

# Adoption Tails

The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire



Summer 2008



## Safe Haven Program

The Animal Rescue League of NH, along with numerous animal protection groups across the country, offers what is referred to as a "Safe Haven for Animals"™ (Safe Haven) program. Often victims of domestic violence are either unable or unwilling to leave their abusive situations for fear of what will happen to their animal companion. If they are able to leave the situation, the reality is that the temporary housing or shelter that they may need to use often will not allow them to bring their animals.

**A survey in Utah found that 71% of women seeking help for domestic violence said their partner threatened to kill their pet, and 57% actually did so.**

In such situations, the League is able to assist by providing temporary shelter to the animals of domestic violence. In a highly confidential program, human victims of violence are able to leave their animals with us for a period of time, knowing that at the very least they no longer have to worry about the safety of their pets. This safe haven allows for their time

and energy to be focused on getting themselves, and perhaps their human children, the help they need in starting to put the pieces of their lives back together.

Research done for The First Strike campaign through the Humane Society of the United States found that "91% of adult victims and 73% of child victims describe incidents of companion animal abuse when they enter shelters. But only 18% of shelters surveyed routinely ask about pets when a victim comes to them for service". This overwhelming need for temporary emergency shelter for animal victims of domestic violence is one of the many reasons the Animal Rescue League of NH offers its services under the Safe Haven program.

Operating under strict privacy protocols, animals that are boarded at the League under the Safe Haven program are kept in staff-only access areas in the shelter. Any information on the animal, including confirmation as to whether a particular animal is a part of our program, is withheld from anyone but the person/s responsible for bringing in the animal.

Although the Safe Haven program addresses the specific issue of human and animal domestic violence, another emergency service the League offers is a temporary protective custody program. Often victims of both manmade and natural disasters such as fire or floods find themselves forced to deal with not only the emotional trauma of the event, but also having to find temporary shelter for

*Try imagining a place where it's always safe and warm.*

*"Come in," she said, "I'll give you shelter from the storm."*

*--- Bob Dylan*

their companion animals. When such an incident occurs, the League is also available to house those animals temporarily. Within a two-week period of time in late March and early April this year many Manchester residents faced a number of apartment fires, some involving residences with animals. The League ended up housing several cats from these fires. One cat in particular, Angel, was also treated for injuries sustained during the fire during his stay at the League.

If you or someone you know finds themselves in need of emergency sheltering for their animals, please contact our outreach line at 471-0888.

## Adoption Spotlights



Boogie

Hi, my name is Boogie. I am a seven-year-old neutered male. I was brought to the shelter because my owner developed allergies. I am an indoor....

*Adoption Spotlights continued on page 7*

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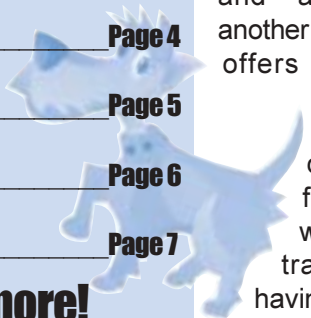
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**...and more!**



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Newsletter formatted by  
Marianne Jones

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.

# Message from the President & CEO: You Have Helped Make Cat Nap Dreams Come True!

Dear Friends of the League-

Through mid-August of this year we have taken in 820 felines – 503 cats and 317 kittens. On the day I am writing this update, we have 226 cats and kittens in our care at the League (for perspective, our ideal maximum cage capacity is 120).

Our current cat adoption area (cats that are actively available for adoption) can hold 46 cats (plus five more in “Cat Town”, our only current communal cat living space). Most of our cats live in fairly small cages for the duration of their stay.

This month we will put the finishing touches on the major construction for our new Feline Adoption Center (FAC) and move onto appointing the interior with furniture, cat ramps,



and other cat adoption “gear”. The FAC has long been a dream for many League supporters and Board members as it will allow many of our cats to live in a much more natural setting through the construction of four colony rooms. In addition, adopters will be much more able to get to know cats without needing to ask the staff to move a specific cat to a Get Acquainted Room, which will allow the staff to spend more time answering questions and working to make great matches for potential adopters.

Our dream of the FAC became a reality when long time supporter (and 2007 Volunteer of the Year) Gloria MacVane gave us a major gift to get the project started, and Board Member Roger Jean and his wife Fran offered to match our auction’s Fund-a-Need donations, which were all designated for the FAC. With this momentum and incentive, our auction attendees responded generously, and by the end of the evening, 100% of the construction was funded!



As a result, later this year we will open the doors to our beautiful new Feline Adoption Center! We plan to have a grand opening Open House on Sunday, October 19th, so we hope you will stop by for a visit and socialize with our four rooms of “free-roaming” cats. For cats that aren’t fond of living with other cats, we will still have individual cages – though more of them will be twice the size of our current standard cage.

When complete, we estimate that the new Feline Adoption Center will hold about 98 cats – more than twice our current capacity. However, perhaps more importantly we believe that our cats will be happier and less stressed (and therefore healthier), and that our potential adopters will have a more pleasant and natural interaction, thereby encouraging – you guessed it – more adoptions!

To those of you who have helped to make this dream a reality – thank you from the bottom of our hearts. To all who are interested in bettering animals’ lives, we hope to see you in the FAC!

We do still have some naming opportunities left within the Feline Adoption Center. For more information, please contact Lisa-Marie Mulkern at 603.472.5788 or e-mail: [lisa-marie@rescueleague.org](mailto:lisa-marie@rescueleague.org).

*Caroline Boyd*  
President & CEO

# Leptospirosis-An Invisible Threat

One evening in the fall of 2006, our beloved dog Lefty suddenly began to show signs of illness. At first he seemed weak, and uninterested in eating, but as the night wore on, he got shivers, a fever, and unstoppable shakes in his hind legs until walking became very difficult. My husband and I and our four-month old child got into bed that night, but no one slept well. What was wrong with our 96 pound Lab-Cattle Dog mix?

First thing the next morning we called the veterinarian's office and they asked us to come in right away. They took blood, and sent us home. Just a few hours later, they called back and told us to bring him back in immediately. The blood test had confirmed Dr. Roy Ball's worst concern, Lefty was suffering from Leptospirosis, a bacteria spread through the urine of wild animals and which is dangerous to both pets and humans. Once at the office, Dr. Ball explained that dogs can get Leptospirosis any number of ways – by sniffing grass sprayed with a carrier's urine, by stepping in a puddle where a carrier stood or drank from and having a cut on a paw that might allow the infection to penetrate the pet's body that way, or by drinking puddle water that may have been infected. Suddenly, and since then, the outdoors has felt strangely unsafe. He explained to us that we'd gotten Lefty to him early on since he only had one evening of symptoms, which was good, but that it can be a fast moving and deadly disease. In its most powerful state, it can cause liver and kidney failure and that can lead to death due to bleeding. There was no way to know how things would play out for Lefty at that early stage.

Dr. Ball insisted that Lefty stay at his office, where they could care for him, and keep him in quarantine. Leptospirosis can spread to humans, and of course Dr. Ball was especially concerned about passing it to our young child. Lefty stayed at the Manchester Animal Hospital for ten days. Each morning, we'd get a call from Dr. Ball with the update on Lefty's organ function. For most of those ten days, the numbers only went down. Dr. Ball consulted with Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, and followed their advice in terms of treatment as things began to worsen. I tried cooking anything and everything that Lefty had ever shown an interest in eating, but he hardly ate a thing the entire time he was at the veterinarian's. My husband Will visited him daily, taking him for brief walks and sometimes just sitting outside and watching the traffic go by on the Daniel Webster Highway.

On the morning of November 7th, Lefty's 7th birthday, our phone rang. 'He's bleeding out,' Dr. Ball said somberly. He told us that Lefty was clearly in a lot of pain and there was no way he could recover now that he'd begun to bleed so severely. It was time, he told us, to say goodbye. Lefty was still quarantined, alone so much of the time, in a cage, in a small room, so far from the life of freedom and play he'd known with us. I went to the office, to spend some time with Lefty who seemed sad, but strangely peaceful. I had to wear gloves to touch him. Together Dr. Ball and I held him as Dr. Ball gave him a shot, and slowly Lefty took his last breaths.

The shock of losing Lefty still stings us today, nearly two years after his death. How had he contracted this tenacious bug, and why had it taken him down so quickly? He had, after all, gotten the shot for Leptospirosis every year. And Dr. Ball had saved some animals that had the same virus, though that fall he lost some as well. It turns out that the Leptospirosis vaccine given at that time consisted of the same three strains of the bacteria determined to have been the most likely to strike in the 1970s! At the time of Lefty's death, New Hampshire and several other states experienced a small outbreak of Leptospirosis. I understand that now both the vaccines and the treatment of Leptospirosis-infected dogs have changed and much more is understood in terms of care and prevention.

So I urge you to be sure your pets are immunized against Leptospirosis and I ask that you heed my warning. Don't let your pets drink from standing water, watch the condition of their paws, and do the best you can to love them and keep them safe.

*Meryl Levin has been on the Board of Directors for the Animal Rescue League of NH for the past three years. Although the death of her dog Lefty has affected her and her family, they decided to open their hearts and home again this past year to a beautiful new dog named "Lucy." Lucy was a puppy adopted from the ARL's transport program.*



To learn more about Leptospirosis, talk to your veterinarian or go to:  
<http://www.news.cornell.edu/Chronicle/97/10.16.97/leptospirosis.html>

# League's Staff Member Appointed Feline-ality Facilitator for the ASPCA



**Danielle Hastings  
with her dog Bizzy**

In February of 2007 the Animal Rescue League of NH was proud to implement a new concept in cat adoptions. After attending a workshop given by the ASPCA on their new match-based adoption program called Feline-ality the League was excited to jump on board. The shelter had already implemented the canine version of this adoption program and it only made sense to have the same adoption program for the shelter's

over-abundant cat population. Ever since implementing learning-based adoptions the League has seen a positive change in customer service feedback, better matches, and increased adoption rates. It was a win-win situation for all involved in the adoption process!

Due to the positive feedback associated with the ASPCA's Canine-ality and Feline-ality adoption programs they began to gain popularity across the U.S. In order to meet the demands of shelters wanting to implement the program, the ASPCA needed more people on board to facilitate Meet Your Match trainings. The League's President & CEO Caroline Boyd recommended Danielle Hastings, Director of Adoptions, to the ASPCA as a possible Feline-ality facilitator. When the Animal Rescue League of NH implemented the Feline-ality program, Danielle oriented the staff and volunteers to the program and facilitated a complete training on how to make the adoption changes within the organization. Both Caroline and the ASPCA staff felt that this first-hand experience would be beneficial when guiding other shelters to this valuable adoption program.

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After an in-depth training process, Danielle recently facilitated her first training in Walnut Creek, CA which included attendees from San Francisco SPCA and Tony LaRussa's Animal Refuge League. Danielle reports that it was a great success and that it was a great networking opportunity. "It was so nice to have a chance to share the positive experiences that we have had using this program with other shelters. This was not an easy program to implement and I remember how overwhelmed we felt when making the changes. I hope that my own personal experiences will help other shelters be more confident as they make the transition," Danielle said.

Are you looking to meet your perfect feline or canine match? Contact the League at (603) 472-DOGS for more information of the Meet Your Match Program or go to [www.rescueleague.org/matchmaker.cfm](http://www.rescueleague.org/matchmaker.cfm).

# Employee Spotlight



**Maureen Prendergast with her dogs Snoopy and Jazz**

My name is Maureen Prendergast and I perform Animal Cruelty Investigations & Community Outreach for the Animal Rescue League of NH. I also instruct the League's obedience classes. I started with the ARLNH back in September of 1996. In dog years, I have been with the ARLNH forever!! I started with the shelter two years after graduating from college and can actually say I have had the pleasure of caring for animals for almost my entire adult life.

A lot of people ask me how I can do the job I do. For me the answer is easy. I do this job because I love it, and because I know that there are animals and people in our community that need the very special assistance that our cruelty investigations and outreach programs offer. Within the past year and a half I have helped implement specific outreach programs such as our Spayapalooza<sup>®</sup> subsidized spay/neuter clinic. This clinic strives to reach members of the public that may need assistance providing affordable spay or neuter services for their companion animals. There is nothing as satisfying after running a day-long marathon spay/neuter clinic than realizing the impact you have helped to make on preventing pet overpopulation.

In addition to my daily job of following up on cruelty complaints and providing outreach services, and my night job of training hundreds of dogs a year and helping to improve the bond between people and their canine companions, I am also involved in a number of groups that are dedicated to improving the lives of people and animals across the state. I am a member of the New Hampshire Animal Fighting Task Force, the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals, and the New Hampshire Disaster Animal Response Team. I am also interested in providing education, training and emergency relief for all of New Hampshire's residents, both two and four-legged varieties.

With all of my free time...I am also a companion to two ARL alumni dogs, Jazz ('96) and Snoopy ('07).

**To view a listing of donations made to the League in honor or memory of, please visit our website at [www.rescueleague.org](http://www.rescueleague.org)**

# Come And Join The ARL of NH At One of Our Special Events!

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 over \$65,000 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) 472-5714 or e-mail [robin@rescueleague.org](mailto:robin@rescueleague.org).

## 5th Annual Pet Step...Tie Your Sneakers, Leash the Dog and Join us for another Fundraising Event!

### TOP DOG SPONSORS

- Bedford Pharmacy
- GT Solar Incorporated

Five years ago, a couple of staff and board members were discussing fundraising ideas for the League. The idea of a dog walk fundraiser, an event that every shelter runs since it is so mission-aligned, came up in the conversation. The Board president looked at our Event Coordinator and said, "Make it happen!" And so, the search was on for a committee that could "make this event happen." Five years later, the committee has grown from five members to 20 and in only four years, the net total grew from \$3,300 to \$21,000. What will year number five bring?

### Cool Cat Sponsors

- Absolute Title LLC
- Animal Hospital of Nashua
- Food for Pets - Amherst
- Food for Pets - Manchester
- Professional Pet Sitting Etc.
- Wal-Mart - Bedford

This year the fundraiser, which will be held at Camp Allen in Bedford, NH on Saturday, September 20th beginning at 9:30 am, is expected to raise over \$25,000 and host over 300 attendees and their canine companions. The event also boasts more than 40 vendors (time to bring Fido shopping!), several animal shelters, a Kid's Corner, pet art, K-9 Police Demonstrations, Obedience, Freestyle, games for dogs, pet psychics and more!

Think about the fun you will have with your pooch, meeting other dog-lovers and four-legged friends at this rain-or-shine event! Form a team (four or more people) or just come by yourself. Want to sponsor someone already walking on September 20th or just make a donation towards the Pet Step? Go to [www.rescueleague.org](http://www.rescueleague.org) and click on "Make a Donation." Just be sure to put the person's name and the word Pet Step on the designation line so they get credit for funds raised! Also, please consider supporting those who support the League, our amazing sponsors of this event (see listing on left margin).

### Kindly Kitten Sponsors

- Best Friends Animal Hospital
- Devine Flooring
- Milford Veterinary Hospital
- Wholistic Pet Organics

### Friendly Ferret Sponsors

- Caryn's Coppertop Creamery
- Caryn's Country Convenience

### Happy Hamster Sponsors

- Ansell & Anderson, PA
- Critter Control
- Franklin Plumbing & Heating
- Heartstrings Animal Photography
- Merrimack Building Supply
- Tom Peters/State Farm Insurance

***We hope to see many of our friends, neighbors and supporters on Saturday, September 20th when they come to walk for the animals that are housed here at the League - thank you in advance for your support!***



Fifth Annual Dog Walk  
for the Animal Rescue League of NH  
Saturday, September 20, 2008

## 10th Annual Live & Silent Auction



The 10th Annual Live and Silent Auction will be held on Friday, November 14th, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester (Center of NH). The auction will start at 6:30pm and include a sit down dinner during the live auction piece. Tickets are \$40. To purchase, contact Robin Ahlgren at (603) 472-5714 or e-mail [robin@rescueleague.org](mailto:robin@rescueleague.org). Don't hesitate to buy your ticket now as we've sold out the last three years! We have many great auction items lined up already to help us celebrate our 10th auction!

## Training Tips

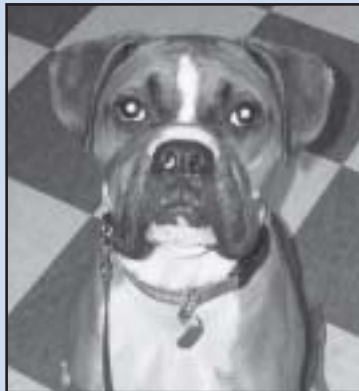
Have you ever been ignored by a dog? Have you have found yourself calling your best friend to come-come-come-come-come-come-come-come-come-come only to watch them continue to do exactly what it is they look like they want to do?

If this has happened to you, you may want to re-evaluate your use of the word "come". Many of our dogs actually don't know what the word means. Or the behavior they associate with it is running wildly around the yard and away from you. After all, whenever they are engaged in this crazy behavior that's the word you repeat over and over. Make any sense?

Try to start by using the word "come" when your dog is clearly heading towards you and you're sure you could (gently, now!) put your hand on them. Another very common mistake is to call your dog to you, or in your general direction, and then give them bad news. That's very unfair and almost guaranteed to give your dog a very negative association with the word.

Another important tip is to say what you mean. If its time for a dog to go in their crate so you can go to work (and earn an income to support them), than let's say "crate" or whatever it is you call it. On the contrary, by calling your dog to 'come' and then putting them in the crate and disappearing for an entire day, you are creating a very negative association with the word.

For more help on saying what you mean and other training topics, please contact [thecrazycanine@yahoo.com](mailto:thecrazycanine@yahoo.com) for upcoming class schedules.



*You called?*

## The Year of the Vet Bill



"Things happen" they say and this year they happened a lot. Though the nature of animal welfare is to see a disproportionate number of sick or injured animals come to the shelter, this year has been a big one.

"Tucker" the overzealous three-year old male black Labrador tore his cruciate ligament and required ACL surgery. "Little Kitty" a feisty but sweet, white-with-tiger cat arrived with substantial injury to her tail and rear-end that is referred to as being "degloved." Through an unknown accident she had some of her skin separated from her tail. Her condition required tail amputation. "Baby" a three-year-old female Bengal-looking cat recently underwent an entropion eye surgery to correct a defect that caused her eyelids to be turned slightly inward allowing her eyelashes to rub against her cornea. "Sunny" the just-too-sweet, (and more than a little overweight) orange cat arrived in need of ACL surgery to repair his torn cruciate ligament. And the list goes on to include innumerable blood tests, dental extractions, x-rays, physicals and more.

The long and the short of it: it has been one difficult year for vet bills. Even with the great generosity of local vets we are far beyond our budget and hoping for a reprieve. If you are interested in helping us continue our ability to provide veterinary care for our many injured guests, please do not hesitate to give. You can mail a donation to the League or donate on-line at [www.rescueleague.org](http://www.rescueleague.org) (put "Vet Bills" in the designation).

## Obedience Happenings

There is nothing more "happening" than bringing a puppy into your household. And with all the new puppies that have been happening in our local area, the Animal Rescue League of NH's obedience classes have been puppy-full all summer long! Thanks in part to our transport program, in which the ARLNH has partnered with a shelter in Mississippi to bring unwanted puppies to NH and match them with forever homes, the puppy classes have been almost unable to keep up!

Puppy training classes are the perfect way to ensure owners have the guidance and follow up to bring a bundle of energy into their homes. They are also a safe and fun way to help socialize new puppies with different people and other puppies. By training them young, and with the frame of mind that they will be adult dogs before you know it, the puppy class can also help to prevent some of the nightmare behaviors we sometimes deal with in adult dogs who missed out on that early socialization and behavior work. A puppy level course is five weeks long and involves housetraining, crate-training, chewing and inappropriate

mouthng, loads of fun, and more! Almost right from the time you bring your new puppy home, the education (and fun) should begin. So if you are looking to make your next canine companion a pup, please contact the League by emailing [thecrazycanine@yahoo.com](mailto:thecrazycanine@yahoo.com) to find out more information on upcoming classes.



*Puppy Graduation*

**The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire**

# Camp Critter



Learning proper cat care



Feeding Wildlife

After hearing year after year, "Why don't YOU run a summer camp? My kids would LOVE it!" the very first summer camp was held at the Animal Rescue League of NH in July. Focusing on the nine-to-twelve age range, "Camp Critter," as the first group of campers named it, offered a week of activities, guest speakers, and hands-on interaction with shelter animals.

Campers had the chance to care for and name kittens, keep a journal, make craft projects, learn how dogs communicate, understand what animal cruelty is, socialize with rabbits and ferrets, and learn how to respect wildlife. Campers saw a demonstration on how an animal is surrendered to the League and they had a chance to "host" the local cable television show, "For Pets' Sake." (The show is available on most local community access stations and the camp episode (episode date July 17, 2008) can be seen for a limited time online at <http://www.bedfordtv.com>).

The goal for the camp was to have each participant not only enjoy the week, but leave with a greater knowledge and appreciation of the role that the shelter plays in the community and the importance of individual leadership in matters of compassion, humane treatment of animals, and responsible pet ownership. From the feedback we have received about the first week of camp, we believe "Camp Critter" has achieved those goals!

**The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire would like to give special thanks to Lorraine Carson and the Highlands Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Milford. We wish Lorraine all the best and thank her for all her hard work on behalf of NH's wildlife.**



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# Adoption Spotlights Continued

kitty who likes to be cuddled and to lie on your lap. I am not a huge fan of other cats but do well with children. I am also very tolerant of dogs. I had a Dachshund lick me once and I didn't even blink an eye! I enjoy playtime and like to roll around and be petted by you. I like to talk and will call out to you as you go by. I am an affectionate boy hoping to find a forever home.

*My feline-ality is: Love Bug (purple)*



Baby

Hi, my name is Baby and I am an 11-year old spayed female hound mix. I am a very friendly girl with only mild arthritis which supplements should help. I love to go for walks and play with my family. I like cats and dogs and would do best with older kids in my new home. They say I should not live in a apartment because when I get lonely I sometimes howl and some folks don't like that. I really would like to find a home to live out my retirement years. I have a lot of love to give and and can't wait to find a new home.

*My canine-ality is: Wall Flower (orange)*



Jimmy

Hi, my name is Jimmy. I am a six-month old male mouse. I was brought to the shelter because there were too many animals in my home. I am a very fun boy to watch. I love rolling around in my mouse ball, climbing, and the wheel in my cage is a lot of fun. I can run really, really fast and would do well in your own personal creation of mouse Olympics! If you are looking for a smaller pet to add to your family I would be a great addition!



Nova

Hi my name is Nova. I am a 12-year old neutered male. I was brought to the shelter nine months ago because my owner was moving. I would be happiest as your only pet and should be an indoor kitty. I am very playful, especially when you are not looking. If you peek into the room I often stop and act like as if nothing were happening. If you are lucky, you may catch me rolling around on my back and chasing jingle balls and toy mice. Catnip is also a purrsonal favorite of mine and I love it sprinkled on just about anything! I do use a scratching post and will cuddle sometimes (on my own terms). I can be vocal when I want something. I am a senior boy hoping to find a forever home.

*My feline-ality is: Sidekick (Orange)*



# Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire

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## The Animal Rescue League of NH

603.472.DOGS (3647)      [www.rescueleague.org](http://www.rescueleague.org)



### Key Upcoming Events

**September 20<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pet Step (9:30-2:30pm) **

**October 19<sup>th</sup>: Grand Opening of our new Feline Adoption Center (12-5pm) **

**November 14<sup>th</sup>: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Live & Silent Auction (advance tickets required)**

**November 28<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Tree Sales Begin **

**November 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>: Annual Craft Fair (10-5pm) **

**December 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>: Pet Photos With Santa (10-5pm) **



= Family Friendly Event

*Check the ARL website for other events throughout the year*