**Weekly Volunteer Update**

January 25, 2011

Volunteers are welcome everyday, 8:00am-7:00pm.

Hello. My name is Martin and I am the Assistant Director here at the Animal Care League. As you know, I will now be handling the duties as Coordinator for Volunteer Services. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the Volunteer Program. I look forward to working with all of you!

Thank You,

Martin

Coordinator of Volunteer Services

Hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 10am-6pm

 Thurs 11:30am-7:30pm

 Sat 9am-5pm

Martin@animalcareleague.org

708-848-8155

Our website: [www.animalcareleague.org](http://www.animalcareleague.org)

We are no longer collecting Aluminum Cans

**ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS**

We Need Your Help!

We are looking for help walking our dogs on Saturday mornings, starting at 8:00am. If you are available to help, it would be greatly appreciated.

**ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS**

Parking on the south side of the shelter is now loading/drop-off zone from 6am-9am and 3pm-6pm Monday through Friday. Please make sure not to park there if you are staying longer than 10 minutes.

Dog Walkers Young and Old:

Help Make Our Shelter a No-Bark Zone

Please help us reduce barking in the shelter. Less barking means less stress for our dogs, potential adopters, volunteers, and staff. All ages and levels of walkers can help out! Just look for our new Clicker Station in the kennels and ask a staff member to demonstrate or follow the instructions below. Spend just 5 minutes clicking and treating, each time you visit the shelter, and we can all enjoy some peace and quiet!

1. Load up on tasty treats. Treats should be broken up into small, pea-sized pieces.
2. *Sign out* a clicker.
3. If a dog is barking, approach the dog, wait until the barking stops even for a split second, click, treat, and move on. IMPORTANT: the dog you give the treat to must actually want to eat the treat for this training to work. If the kenneled dog doesn’t eat the treat, your treat’s not tasty enough! If dry treats aren’t working, there are cut-up hot dogs in the refrigerator in the training room.
4. If a dog is barking persistently, don’t look at it; instead, click and treat its quiet neighbors, just once, and move on.
5. If a barking dog stops when he sees you coming, click and toss treat. Wait a few beats, watching the dog. Click and treat, again.
6. Persistent barkers will have a blue circle on their cage cards, so pay extra attention to these guys.
7. Click persistent barkers for any of the following behaviors: looking away, lying down, backing away from the gate.
8. *Sign in* your clicker before you leave the shelter.

**Attention Dog Walkers**

Dogs assigned a training collar or harness MUST wear this equipment when walked. Many of our dogs pull very hard or lunge when walked on their flat collars. Allowing these dogs to pull you around on a walk only teaches the dog to become very good at pulling, something most adopters aren’t looking for in a dog. Persistent pulling can also damage a dog’s neck.

We use different training collars depending on the type of pulling problem the dog has. If a dog needs to be walked with special equipment there will be a sign on its kennel reading: “See Staff Before Walking” A staff member will show you where to find the training collar or harness, how to use the equipment, and how to sign the equipment out. When you’re finished walking the dog, the equipment must be taken off the dog, returned to its hook, and signed in.

This special equipment is expensive. To help prevent collars and harnesses from going missing and getting damaged, you must sign the equipment out and in.  If you see collars or harnesses that have been chewed by dogs, please turn them into a staff member. Do not throw the collars and harnesses away. The company we buy them from will repair them for us.

Thanks!

Gretchen

Canine Trainer

**FELINE FOSTER CARE VOLUNTEERS**

 AT ANIMAL CARE LEAGUE

Would you like to do more to help animals? Do you enjoy caring for young animals? Would you like a fun, rewarding experience? Join the **Feline Foster Care Volunteer Program!**

 Feline Foster Care Volunteers provide temporary care in their homes for kittens (and sometimes cats) of all sizes and ages. Some animals will need only a week or two, while other may need care for a few months. Your help allows the animals to become socialized and helps us get to know the animal’s temperament and characteristics to describe to potential adopters. Feline Foster Care in a volunteer’s home is healthier and better for development for young kittens than the shelter environment. Usually the spring and summer months are busiest for Feline Foster Care, but an animal may need our help at any time. The most common reasons for animals needing Foster Care are pregnant or nursing cats and kittens that are very young and need socializing and special “hands-on” care before they can be considered for adoption.

There are a number of things you should consider & discuss with your family before you decide to become a Feline Foster Care Volunteer:

* Time-Foster kittens need a good deal of interaction and time spent with you, to help them learn to like people and be friendly and sociable. You will need to spend several hours each day with your foster animals.
* Your own animals-If you have cats/dogs of your own, they must be up to date with their vaccines. Foster kittens must be kept separate from your own animals. Even if your animals are up to date on vaccines, it is not a 100% guarantee that they are immune to everything. We do our best to inform you of any known medical issues, but there is always a degree of uncertainty.
* Space-You will need a *separate*, small, non-smoking room with easy to clean floors (no carpets) for your foster kittens. A spare bedroom or small bathroom works the best. No garages, unfinished basements, or porches may be used. The room must be “baby-proofed:” temperature controlled, no breakables, no exposed cords (electrical, phone, or on window treatments), nothing that a small kitten can get into or stuck under.
* Emotional Attachment-It is easy to become attached to kittens that you foster, and some people find it difficult to give the animals back. Foster Care is *temporary*, giving the kittens the very best start before they find their “forever home.” You can be a big part in providing this foundation for their future.
* Clean Up-Young animals are busy doing the following: eating, sleeping, playing (getting into everything) and peeing/pooping. You will need to keep their area as clean as possible to help prevent illness and teach them good habits.
* Health Watch-as a Feline Foster Care Volunteer, you will need to monitor and report any signs of illness or injury to our staff. You may need to bring the kittens in for an unscheduled check up, as well as scheduled visits for vaccines. Only staff members can determine if an animal requires veterinary care. You will be given specific guidelines for monitoring your foster animals’ health, as well as a list of staff to contact with any questions or concerns.
* Adoption-If you or a friend is interested in adopting a foster kitten in your care, you (or they) must go through the normal adoption process at the shelter. No animals may be “promised” to anyone; everyone must follow the procedures for adoption.
* Complications-We will do our best to evaluate each animal for pre-existing or potential health or temperament problems. However, some issues may not come up until an animal comes back to the shelter. If an animal is found to have a life- threatening illness beyond our means to treat or has temperament/behavioral issues that would make adoption impossible, we would have no other option but to humanely euthanize the animal. While it is always difficult to deal with the loss of an animal, you should never feel it was your fault. Remember, without you these animals had little chance of surviving on their own and they wouldn’t have known the comfort and security you provided.

How it works:

 All potential Feline Foster Care Volunteers must be screened, approved, interviewed and trained by the appropriate staff at the shelter.

 When kittens come in needing Foster Care, staff will call or e-mail Feline Foster Care Volunteers. Animals are matched up with Foster Volunteers based on the needs of the kittens and the abilities & availability of the volunteers.

 The Feline Foster Care Volunteer will come to the shelter to pick up the kittens and all needed supplies. The Animal Care League provides food, formula, bottles, bedding, toys, litter, litter boxes, etc. You will need to come to the shelter to pick up more supplies as you run low. (Donations of any supplies are always appreciated!)

 You will need to bring the Foster animals back to the shelter for periodic exams & vaccinations.

 When the kittens are at the proper weight, age and health status, you will need to return them to shelter for spay/neuter surgery. All animals that are healthy and well socialized will be placed for adoption.

If becoming a Feline Foster Care Volunteer sounds right for you, please call 708-848-8155 and ask for Jill to set up an interview.

Thank you for considering our Feline Foster Care Program!

**VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

We have a special committee of dedicated, experienced volunteers who help train new volunteers and give feedback to staff about our volunteer program. If you have a question, comment or suggestion, please feel free to contact a committee member.

Yellow Team Training-dogs

Kathy Capone katoo948@aol.com

Joan Gumbel jmg604@hotmail.com

Laurie Weldon law609@sbcglobal.net

Additional Committee Members

Julie Kennedy jkenn678@sbcglobal.net

Marilyn Johnson marilynswings@yahoo.com

Karin Lundgren klundgren@sbcglobal.net

Training for Blue (cat), Red (cleaning) & Purple (office/greeters) Teams is done by staff member

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Off-site Adoption Events**

Saturday the 29th, we will be at:

Petco at River Forest

Lake St. & Harlem Ave.

11:30am – 3:30pm

Sunday the 30th, we will be at:

Petsmart in Broadview

Cermak Rd. & 17th Ave.

1pm – 5pm

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| **Pet of the Week:** |     |

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| **Libby** |

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| http://www.petango.com/sms/photos/166/24340fab-a7ae-4810-8a99-f2a56b6eb3f0.jpg |

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| **Animal ID** | 12004026  |
| **Species** | Dog  |
| **Breed** | Shepherd/Terrier, Pit Bull  |
| **Age** | 1 year 1 month  |
| **Sex** | Female  |
| **Size** | Medium  |
| **Color** | Brown/Black  |
| **Spayed/Neutered** |  http://www.petango.com/webservices/adoptablesearch/images/GreenCheck.JPG |
| **Declawed** | No  |
| **Housetrained** | Unknown  |
| **Location** | Kennels Adoption  |
| **Intake Date** | 12/7/2010  |
| **Adoption Price** | $125.00  |

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| http://www.petango.com/webservices/adoptablesearch/images/Animal_r1_c1.gif | http://www.petango.com/webservices/adoptablesearch/images/Animal_r1_c2.gif | http://www.petango.com/webservices/adoptablesearch/images/Animal_r1_c3.gif |
|  | Libby is a shep/pitbull terrier mix who came to ACL from Oklahoma where she apparently ran free and enjoyed a lifestyle with few restrictions. She's ready to be a part of a family now though and fully recognizes that she is going to need some obedience training along with an manners class perhaps! She's smart and sweet though and is already catching on quickly to things the ACL staff and volunteers are teaching her. Libby is somewhat of a "diamond in the rough". With the right owner, this girl will shine. Not without some work but it will be well worth it. If you lead an active life and are looking for a great companion to join you in your adventures, you really need to meet Libby. She gets along well with most other dogs and would prefer a cat-free home. |  |

**ADOPTIONS**

**So far this year, 2011, we have had 66 adoptions!**

**39 cat adoptions**

**27 dog adoptions**

**This past week we had 21 adoptions!**

Here are the adoptions from 01/18/10 - 01/25/11:

![MCj04406680000[1]]()**CATS-**15

Sable Porsche Mallory Gustie Twix

Almond Cashew Hitch Taloose Harley

Vanilla Neopolitan Praline Butter Pecan Spumoni

![MCj04406660000[1]]()**DOGS-**4

Dallas Mocha Nelson Silas

**WISH LIST**

* Paper Towels
* Soft, bite sized dog treats (for training)
* Hot dogs (for training)
* Toilet Paper
* Dishwashing Liquid
* Liquid Hand Soap
* Hand Sanitizer
* Gently Used Towels & Blankets
* Cat Toys (wand type and small ones for cages)
* Dog Toys (sturdy, no stuffed animals, please)
* Kongs
* Peanut butter (to put in the Kongs)
* Kleenex
* Canned dog food
* Canned cat food (no fish!)
* Gently used crates/carriers
* Sharpie markers
* Dry erase markers
* Mini DVD cassesttes (to record training sessions)
* Xerox paper (white & colored)
* Paper Cups (no Styrofoam, please)

**Please hand out copies of our wish list to those you think would like to donate to the shelter.**

*THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE LEFT IN THE NEWSLETTER SO ALL NEW VOLUNTEERS WILL BE AWARE.*

**ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:**

**Color Teams**

**We use color coded aprons to help identify which areas volunteers are trained to work in.**

**Green** aprons are for Family Volunteers (those with children under age 16) and new volunteers who have not yet trained for a specific area. Green Team Volunteers may walk/play with green level dogs and play with floor cats only.

Green Team Volunteers do not have a set schedule. (Children under 16 remain on the Green Team.)

All other color teams are for Adult Volunteers, those over 16, have taken further training and have a set schedule, at least 4 hours a month.

**Yellow** aprons are for Yellow Team dog care volunteers.

**Blue** aprons are for Blue Team cat care volunteers.

**Red** aprons are for Red Team maintenance/cleaning volunteers.

The **Purple** Team Volunteers are trained for office/greeter work. (Sorry, there are no purple aprons!)

If you would like to take additional training,

Please e-mail Martin at: volunteer@animalcareleague.org and tell him which team(s) you would like to train for. Please include your name, e-mail address and phone number.

Only volunteers who have taken additional training should be wearing the above colored aprons. **Until you take the additional training, you need to be wearing green.**

Please begin wearing these the next time you are at the shelter. Aprons are located in the small dresser next to the cat room. Please put them back neatly when you are done.

**Name Tags**

We have a new system for our name tags. Please look in the small metal file box on the counter for your name. Place the name tag in one of the plastic holders hanging on the wall, next to the closet. The tag and holder can

now be worn around your neck.

When you are done, please place the tag back in the box, and the holder back on the wall.

DO NOT TAKE THE TAG OR HOLDER

HOME WITH YOU!

If your name is not in the box, please call, e-mail, or leave me a note and I’ll print one out for you. In the meantime, please use a write-on name tag.

**Logging Your Time**

Your time is valuable, and I want to log it properly. Please do the following when you sign in and out:

* Please PRINT your name neatly! (If I can’t read your name, I can’t log your hours.)
* If you work in more than one area, please list them separately. (Ex: cats-30 min, dogs-45 min)
* Round your time to the nearest quarter hour. (If you are here for 54 minutes, put down 1 hour.)

This will only take you a few extra seconds, but it will save me a LOT of time! Thank you! Any questions or comments, please contact Martin.

Thank You For Caring About Animals!