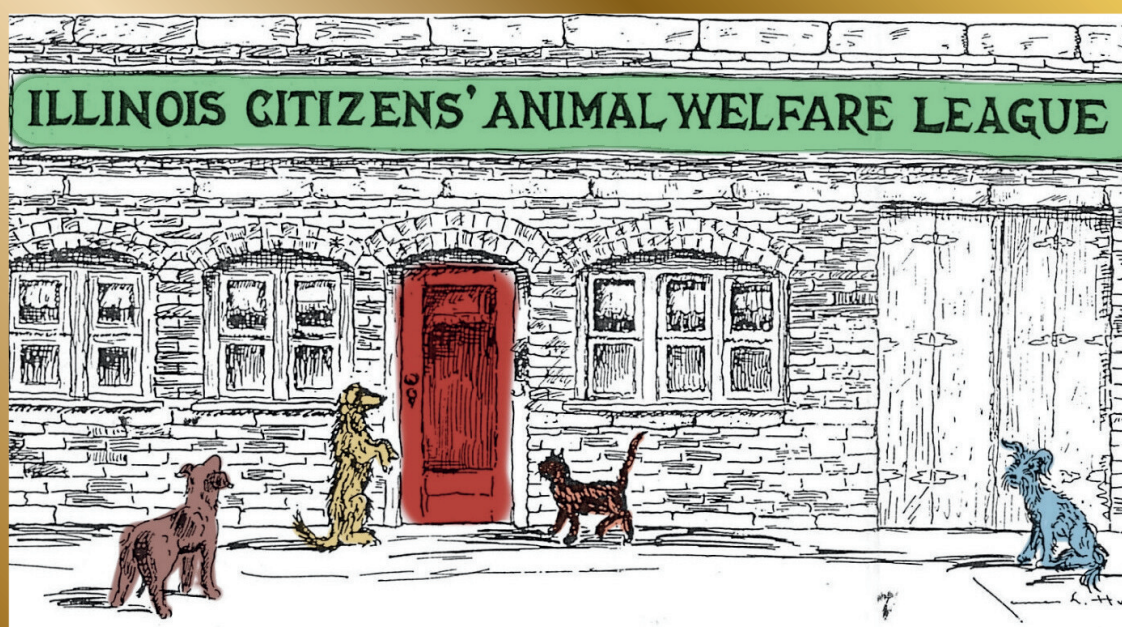


Special Edition

90TH ANNIVERSARY



September 2025

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Shamiran Wagner
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Erick Nickerson

Diane - Director

The Animal Welfare League
Newsletter is published by
The Animal Welfare League
10305 Southwest Hwy
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415
708-636-8586
6224 S Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637
773-667-0088

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON OUR EVENTS
AND PROGRAMS
ANIMALWELFARELEAGUE.COM**

MISSION STATEMENT

- Prevent cruelty to animals.
- Provide quality homes for animals through our adoption program.
- Promote respect and compassion for all creatures through humane education.
- Provide shelter and care for homeless and unwanted animals.
- Reduce pet overpopulation through our low-cost spay/neuter clinic.
- Provide veterinary care for low-income pet owners.
- Relieve the suffering of all animals.



Animal Welfare League
Chicago Ridge, IL

Letter From the President



Dear Supporters:

I am happy to announce that the Animal Welfare League is celebrating their 90th Anniversary. We are issuing this Special Edition newsletter to share just a few of the events that have transpired over the years. We have weathered many storms in the animal industry and have always come out on top for the sake of the animals. We would like to take you on a trip down memory lane.

Ninety years is a long time and so much has occurred over the years. We survived Covid and watched the turn of the century as we entered the new millennium. Quite an experience for all of us! We have advocated for laws to become more favorable for animals.

Animal cruelty and abuse will no longer be tolerated in many states. AWL has always been involved in pursuing legislation to enhance the betterment of animals. We are active in educating and promoting spay/neuter. Pet over-population has decreased due to public awareness and programs that we sponsored over the years. We have assisted in many natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and even hoarding situations.

We still maintain two separate buildings. One located in Chicago that has been there since 1935 and is now being used as an intake and/or holding facility. The other building is located in the southwest suburb of Chicago Ridge. We are able to house hundreds of animals which otherwise would have had nowhere to go. Many of the animals were victims of gunshots, fires, hit by cars, dog fighting survivors and so much more. We have a full time veterinarian that provides excellent care to all of the animals in our possession.

We do our very best to give back to many communities by providing low cost veterinarian services to those in need. Our goal is to help others keep their pets and maintain their health.

Without us, there would be hundreds upon thousands of animals that may not have survived. Thousands of animals have received a good forever loving home. The key to success is to provide love, care, understanding, compassion and the willingness to change with the times. Over the past few years, our new motto is "Where Would They Be Without Us?"

I am proud to serve as the President of the Animal Welfare League and will continue to do everything in my power to make sure all animals receive the care they deserve. We thank each and every one of our supporters from the bottom of our heart for allowing this happen. We would never have been able to achieve these goals without you. Thank you for everything!

Sincerely,

Chris Hignens
President





Diane Celebrating 50 Years

Diane celebrated 50 years of employment with the Animal Welfare League, located at 6224 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. This has been Diane's one and only job. She has dedicated her entire life to caring for animals. Diane started out as a young girl working at the shelter. Over the years, she has seen it all. Diane has been shot at, threatened, vandalized and so much more. However, that has not stopped her from following her heart and caring for animals. Diane has been managing the Wabash animal shelter for years. She has cared for thousands of animals and wears many hats. She has a wildlife license and her specialty is squirrels. She has nursed hundreds of them back to health. People drive hours just to bring them to her, injured, sick, orphaned, etc. Diane is also a licensed Approved Humane Investigator by the Department of Agriculture. She has been on hundreds of animal cruelty com-

plaints, many animal raids, hoarding situations, animals trapped in buildings, trapped on the ice in the lake, injured in traps, left behind in vacant buildings, abandoned and tied up in front of the building waiting for her to arrive in the morning. In addition to her extensive experience with wildlife, she has had the pleasure of assisting exotic animals such as lions and monkeys, farm animals including sheep and pigs, and so much more. Many of the animals would not be alive today, if it were not for her dedication and many years of expertise in the industry. Nothing stops Diane from going to work daily. Not even snow storms, tornadoes, ice storms, power outages, road closures and so much more. She has driven the same route for 50 years. Her dedication and compassion are unmeasurable. Diane's heart and soul makes her a one of a kind. The Animal Welfare League is proud to have Diane as an employee and looks forward to many more years. Kudos to Diane !

Celebrating 25 Years ***Dr. Paul, Denise Colello, and Melanie Waits***

**Our doors stay open because of the generosity of
people like YOU!**

Here are two ways that you can help us to help them...

Annual Memberships

Your annual membership allows us to help the animals by continuing our programs and services.

Two awesome levels to choose from:

Purr-fect Pal Membership Level (\$50/year)

Membership Card
AWL Magnet Clip
Newsletter Subscription

Fur-ever Friend Membership Level (\$100/year)

Membership Card
AWL Magnet Clip
Newsletter Subscription
AWL Tote Bag

Cage Sponsoring

AWL offers you the chance to show your support and help our pets at the same time.

For a tax deductible sponsorship donation of \$250, your name or company name will be displayed with an engraved plaque as a proud sponsor, and placed on a cage for a duration of one year.

Call us, drop by or visit our website at www.animalwelfareleague.com to get your Cage Sponsorship program application form or Annual Membership form today.

A Tribute to Yoshi

Yoshi came to AWL back in 2012. He was a 5 month old Yorkshire Terrier pup. He was an owner give up because he was badly injured and they no longer wanted him. Yoshi, being a normal rambunctious puppy would jump on his owners out of excitement. The owner used a broomstick to train him and hit him across his back to teach him to stay down. Unfortunately, they hit him so hard and shattered a section of his spinal column. Yoshi became paralyzed and could no longer use his back legs. The medical staff at AWL tried everything. He received xrays, ultrasounds, special medication, cage rest, medical wraps, braces, casts, etc. None of the treatments and procedures worked. After several long months of trying everything possible, he was officially deemed permanently paralyzed. A volunteer took a special interest in Yoshi and wanted to foster him. She took



him to water therapy and saw several specialists but it was always the same ending. Yoshi was permanently paralyzed. However, the volunteer did not see a disabled dog. She saw a dog full of life and decided to adopt Yoshi. Yoshi went to his forever home and was a bundle of joy. He got a custom made wheel chair and his fun had just begun. He would buzz around the house, chasing toys, balls, stealing things, chewing, barking, begging and just being an actual puppy. He loved being with other dogs, all sizes and breeds. His favorite past time was playing in his yard and chasing the sunshine.

Yoshi needed two baths daily due to his disability, loved to play in the water and would even roll around in his bed filled with blankets to dry off, just like any other typical dog would do. He did require more frequent haircuts to keep him sanitary and definitely needed extra love and kisses. Yoshi never noticed that he was different and was just so happy.

On March 13th of 2025, Yoshi celebrated his 13th Birthday. It is hard to believe how quickly the years have gone by. As Yoshi grew older, his body began to fail him. He developed kidney disease and then went into kidney failure. At the end, he needed regular I.V.s to maintain his fluid level but was such a trooper.

We lost our beloved Yoshi on March 29, 2025. The angels came for him and took him away to heaven. His mother and father told him how special he was, how beautiful heaven was going to look and sang his favorite song to him. We held him tight against our chest so he could feel our heartbeat until he took his last breath. We hope Yoshi is looking down on us, running around without his wheels and just being a happy dog.

We encourage you to adopt a special needs pet. Yes, they may require a little extra love and care. The amount of love they can bring to you is unmeasurable. There are so many animals in shelters that may need to take medications, follow a special diet, have some type of disability or are simply just seniors that need a forever home. Please consider opening your home to a special needs pet. If it were not for the Animal Welfare League, Yoshi would have never received the chance at living a full loving life.

If you are unable to adopt and would like to support special needs animals, please consider making a donation. Thank you for allowing us to share Yoshi's story with you!

In Loving Memory



Puppy suffered from auto-immune disease



Mr. Wiggles - tossed from moving car - neurological condition



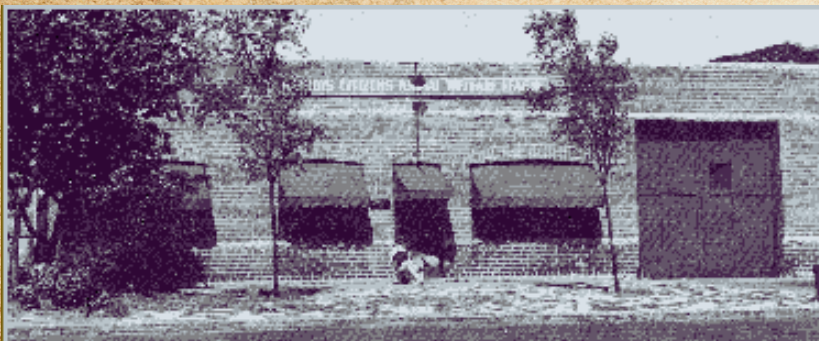
Fifi - senior blind dog - heart failure



In 1935 in a rented office located in the Chicago Loop, a small group of animal advocates got together to aid the South Side's homeless animals. On September 30, 1935, the Illinois Citizens' Animal Welfare League was officially established, and for the next three years, its founders fundraised to rent its first location: a converted two-car garage at 4807 South Wabash Avenue. In 1938, it was revealed that one of Chicago's municipal shelters had been providing thousands of animals to local universities for experimental purposes. Spurred into action, our founders increased their efforts to help the homeless animals and quickly outgrew the tiny shelter they started in. In 1942, our new location at 6224 South Wabash Avenue was opened to the public, offering adoptions and other humane care to the community.

The Animal Welfare League began serving more and more municipalities as our humane services became well-known throughout the South Side communities. The League engaged in rescue operations for all sorts of animals in need, from abandoned dogs and kittens trapped inside of walls or fences, to horses, orphaned squirrels, rabbits, even raccoons. Animals that were neglected or abused, abandoned or sick; as the needs of Chicago's animals grew, so too did the League. Over the next several decades, there were expansions to our Wabash shelter, a fleet of trucks and even a boat, spaying and neutering services and adopting out thousands of animals. In 1974, as a response to the growing need of the south suburbs, the League opened a second location at 10101 South Ridgeland Avenue in Chicago Ridge. The League eventually outgrew that location and in 1992, opened a brand new location at 10305 Southwest Highway in a state-of-the-art building, becoming one of the largest animal shelters in the state of Illinois.

From our founding on September 30, 1935 to the present day, the Animal Welfare League continues to provide humane care to homeless animals in need and service a multitude of communities with our Low Cost Clinic at our Chicago Ridge location. From our founding president, Ms. Mildred Fitz-Hugh, to current president Chris Higen, the League will always strive to help the animals who need it the most. It is our love for the animals that will drive us forward into the future.



THROUGHOUT THE YEARS



Fur-Fall-Palooza!

Come visit us at our annual fun filled family event.

10305 Southwest Highway, Chicago Ridge

October 12, 2025 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Bring your pets! Costumes welcome!



Providing Care in



Mercy is a terrier mix that came into our shelter clinging to life. She apparently was attacked by another animal and left in a ditch barely breathing. Our Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Paul, and his medical team quickly went into trauma mode and performed life saving treatments. This little terrier had puncture marks and was ripped open on both sides of her body, including her head and face. She was rushed into surgery and put back together. Her spleen was so enlarged from the trauma which she endured, that she could not even lay down comfortably. We used blankets, pillows and beds to prop her up so she could rest her tired body along the wall of the cage. Mercy's condition was so critical, our staff watched over her 24 hours a day. We would cry and pray for her. We even asked God to please help this little girl and to have "Mercy" on her.

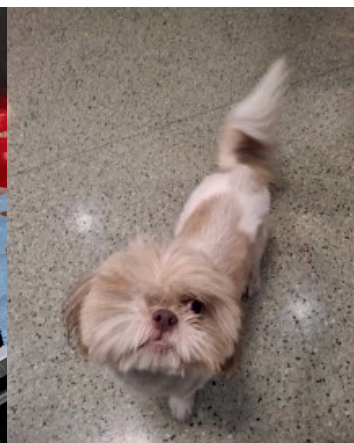
When we would say the word "Mercy", she would lift her little head and stare into our eyes. We knew at that moment, she was a true miracle and named her "Mercy." As time went by, Mercy began to show improvement. Although it was a long and slow recovery, we are happy to report that Mercy is now a happy and healthy little girl. She loves other animals and plays with her toys! If it were not for the Animal Welfare League, this little girl most likely would not be here today. She is just one example of the many lives saved at the shelter.



Mercy after receiving care



Frosty - traumatic eye injury & hypothermia



Happy and healthy after receiving care



Stray infant kitten with upper respiratory infection

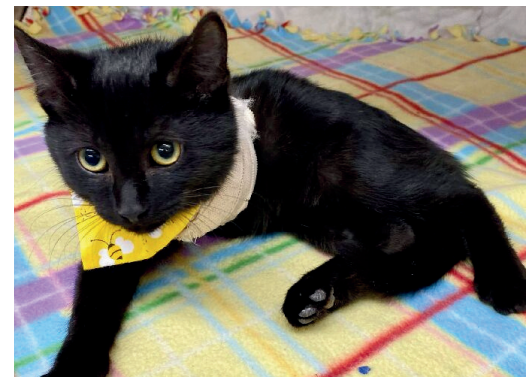


Tenner - Abandoned on our bench with a \$10 bill. Too young to eat on his own.



Hannah Rose - huge hernia impaired her ability to walk

Their Time of Need



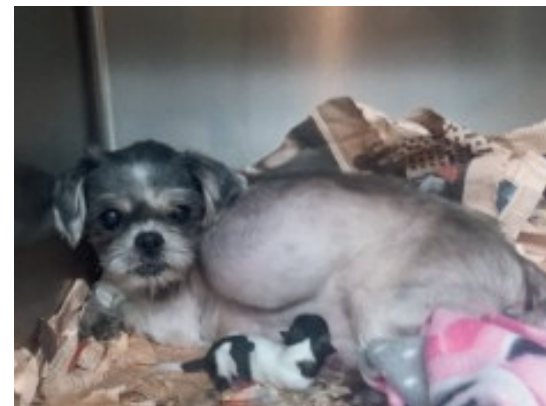
Guppy came in as a young kitten with a neurological birth defect. Leg had to be amputated. He has been adopted and is doing well in his new home.



Hercules used as bait for dog fighting left for dead on the side of the road



Amber was rescued from a garage fire and treated for smoke inhalation and severe eye irritation



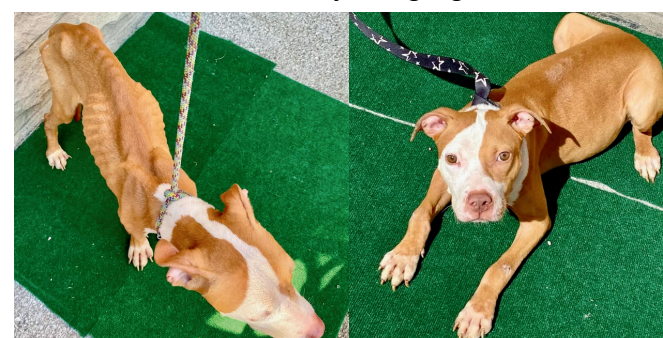
Special needs Gigi came in with huge tumor, while nursing her baby



Abandoned kitten Toby clinging to life



Winkers, abandoned after children poked his eye out



Zola - Came into our shelter severely emaciated. Was treated and adopted into a happy home.



Starved due to blockage - swallowed a towel

A special thank you to our many donors



Thank you
Liberty Jr. High



Thank You Bosley!



Animal Welfare League



Saint Vincent
De Paul
Pet Drive



Adoption Events



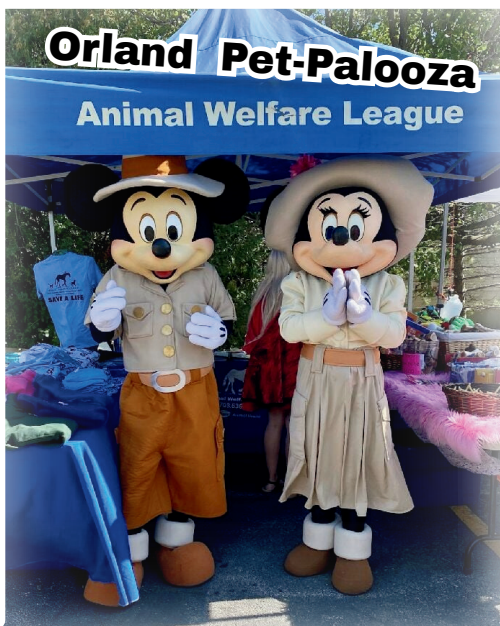
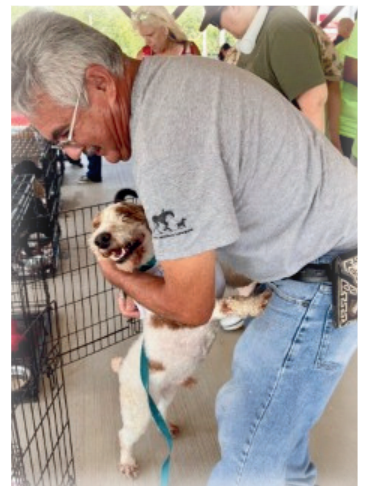
Palos Night Out



Runnings Breast cancer awareness



Ted's Greenhouse



Orland Pet-Palooza Animal Welfare League



UPS

Special Needs Animals

The Animal Welfare League cares for many animals with special needs. These cases are ones that require long-term care and medical support in order to live comfortably.

If you would like to support the cause, consider donating to help fund the treatment and care of our Special Needs Animals.



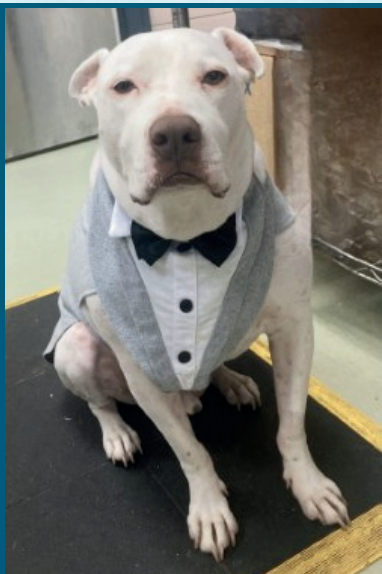
Liv came in near death. Diagnosed with Megaesophagus. Eats in a custom high chair and is doing well.



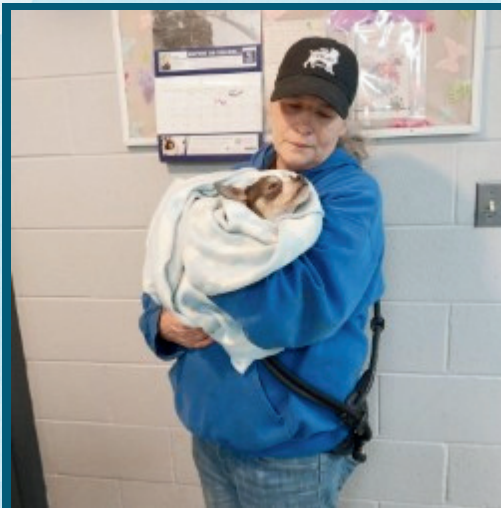
Angel suffers from Cushings Disease.



Dolly - cancer survivor and blind.



Champ & his mother suffer from separation anxiety. He is now officially an emotional support dog



Employee caring for hospice dog



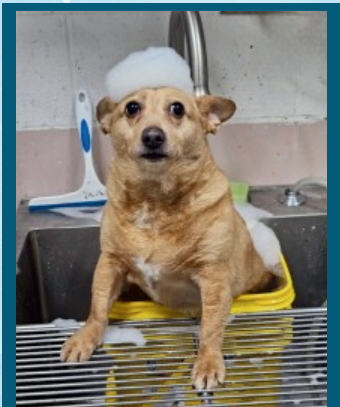
Senior cat Leo - tumor on back and eye removal due to trauma



Senior dog Bridget - breast cancer survivor



Ricky - double eye removal due to animal cruelty



Madison - reconstructed intestines requiring daily baths for life.

Clinic Hours *

Tuesday : 8:30AM - 4PM
Wednesday : 8:30AM - 6PM
Thursday : 8:30AM - 4PM
Friday : 8:30AM - 4PM
CLOSED on Sunday and
Monday

AWL Vet Clinic



HERE ARE JUST SOME OF OUR SERVICES:

- General Wellness Exams
- Yearly Vaccinations
- Flea, Tick, & Heartworm Prevention
- Internal Parasite Control
- Spay/Neuter Surgery
- Routine Surgery
- Ear Cleansing and Care
- Digital Radiography
- Dentistry
- In-House Blood Chemistry Profiles
- Microchipping

**LOW COST
LOW INCOME
OPEN TO
THE
PUBLIC**



DOGGY SHOT CLINIC SPECIAL

Every

Wednesday 3pm - 5:30pm

and

Saturday 2pm - 4pm

Best Value Packages*

\$45 - 1 yr DHLPP & Rabies

\$50 - 1 yr DHLPP, Rabies & Bordatella

\$65 - 1yr DHLPP, Rabies, Bordatella & Flu Vaccine (series of 2 shots)

\$79 - 1 yr DHLPP, Rabies, Bordatella, Flu Vaccine (series of 2 shots) & AVID microchip

**Heartworm test special \$28.50 -
1 month of Heartgard included**

dogs only

Cash, Check or Charge

***prices and clinic hours are subject
to change**



We would like to recognize and thank the following individuals and businesses for gifts made in loving memory or in honor of someone special. We deeply appreciate each of these gifts

In Loving Memory and in Honor of

Abby and Bonnie - Saul & Jo Gelfand
Ace - Diane Solum
Ajax - James and Barbara
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Alvin Stegall - Carmen Love
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Charlotte - Dawn Duslak
Clancy - Christiane Jochimski
Cleo - Jerimi Walker
Clyde Fields - Kathleen Bennett
Coco - Beverly Morrey
Cocoa - Gerald & Gertrude Haruch
Cookie - Rita Henry
Damien - Martin & Sally Ozinga
Dejah - Jason Szczepanski
Diane at Wabash - Dave Naso
Dixie - Eileen Salah
Doerle Fab Five - Sherri Doerle
Dolly Martin - Steven Martin
Donald & Mary Frances Miller - James Miller
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Jennifer May Ling Chin - Lori Baranoff
Jerry D. Filyaw - Kathryn Zaba
Joan Meier - Teri and Toni Prokes, and Sue and Bob Everett



A Tribute to Brian Sennett
 We recently lost one of our long time employees, Brian Sennett. This is a very difficult loss for us here at AWL. Brian was a major part of our organization for over 18 years. He first started out as a volunteer many years ago. His love of animals inspired him to become a full time employee. He has worked in just about every department of the organization. Over the years, he has fostered and adopted many pets. He was a one of a kind person. We can try but no one will ever be able to fill his shoes. Brian will forever be in our hearts and will be greatly missed by all of us.



Maureen Knight - Forever in our Hearts
 It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of a friend and former employee of the Animal Welfare League, Maureen Knight. Maureen loved animals and was very dedicated to them. The special needs animals were dearest to her heart. Her influence is still felt here at AWL through the many workers who were taught and trained by her. Maureen was friendly, kind, and generous with people as well as pets. As a coworker and friend, Maureen was well loved by those who knew her and she will forever be missed.

Joanne White-Gentile - Patricia Turnage
Joe and Sandy McKeever - Michelle McKeever
John C Beirne - Kristine Beirne
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Ninja - Anne Orzechowski
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Opie Venhuizen - Brett Venhuizen
Oreo & Tigger - Karen Shadbar
Packey Gee - Laura Peterson
Pam Taylor - Oak Lawn Library Staff Association
Papi - Gabriel Guevara
Pasta - Walter Turlo
Pat Boyle - Raymond & Ramona Jenson

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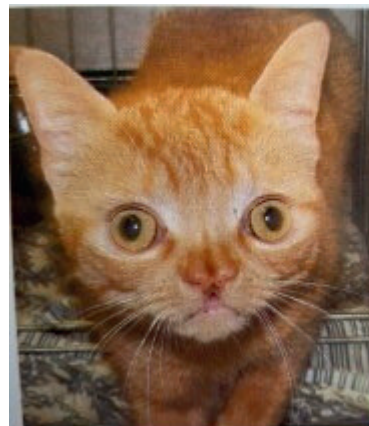
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Wayne Pollard - Barbara Wotanek
William Fitch - Marlene Fitch
Zampa Sisters - Marni Zampa
Zepplin - Scott Heilwagen
Zeus - Monica Colon



Remembering Wayne Kinzie

We would like to pay tribute in memory of Wayne Kinzie, a very special man.

Wayne Volunteered for many hours helping care for the homeless animals at our Wabash facility. He put his blood, sweat, and tears into his work and was generous with his time and effort. He was dedicated to helping homeless cats, and throughout most of his life, he cared for and rescued cats out on the streets.



Citrus

The Animal Welfare League has lost a beloved part of our organization. Our cat Citrus was the shelter's mascot for many years until she sadly passed away from cancer at the age of 14.

Citrus was brought to us at 10 months of age when she had been rescued from a house fire. Because of her unique look, the firefighters believed that she had been injured. Our vet soon determined that she had no serious injuries and suffered only from smoke inhalation. Her unusual appearance was due to a cleft palate which caused her to need a nasal septum repair.

Citrus lived with us in the administration office and was loved by everyone at the Animal Welfare League. She enjoyed sleeping in her pineapple on the desk and eating her special treats. She was a cherished companion to all of us and will be greatly missed.



ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

10305 Southwest Highway

Chicago Ridge, IL 60415

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Animal Welfare League Donation Wish List



Kennel Supplies

- Dog food – DRY & Canned
- Paper Food Trays
- Pooper Scoopers
- Newspapers (no ad slicks)
- Blankets
- Towels
- Collars and Leashes (all sizes)
- Cat Food – Dry and Canned
- Cat Litter – Clay
- Cat Litter Scoopers
- Litter Boxes (small)
- Dog Treats
- Cat Treats (no catnip)
- Spray Bottles
- Serving Spoons
- Watering Cans
- Cooking Utensils
- Baby Food (chicken, turkey)
Stage 1 ONLY
- Bird Seed & Treats
- Guinea Pig Food
- Rabbit Food
- Animal Shampoo



Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry Detergent
(POWDER/Liquid)
- Broom & Standing Dust Pan
- BLEACH
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Garbage Bags (large)
- All Purpose Kitchen Spray
Cleaner (Clorox, Lysol, Spic &
Span)
- Glass Cleaner
- Mops & Scrubbing Sponges
- Rolling Bucket Mops w/
Wringer
- Paper Towels
- 55 gal Garbage Cans w/
Hinged Lids
- Squeegees
- Facial Tissue
- Toilet Paper
- Sponges



Office Supplies

- Folders (2 pocket)
- Highlighters
- 3-Ring Binders
- Spiral Notebook
- Paper
- Sharpies (black)
- Post-It Notes
- Copy Paper (colored)
- Paper clips
- Binder Clips
- Staples
- Staplers
- Pens/Pencils
- Tape (Duct, Scotch,
Packing)



Veterinary Supplies

- Scrub Sponges
- Digital Thermometers
- Heating Pads
- Band-Aids
- Syringes (1 ml & 3 ml)
- Disposable Gloves
- Peroxide

Our shelter currently houses hundreds of homeless animals who depend on the generosity of people just like you. 100% of donations go directly towards helping them and helping us succeed in our mission to provide them with safety and comfort until they find their forever home. Your donations are greatly appreciated!