy Ending to smawl@yahoo.com.



The Snowflake Society

The Hoofed Animal Rescue Division

World Animal Day

On October 4, 2008, The Good Earth food store in Leonardtown hosted World Animal Day to benefit The Snowflake Society and other area rescue groups. Thanks to their efforts, The Snowflake Society received one hundred dollars in donations.

Note: If you shop at The Good Earth using your own shopping bag, you will receive a wooden "coin" that can be placed in the SMAWL jar to benefit local animals. Every wooden "coin" is worth five cents. The jar contents will be counted at the end of this year.

Snowflake and Animal Fair 2008



Above, riders prepare to enter the small arena for the Parade of Horse Breeds. Below, the largest animal of the day awaits a pet blessing after marching in the All Animal Pet Parade.



Volunteer Spotlight: Becky Reppel



Above, Becky Reppel judges the pie eating contest she conceived for Animal Fair 2008.

In this issue of our newsletter, SMAWL would like to spotlight volunteer Becky Reppel. Becky has been a SMAWL volunteer for years and has seen a lot of wonderful animals go into good homes—including into her own. From SMAWL, Becky adopted Charlie the dog, Jack the dog, and Marcie the cat.

Becky has served the animals in many capacities. She has fostered several cats. She knows them well, as she is also a faithful ARC volunteer. It's rumored that her favorite ARC resident at the moment is Shadow, but we know she loves them all very much. We're sure Becky would also like to honor one-time ARC resident Winston, one of her early favorites, who passed over the rainbow bridge years ago.

In addition to her hands-on ARC service, Becky serves as the lead on most SMAWL fundraising efforts, including Yankee Candle sales, pizza and cookie dough sales, bake sales, our annual yard sale, and the Belk donation days. Those extra dollars buy a lot of cat litter and a lot of cat food.

Yet the most interesting way in which Becky serves SMAWL animals is through the Animal Fair dog games committee. Becky and her husband, Tom, coordinate all of the dog games for Animal Fair, such as "musical sit" and "paw painting." However, at Animal Fair 2008, Becky and Tom went wild, creating the dog-owner team pie eating contest. It was a huge and hilarious success. Be sure to view the photos of the contest on our website photo gallery.

Thank you, Becky, for all you do for SMAWL animals.



In Memory of the Beloved Furbabies who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge:

AJ Malone
 Katie Rodzankas
 Shadow Terry
 Skinny Butt Brooks
 Celine Nicknadavich
 Sophie & Hootie Berg
 Boz Madel
 Tucker - Second Hope
 Sushi Smith
 Hunter & Lefty Long
 Marcie Girl Reppel
 Samson - SMAWL
 Puddy - SMAWL
 Snowy Alvestad
 Felix Labonski
 Tiggy Wilson
 Grampus
 Willow
 Emily
 Snowball Alvestad
 Grits Klein
 Delilah Vodzak
 Spot Marks
 Prissy & Pooh Tennyson
 Paddles Wirt
 Benny Renaux
 Mojo Guffey
 Journey Petty
 Jamie
 Lola
 Fluffy Wood
 Cate Ratcliff
 Patches A'hearn
 Little Molly
 Katrina

Notable Quotables

My little dog, a heartbeat at my feet.

-- Edith Wharton

SMAWL Thank You

The St. Mary's Animal Welfare League Board of Directors would like to thank the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department for donating their time and skills to burn the triple-wide trailer on SMAWL property in a training drill. The trailer, in poor and unusable condition, posed a risk to SMAWL volunteers. Now, the area is safe and clear for future development of our planned horse quarantine facility. Thank you, HVFD!

We would also like to thank the local veterinarians who work with us in a rescue partnership: **All Kinds Veterinary Hospital** and **Tidewater Veterinary Hospital**. The generosity of these veterinarians helps your donation dollars reach more animals.

From the St. Mary's Animal Welfare League Board:

Carolyn Armstrong, Maureen Bernard, Sandy Burroughs, Trish Cole, Jennifer Hunt, April Mattedi, Bev Norris, Barb Saylor, Jennie Vodzak, and Barb Whipkey.

Public Announcement of December Meeting to Elect Board Members

The St. Mary's Animal Welfare League Board of Directors will hold an election at the December 10th public meeting to fill open and vacated board positions as the bylaws allow. Nominations will be made by the current board of directors.

In other membership news, the Board of Directors voted to change the annual meeting to February to better coincide with the end of our fiscal year. Our annual treasurer's report will be given at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend to see how SMAWL donation dollars have been put to work on behalf of animals in our community.

St. Mary's Animal Welfare League Monthly Meetings

SMAWL invites you to attend our monthly general meetings held the second Wednesday of every month at the Garvey Center in Leonardtown. The meetings are open to the public at 7pm. Come join us and be a part of our Good News Network!

Contact us at 301-373-5659 for directions.

Membership Application Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

The enclosed tax-deductible contribution is donated to support SMAWL in its work for the animals:

Membership Dues \$ _____ (Family - \$25, Individual - \$15)

Snowflake Society \$ _____ (Membership - \$15)

Feral Cat Program \$ _____

Shelter Building Fund \$ _____

Where it's needed most \$ _____

I'm interested in: ___ volunteering with the animals ___ fostering dogs ___ fostering cats

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SMAWL
www.smawl.org
P.O. Box 1232
Leonardtown, MD 20650

