



Their Welfare is in Our Hands.

Animal Assistance League of Orange County

15102 Jackson St.

Midway City, Ca. 92655

Humane Center & Kennel: (714) 893-4393 • Pet Helpline: (714) 891-PETS • Fax: (714) 799-6953

Website: www.aaloc.org

Summer 2010

Dear Friends of AALOC,

I am writing this letter out of my great concern for the future of AALOC.

Although we have been struggling financially over the last few years, we are now at the point where our funds are so dangerously low that the future of our rescue work and community programs is threatened. As the volunteer Treasurer, I get knots in my stomach as I check our account online every day to see if we have enough to cover the basic bills and any unexpected vet visit. If an emergency arises, as happens when over 200 dogs and cats depend on you for their care, I find myself overwhelmed, not knowing what hat I can pull a magic trick out of to make it possible for me to care for them the way I promised them that I would. My greatest fear is what will happen when there is no magic trick, when the account truly is empty, when Oscar needs leg surgery, and comes to me limping and gives me a kiss. How do I look him in the eye and tell him that I am doing the best I can for him? How can I tell you how much I need your help? How much Oscar needs you?

Many nights, I wake up and wonder where can we cut expenses? As many nonprofits walk a razor thin line when it comes to financial security, and many others have closed down, I try to remind myself that AALOC has been here for over 37 years and thousands upon thousands of animals have been spayed, neutered, rescued from abandonment and abuse, treated for illnesses and injuries, and lost pets reunited with pet owners all because of AALOC.

We just can't close down...but I know in my heart the reality is that it may be our only choice.

Kathy Alberti & Lucky



Losing AALOC will be a terrible blow to the community.

No more Helpline which takes over 2000 calls per month at no charge, reuniting lost and found pets, providing resources for moving with your pet, guiding those who have witnessed animal abuse, and working with pet owners who have no choice but to place their pets for adoption due to hardships.

No more Pet Aid, which has for almost 25 years, paid for veterinary care for thousands of pets belonging to those who survive on social security, disability or are homeless. These pets belonged to owners who had no money to treat problems ranging from mange, parvovirus,

upper respiratory infections, broken bones from being hit by cars or abuse, or birth defects such as spinal deformities, lung diseases, and eye diseases. Many of these dogs and cats lay in pain, some even near death, while their owners tearfully sought help which was only found when they called out to AALOC. Many reported that AALOC was the only organization that ever returned their phone call.

No more Spay & Neuter Program, which pays for spay and neutering of pets of low income owners, and has prevented the births of hundreds of thousands of dogs and cats who would have been born just to die. There are 7 times more puppies and kittens born daily than there are humans born. Without Spay & Neuter, it will only get worse.

No more Humane Education, a program that educates the community on pet dangers such as 4th of July fireworks, about having identification and microchips on your pets, and which takes some of our beloved rescue animals to schools and Boy Scout & Girl Scout Troops, teaching children how to care for and treat animals with kindness.

There are many AALOC programs that you may not know of, such as our **Food for Homeless Pets** program. Volunteers coordinate food collections at numerous veterinary offices throughout Orange County, and pet food is given out at AALOC to those who are unable to feed their pets. No pet has ever been turned away.

Buddy



Kathy Alberti & Ashley



Losing AALOC will be a heartbreaking day for us, and devastating for the animals of Orange County.

Continued on back side...

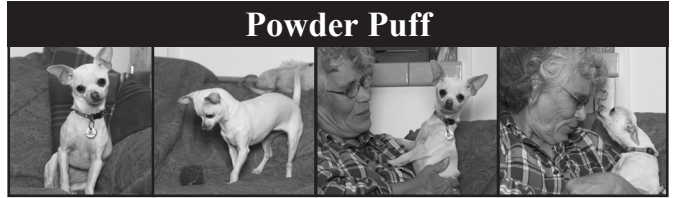
Do you want to know what really hits me in the pit of my stomach? I wonder – who will take Tonka? He is such a big, handsome Pit Bull. I once nursed him back to health after he suffered a ruptured spleen from a benign mass. After surgery, it was the first time Tonka had ever been in a home. The big guy was afraid of the TV set and even the rocking chair, but he loved to sit by me and put his head in my lap. I have never found a dog who could cuddle like Tonka. You see, I love Tonka, so I wonder, if we have to close down, who will take Tonka?



**Tonka
recovering
from surgery**

certainly be easier for me to back away from AALOC and remove myself from the anxiety I feel when I think about the fate of our beloved animals and all the other animals who depend on our programs to do what their owners cannot do on their own.

The joy I feel when I see little Powder Puff playing with a kibble, tossing it around and jumping on it like a little fox, reminds me of the good that we do. I remember seeing her limp and almost lifeless body when a stranger carried her to AALOC's door. The 3 pound Chihuahua, near death from parvo, is now a spunky pup who can fit in your hand and melt your heart.



Powder Puff

Lucky, our senior office resident, a 15 year old Lhasa Apso, AKA "Couch Grouch," (pictured on page 1) has a BIG personality, his favorite spot on the office couch, and greets visitors hoping they will take him for another walk. Buddy the cat runs and plays with Ashley the



Murdock

dog (both pictured on page 1) mostly teasing her and showing her some good cat moves. I hold dear to my heart Rona, the 12 year old cat taken to the pound by an owner who wanted to travel. Our vet told me he could not hear her heartbeat because she was purring so loudly during her exam.



Rona

This is my personal nightmare, worrying about the fate of these animals. I wish I had more money. I wish I had more time. I wish I were more talented so that I could figure out a way to bring in more money. I wish I were rich. And as I go to sleep tonight, I wonder if you will feel the love I feel for these precious and innocent dogs and cats, if you will hear my plea for help and I will be thinking, "Who will take Tonka?"

Kathy Alberti - AALOC Treasurer



Pooh

And who will take Pooh? Pooh had a persistent ear infection and I made it my responsibility to take him back and forth to the vet until his ears were healed. He was always good during his exams, just a really nice dog who put up with all the poking and prodding. He always looked forward to a long walk after every visit and was always

a perfect gentleman. You see, I love Pooh, and I wonder, who will take Pooh?

The volunteers at AALOC truly love our dogs and cats. Recently, we suffered the loss of a much beloved dog, Kyle, who lived at AALOC for most of his life. There was a line of volunteers, many who left their jobs early that day, to come and be with him as we said our good byes. This love is real and it's what makes AALOC so special and so needed.

There is new meaning to our motto 'Their Welfare is in Our Hands.' Although we cannot save every animal, I believe with all my heart that we have a responsibility to those we have rescued. They are not disposable. They have feelings and are truly innocent. They did not have much choice in their lives but were at the mercy of the humans who let them go because of hardship or a complete lack of concern for their welfare. But how can we manage? It would be so much easier just to turn your back on the problem and pretend it isn't there. It would

Animal Assistance League of Orange County

Please attach the following information to your tax-deductible donation and return in the enclosed envelope.

Yes - I want to help injured, ill, neglected, abused or abandoned animals in Orange County.

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____

I would like to make a **Monthly Pledge** of:

\$ 3.00 a month

\$ 5.00 a month

\$10.00 a month

\$20.00 a month

\$50.00 a month

Other \$ _____ a month

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to:
AALOC

Check here if you would like to receive our monthly E-Newsletter.

The Animals Thank You For Your Support!