

Adoption Tails

The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire

Spring 2007

Don't Judge a Book – or a Cat – By Its Cover!



Lynn Staffiere Testing Cooper

If you've been in the ARL cat adoption room in the past couple of years, you've probably noticed that the cages are color-coded corresponding to a list of cat personality types, such as "Cuddle Cat" and "Independent Kitty". This method of categorizing cats in an effort to help families meet their "purr-fect" match was developed by our Director of Adoptions based on the staff's observations about the cats' preferences and quirks. It was developed because we had implemented the ASPCA's research-based Meet Your Match™ Canine-ality™ Adoption Program, but there was no corresponding program for cats at the time.

Second-class citizens no longer, the cats have finally caught up with the

dogs! Last fall the ASPCA introduced the Meet Your Match™ Feline-ality™ Adoption Program. Feline-ality™ is a research-based assessment of a cat's behavior and level of interest in play, exploration, "talking," and being the center of attention which pairs distinct cat personalities with adopters whose preferences and lifestyle fit them best. Good matches help make strong bonds, and bonding is the key to successful adoptions.

About Feline-ality™

Feline-ality™ helps draw adopters to a potential feline family members based on something other than their looks. Based on a large body of animal behavior research, Meet Your Match™ is comprised of two parts: one involving the cat, and one involving adopting families.

The first part, the Feline-ality™ Assessment, helps us determine the individual needs of each cat through a battery of tests including friendliness, playfulness, reception to petting and holding, valiance, and independence. Each cat is then placed into one of three color-coded categories based on "valiance" (a measure of boldness and outgoing tendencies). Then within each color category are three different types of feline-alitys, depending on their preference for being social or independent.

The second part of the program, the Cat Adopter Survey, is made up of sixteen questions that help us conclude what kind of feline-ality you are looking for in a cat. A quick calculation determines your color and we can begin to match the cats' behaviors to your expectations, experience, lifestyle, and home environment. (Continued on page 3)

Cat Adoption Spotlight



Ms. Kitty
"Life Of The Party"

Hi my name is Ms Kitty. I am an 8 year old spayed female. I was brought to the shelter because I was not getting along with the other animal in the home. I would much prefer to be the only kitty and have all of your attention just for myself! I am a sweet, playful girl who can provide you with lots of entertainment. I would love to join your home if you are looking for a friendly feline companion.



Coco
"Sidekick"

Hi my name is Coco. I am a gorgeous 6 year old neutered male. I am a declawed boy so I need to be an indoor only kitty. I was brought to the Animal Rescue League because my owners were moving. I am a confident cat who will gladly help you run your household. I prefer to be the only pet in a home and will give you plenty of attention so you won't be lonely. If you are looking for an animated boy then I am the cat for you!

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From the CEO: Creating A Humane Community

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Newsletter formatted by
Marianne Nay

The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire is a community resource dedicated to saving the lives of homeless pets, caring for companion animals afflicted by neglect, abandonment and cruelty and enhancing the relationship between people and pets through education, adoption, compassion and the promotion of animal welfare.

Dear Friends of the League –

Recently I have read several articles, including a press release from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) which talk about problems with internet sales of puppies. The HSUS reports “an increase in puppy sale websites and a rise in complaints from heartbroken consumers scammed by these virtual pet stores. Similar to reports from people who unknowingly purchase sick and dying dogs from pet stores, puppies sold over the internet are likely to be from puppy mills.” This subject is one that is particularly close to my heart because of my pug, Panda. I’ll introduce you to her in a minute...

Much of the recent press has focused on the quality and health of the puppies being sold, which is absolutely a huge problem. Dogs that come from so-called “puppy mills” are frequently of questionable heritage – though they are sold as purebreds – and have serious health problems from irresponsible breeding and poor care.

What Are Puppy Mills?

Puppy mills operate by producing large numbers of “purebreds” who are then sold to the public via pet stores and over the internet by people claiming to be reputable breeders. The HSUS says, “We know of puppy mills and so-called breeders who had a history of legal violations, closed up shop, and now sell dogs over the internet.”

Problems Beyond the Puppies

In addition to issues with the puppies that are produced and sold by mills, there is another huge problem with the dogs that the mills keep for breeding. The HSUS site www.stoppupmills.org says, “These canine breeding facilities frequently house dogs in shockingly poor conditions, particularly for “breeding stock” animals who are caged and continually bred for years, without human companionship and with little hope of ever becoming part of a family. After their fertility wanes, breeding animals are commonly killed, abandoned or sold to another mill.”



Meet
Panda

Panda is one of my four pugs, all rescues, who was acquired at an auction in the

Midwest by a pug rescue group seeking to save dogs from going to medical labs. Panda was three when we got her. She had never lived with people and didn’t understand humans at all. She has an ID tattoo on her tummy (mill dogs often have numbers rather than names) and was very clumsy, walking with splayed paws because she had been in a cage with a wire floor (to allow waste to drop) her whole life. When she had to be spayed during the birth of one of her litters, she was of no more use to the mill and they sent her to auction. Though I am sure Panda’s pups were sold as purebred pugs, a close look at Panda – her longer nose and brownish fur amongst the black - will suggest a mixed lineage somewhere along the line.

Panda was, frankly, a freaky little dog for the first year. Whenever we had company she would hide behind the couch and bark the whole time. She learned how to live in a house, how to go up and down stairs, and what a “snack” was from my other two pugs at the time. I truly believe it was they who taught her it was OK to trust humans.

Today Panda is a wonderful companion and alpha dog of the pack. She is still quirky... but then, all pugs seem to be; however, she is very loving, and her girth will tell you she has definitely learned what a “snack” is! Panda got a second chance because of a rescue organization, but her history and her potential fate have left me with a personal zeal to see the end of puppy mills.

Of course I believe that adopting a dog from a rescue organization – whether it is the ARL NH, another local shelter, or one of the many breed rescue groups – is the best way to add a new canine family member. However, if the right dog isn’t out there at the right time and you or someone you know chooses to purchase a dog, please make sure that you select a reputable breeder, that you know the origins of the dog, and that you see conditions its parents were housed in so that your purchase does not perpetuate the puppy mill problem.

Thank you for creating second chances by supporting the Animal Rescue League of NH. You make a real difference in many lives – both people and pets!

Caroline Boyd
President & CEO

Continued from cover...

Changes in the Adoption Process

With both Feline-ality™ and Canine-ality™ in place, we now have the tools needed to make the best match possible. In conjunction with this latest improvement, there will be some changes to the adoption process that are consistent with the approach of these programs. First, adopters of both cats and dogs will now be asked to complete the Adopter Surveys. Second, we will be moving away from a strict Application approach to more of an educational conversation with the goal no longer being adoption "approval" but rather coming to a mutual agreement about the best match for a family. We hope that this collaborative approach will ensure that the right pet goes to the right family and that everyone involved feels very positive about the interaction.

Where to Learn More

If you'd like to learn more about the details of the Feline-ality™ program or about the theory behind the collaborative adoption approach, please visit our website and click on the "Adopt a Pet" tab. There you will see the detailed feline-ality and canine-ality descriptions, a sample of the adopter surveys, and a discussion of the principles behind moving from "application" to "collaborative adoptions". Alternatively, come on in for a visit and ask any Adoption Counselor about the program! We'd love to see you... and to send you home with a purr-fect match!

Children Helping Animals

Alana and Riley raised money to help the animals by selling gum on the school bus



There are so many children in our community that want to help the animals that reside at the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire. It warms our hearts to see the kids who bring their lemonade stand proceeds into the shelter as a donation to those animals in need. Unfortunately, the law prohibits accepting volunteers under the age of 14 to work here at the shelter; however,

children have been very creative in finding other ways to help out - by running food and litter drives, donating portions of their allowance money, to even creating a business of selling gum to students on the bus! Every bit counts and we appreciate all the hard work that local children have done to help out.

The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire is more than a shelter and we pride ourselves in the services that we provide the community such as our monthly children's newsletter (find it in the Newsletter section of our website, www.rescueleague.org, under the "News" tab), birthday parties for the public, and our humane education program which in 2006 reached 6,192 children! Our shelter also holds several in-shelter events for children to enjoy such as our annual Easter Egg Hunt and photos with the Easter Bunny! If you are interested in learning more about our humane education programs, please contact Danielle Hastings at danielle@rescueleague.org or 472-5788. If you want to organize a drive at your school or organization, please check the Wish List on our website, www.rescueleague.org, under the "How to Help" tab.

Spring and Summer Pet Tips: Local Wildlife and Your Pets

by David Betournay

The long awaited spring and summer seasons have reached New England, the birds are back, hibernating animals are up and about, and pets and their owners are venturing outside in greater numbers for greater periods of time. Inevitably some of you will meet. Follow these tips in order to protect wildlife from your pets as well as your pets from wildlife.

Sadly, cats that are allowed outside unattended kill an amazing number of wildlife. The most recent University of Wisconsin research suggests that the estimated 1 million to 2 million free-ranging rural cats in Wisconsin kill roughly 40 million birds each year. Entire species of wild songbirds have been forced into extinction. During spring and summer months nesting birds and their young are particularly vulnerable to cats. In addition to birds they also kill various rodents, amphibians and reptiles.

Unattended cats and dogs will ultimately encounter more dangerous wildlife as well. Skunks, raccoons and bats - all rabies vector animals - become very active in spring and summer, searching for food and mates. The number of domestic animals that contract rabies each year peaks between May and November. Porcupines present their own unique danger in the form of quills.

Each year, countless deer, moose, rabbits and other native animals are harassed or driven from their young by free roaming cats and dogs. Often these orphans either do not survive or end up in wildlife rehabilitation if found.

In addition to making sure your pets are fully vaccinated, what else can you do?

Resist the urge to let your cat roam free without you. You can keep your cat indoors, make sure he or she has a collar with a loud bell and ID, take him or her out on a harness and line and consider fencing a small area of your yard. Did you know that there are companies that specialize in black nylon cat fencing that is both safe and attractive? Purrfect Fence is one of many products available (www.purrfectfence.com).

Continued on page 7...

ARL NH Welcomes New Board Member, Ann Weikers



Ann Weikers and Mickey

We are delighted to introduce you to our newest member of the League's Board of Directors, Ann Weikers. Ann joined the Board in December 2006, and says she is very grateful to be part of the cause of helping homeless animals, a cause near and dear to her heart. She and her husband, Ron, have been supporters of the ARL since moving to Manchester, New Hampshire from Philadelphia in 2001, including Ann's recent membership on the 2006 Auction Committee.

Ann is an alumna of Wells College and Villanova University School of Law. After practicing law in Philadelphia for six years, she transferred into the insurance industry in 1995. She currently works as Legal Issues Manager at RiverStone Claims Management in Manchester, where she is responsible for legal expense control and counseling claims personnel on insurance coverage issues. She and Ron live with their two rescue pups, Bowman, the now toothless Maltese (he is thirteen) and Mickey, the miniature poodle mix.

“For Pet’s Sake”

The Animal Rescue League’s retail store, “For Pet’s Sake” is widely stocked with dog, cat and small animal supplies. Come in and browse! You’ll find just what you—and your new pet—are looking for. And, because all profits go right back to the shelter, your purchase will benefit our animals, too!



“For Pet’s Sake” Hours of Operation

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 12pm - 5pm
Tuesday & Thursday, 1pm - 7pm
Monday & Wednesday, closed

Donate to the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire online at www.rescueleague.org. If you are looking for something in particular, or if you have any questions about our stock, please call the shelter at 603.472.DOGS for assistance.

Animal Cruelty Investigations

By Maureen Prendergast

Unlike what many of us see and hear on television with the multitude of humane investigation related shows on the Animal Planet channel, a lot of what is done through the Animal Rescue League does not necessarily involve arrests and prosecution.

Cruelty to animals can be defined by determining if the act was done negligently or purposely. Negligent situations can often be rectified through education and assistance. A person may not know a dog needs to have access to fresh water; thus, not allowing it access to it by leaving it tied outside all day would be a negligent situation. They are negligent in their care and treatment. Often people will fix situations and make improvements that meet the standards set by law. In comparison, a purposeful situation may be where there is intent to inflict harm on an animal or animals and must be proved. If proven, this is often where we have felony-level charges and convictions. The person purposefully caused harm to that animal.

New Hampshire animal law defines what is considered cruelty to animals within the state of NH and is what any humane investigator, animal control officer, or police officer within the state follows and enforces. Often the calls that come into the Animal Rescue League are interpretations or beliefs of what the law allows, and in such situations education on behalf of both the complainant and the subject being reported are in order. Ways in which we may treat our own personal pets may not be the same way our neighbor chooses to treat theirs. However, often this lower standard of care is within the law, and those calls are often hardest to handle because it may not be a clear-cut issue and very personal feelings can be evoked. Being in an animal care profession it is often difficult to walk away from situations where you may believe an animal would be better off in a different environment or would flourish with different care. However, what we believe or feel may be different from the standards as set by law.

If you believe you have witnessed either a negligent or purposeful act of animal cruelty please call the Animal Rescue League of NH’s animal cruelty line at 603-471-0888. If you believe any animal is in immediate danger please call your local police department right away.

Employee Spotlight

**Danielle Hebert,
Adoption Counselor**



My name is Danielle Hebert and I have been working at the Animal Rescue League of NH since January of 2006. I am one of the League’s Adoption Counselors.

In the mornings I spend my time cleaning cages and making sure the basic needs of the animals are met. One of my main concerns is that all the animals are made as comfortable and happy as possible, which includes finding a favorite toy or bed for a cat, or giving a rabbit a tube of hay to play with and chew on. I also try and give extra time and attention to the timid animals or those who have been at the shelter longer than most.

In the afternoons I work with customers to help match them up with the best animal companion for their home. I typically focus on finding our cats a home, as we have so many in the shelter and cats are the ones I enjoy working with the most. I help families to pick a cat that will meet their lifestyle. Often that means a cat that will play with their children, cuddle with other pets, or one that will be able to handle lots of activity. It is always exciting to go home each night and share who got adopted that day, especially if it were an animal that was older or had been here for some time. Perhaps one of the most rewarding parts of my job is following up with our new pet parents a few weeks after they have brought their new friend home, and learning how happy they are with their choice and how well the animal is doing.

Recently I have started working with other aspects of the shelter. I have worked with fostering kittens, updating the store, doing animal profiles, giving medications, and testing animals in the shelter. Every day there is something new to do or see at the Rescue League and I look forward to learning more and continuing to help the animals find forever homes.


Come And Join The ARL of NH At Our FUNdraising Events!

✂ Cut out and hang on your 'fridge so you don't miss any of the fun!


The Animal Rescue League of NH
603.472.DOGS (3647) www.rescueleague.org





Key Upcoming Events

September 22nd: 4th Annual Pet Step 

November 3rd: 9th Annual Live & Silent Auction – over 300 amazing items

November 23rd: Christmas Tree Sales start (during Shelter Open Hours) 

November 24th & 25th: Craft Fair for Holiday Shopping! (10am – 5pm) 

December 1st & 8th: Photos with Santa – Bring your Pet! (10am – 5pm) 

 = Family Friendly Event

Check the ARL website for other events throughout the year

The ARL NH receives no state or federal funding. In addition to donations, we depend on the income from the events each year to sustain our programs and services, which collectively cost about \$50,000 per month.

Please attend these events and show your support for the League.

For more information about any upcoming event, call Robin Ahlgren at (603) 472-3647 or e-mail robin@rescueleague.org.

4th Annual Pet Step

Start collecting your pledges now or get a team together for our 4th Annual Pet Step! It will be held at Camp Allen in Bedford on Saturday, September 22, 2007. We are excited to welcome Mike Morin from WZID back as our official MC for this event, so put your sneakers on, leash your dog and join us for a day of fun! For a walker pledge form, please visit our website at the Special Events tab.



9th Annual Live & Silent Auction



The annual ARL auction is probably our most popular fundraising event of the year. Thanks to the support of the community, we typically offer over 300 silent auction items and close to 30 fabulous live items (last year featured things such as a first-class trip to Hawaii, a baseball bat signed by the 2004 championship team, and an Air Combat fighter pilot adventure. This year promises to be just as exciting, so join us for dinner and the auction, Saturday, November 3rd!

Guests Make 3rd Annual Gala Evening of Compassion a Success

On May 4th, the League held it's 3rd Annual Gala Evening of Compassion, one of our primary fundraising events of the year. The purpose of the evening is to honor the volunteers who are so important to our organization, to educate attendees on our mission and share a specific aspect of our programs, and to entertain everyone and have a good time while supporting a good cause.

This year we had 264 attendees join us at C.R. Sparks for a wonderful dinner. Mike Morin of NH's top-rated morning radio show on 95.7 WZID was our celebrity presenter for the Volunteer of the Year Award, which went to Deanna Del Tergo. Deanna is an amazing volunteer who gives of her time in many ways, including participating on the committees for all three of our major fundraising events, the Gala, the Live & Silent Auction, and the Pet Step.



Deanna Del Tergo & Mike Morin

Our focus this year was on our Animal Cruelty Investigation program and we were joined by three adoptive pet parents who have given loving homes to animals taken out of crisis situations. Jeanneane Osbourne shared the story of Big Mac & Small Frie, two great (originally timid) cats taken from a hoarding situation last fall; Pattie Chapman brought Sunkist, a wonderful dog that had been abandoned at the League; and Cheryl Mitchell brought D.J., a big personality Chihuahua rescued also from a hoarding situation.



Cheryl Mitchell & DJ

Following a visual presentation about happy outcomes from cruelty situations, Maureen Prendergast, our Animal Cruelty Investigator, shared with our guests her role at the League and the types of situations she encounters. She talked about intentional cruelty versus neglect, and shared how much the public's donations mean to us in terms of sustaining our Cruelty Investigation Program.

At the end of the evening, we were treated to the comedy stylings of the renowned improvisation troupe Improv Asylum from Boston's North End. The audience was very helpful with fun suggestions, and several good sports participated!

When the evening's donation were tallied, we were thrilled to discover that our guests had donated \$56,055 to help sustain our mission and programs. We are very encouraged that so many animal lovers are willing to give so generously to ensure that we can continue our mission. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the evening a success – both the volunteers who helped us plan the event, and all the generous guests who attended.



Board Member Robin Milnes (center) Shows Her Improv Skills

See page 7 for a list of our Gala sponsors...

Training Tip

by Maureen Prendergast

"My dog acts as if he can't hear me". "No matter how loud I yell, she won't listen". Does this sound like something you have ever said? This is the stuff that a good obedience class, aka dog owner group therapy, is made of.

Often times I will have owners call me asking for help with their 4-legged wild child who just won't obey. Often times the first night of a new obedience class brings with it a few loud voices and a lot of tails turning the other way. Just because you speak loudly, or even yell, doesn't mean your dog is more likely to respond. In fact, the very opposite will likely happen.

In my obedience classes people will often hear me utter one of my best known phrases which is "your dog heard you, he just isn't listening". Have you ever tried to open the refrigerator and grab a snack only to have your (supposedly) deaf dog come barreling down the stairs at top speed, round the corner into the kitchen on two legs and promptly jump up and steal whatever food you had in your hand? Pretty amazing for the hard of hearing dog who didn't hear you say "come" as he tore through the back yard with a big smile on his face as you were once again late for work.

The dog absolutely heard the fridge open, just as he heard you say 'come', he just didn't listen (also known as "respond"). And yes, in some cases we are dealing with a command that the dog truly doesn't know yet, or has learned to ignore - which is very common.

When we get loud or yell a command at the top of our voice, a wise dog should turn the other way and avoid eye contact. You present yourself as if you are about to attack and a smart dog wouldn't go anywhere near you. Instead, try using your indoor voice (another obedience class term) and give your dog a command that they actually know (think success), and importantly that you are able to enforce if it doesn't occur. If you ask your dog to "sit", and you don't get the response you are hoping for, don't suddenly begin shouting. Rather, just help your dog to "sit". But don't forget to praise them. The important part is the result - a dog sitting - not the fact that you had to help. So always praise and reward even when you have to help.

If this sounds familiar to you and yet doesn't seem possible, the good news is there are classes available that will help you with this issue and many, many, more. For more information on upcoming obedience classes please contact me directly at 603-582-5400 thecrazycanine@yahoo.com. Try to remember, don't yell, he really did hear you the first time!



Obedience Happenings

by Maureen Prendergast

Our obedience classes have gotten off to a very busy start since the beginning of 2007. Classes running on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings have been full of everything from young pups and juveniles to mature adult dogs just looking for a little fun.

Typically our Basic level classes are the busiest since they are open to any dog of any age, regardless of their previous training background. And despite what their owners think they may or may not know! However, another popular class so far this year has been our Advanced level. The Advanced level class is only open to graduates of the Basic class and these classes tend to go in many different directions simply based on the individual dogs that make up a particular class. Sometimes an Advanced class may be full of dogs who had taken the Puppy level, moved right on to Basic and then opted for further education by signing up for an Advanced course. In cases where the class is comprised of younger dogs, a common theme to the class may be exercises revolving around improved 'stays' and other general training to help with those juvenile impulse control issues. An Advanced course comprised of more seasoned adult dogs may help to work on some of the lingering problems their owners may still be having with leash manners, coming when called, or other such issues. Often times I will even have owners and dogs who will repeat an Advanced level course based on the fact that it does change enough with each group so that it doesn't become boring or stale the second (or even third) time around.

I would like to honor a just a few of those families who have gone above and beyond and have dedicated quite a bit of time to training their canine companion:

Martha Miller with Maggie and Bonnie
The Lavin Family with Benny
Eileen and Marc Brusseau with Molly

I don't think a human and their dog can ever have enough training. As the very act of getting out the door, coming to a class and socializing your dog to different sights, sounds, and a variety of people and dogs is training in and of itself and something many people unfortunately overlook.

Whether your dog has taken classes as a puppy, or took a class 'just a few years ago' consider enrolling your dog in another class, even if just for the fun of it. Obedience isn't always about the sit or the stay but rather about the experience. It can be a great check for how your relationship is going too and may help address problems you weren't even aware of.



Obedience Class

Gala Dinner Sponsors

The Board and Staff (and most importantly the animals!) would like to thank all of the generous sponsors of our 3rd Annual Gala Evening of Compassion. Thanks to our sponsors, over \$13,000 was given to the League in sponsorships alone!

The Staff and Board of Directors
of the
Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire
would like to express our gratitude for the ongoing
support of



and for their dedication to the League's
mission.

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www.crsparks.com

Dog Adoption Spotlight



Chester

Hi my name is Chester. I am a senior canine looking for a home that will understand senior needs. I am a Basset Hound/Shepard mix so new owners should be familiar with both breeds. I was brought to the shelter after my owner became injured and could no longer care for me. I love people and will happily shower you with affection. I am not a huge fan of other animals and as an older boy think I have earned the right to be your only child. In return I will be a loving companion and always interested in what you are up to. I really enjoy going for long walks and having my belly rubbed. If you have a lot of love to give to senior boy then I would love to meet you.

New Dog Beds



**Adoption Spotlight Celebrity Chester
Models The New Dog Beds Above.**

As noted in the Annual Report, Kuranda dog beds were purchased and deployed in the Canine Adoption Area. The shelter's original deck style platforms have been significantly upgraded to new hammock-style beds. The new beds are far more comfortable and supportive for our canine guests.

Spring and Summer Pet Tips continued from page 3...

Do not let your dog roam free. If you walk or hike with your dog(s), keep them on a leash or long line, stay on established trails, and if at the beach avoid walking above the high tide line where shore birds often nest. When at a lake or pond follow the same protocol in order to avoid waterfowl, beavers and other wildlife.

Living in New England is a wonderful thing made only better by the beautiful and diverse wildlife that surround us. Get out there with your pet, but please, do so responsibly both for the safety of our wildlife and the safety of your pet.



Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire

545 Route 101 • Bedford NH 03110

www.rescueleague.org

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\$25 \$30 \$50 \$100 Other

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