

# Animal Defense League of Arizona 2002 Annual Report



2002 was ADLA's most productive year yet. Our spay/neuter program underwent vast expansion. ADLA's dedicated regional coordinators organized circus, rodeo, and fur protests, held lectures and exhibits, served on local and national committees, and ran spay/neuter programs. Between thwarting mountain lion kills and defeating a proposed night-hunting measure, we challenged the AZ Game and Fish Commission all year. ADLA has grown into Arizona's leading voice for animal protection, and we want to extend our sincere thanks to our members and supporters for making this possible.



## Spay/Neuter Hotline

Our largest ongoing program, the Spay/Neuter Hotline, underwent vast expansion in 2002. We provided certificates for approximately 1,448 spay/neuter operations in 2002: 770 in Graham County, 578 in Prescott, and 100 feral cats in Flagstaff. We also provided 7,500 referrals to other low-cost programs: approximately 5,500 in Phoenix and 2,000 in Tucson. In its 4 1/2 years to date, the Spay/Neuter Hotline has helped pay for over 6,000 spay/neuter operations and provided over 10,000 referrals to other low-cost programs and clinics. In 2002 the Spay/Neuter Hotline also went online with its own website: <http://spay.adlaz.org>.

## Night hunting proposal halted

In the spring, ADLA was successful in helping to thwart a hunter-backed proposal that would have allowed night hunting. We solicited comments from the public urging the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to vote against the measure. If it had passed, coyotes, foxes, and other furbearers and predators could have been hunted 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The Game and Fish Department reported receiving 430 unsolicited written comments from the public. According to department officials, 315 of those were a "chain letter" that fit the description of ADLA's sample letter, and 115 were unique written comments. Only 4 of the comments supported the night hunting proposal.

## Legislative action

We published a guide in our summer newsletter concerning bills in the state's 2002 legislative session. This guide informed citizens which measures would protect or harm animals. ADLA's Legislative Action Coordinator Karen Michael served as the Arizona coordinator of the Humane Activist Network, a national legislative action network.

## Lion-killing proposal challenged

Our work to protect Arizona's mountain lions continued throughout 2002. We worked on exposing the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's ill-conceived plan to kill lions – a plan that was proposed and funded by the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society. ADLA submitted extensively researched, scientifically thorough comments and also solicited public comments to urge Game and Fish to stop killing lions. Our work on this issue continues in 2003.



PHOTO: THE FUND FOR ANIMALS

## Animals in entertainment

Circuses in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson met ADLA protesters April through July. We offered circus-goers leaflets, signs, and video footage documenting the cruelty inherent in circuses. We also protested the Tucson Rodeo in February. Protesters gained media exposure on circus and rodeo cruelty issues, which helped to increase the public's awareness about the treatment of animals used for entertainment.



PHOTO: PETA

## Cruelty panel

In November, ADLA hosted a public panel discussion of experts from several agencies and non-profit organizations to discuss the status and methods of prosecuting animal cruelty cases in Maricopa County.

Our financial records and tax returns are available at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) or by request.

## Homeless animals

The efforts of ADLA's Graham County coordinators were instrumental in the July 2002 opening of the Graham County Animal Shelter, the county's first shelter. The shelter now finds homes for animals, and prioritizes holding animals for as long as possible to increase chances of adoption.

ADLA-Prescott Coordinator Rae Frederickson helped form a new group, Friends of the Pound, which aims to increase animal adoptions at Prescott Animal Control.

## County advisory

Jean Myers, ADLA's Flagstaff coordinator, served on the Animal Management Advisory Committee of Coconino County, ensuring that a voice to protect animals was heard on important policy decisions.

## Humanelines

Throughout 2002, ADLA edited and distributed the Arizona Edition of Humanelines, a weekly email publication that alerts readers to national animal issues and encourages them to write letters and make calls to local and national decision makers.

## Cougar seminars

ADLA hosted Kevin Hansen, cougar expert and author of *Cougar: The American Lion*, in a series of mountain lion seminars in Tucson, Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Prescott.



PHOTO: AZ DEPT. OF RACING CASE FILE

## Greyhound racing

ADLA led a statewide public awareness campaign about the cruelty of greyhound racing. We distributed literature, and we organized vigils in Phoenix and Tucson for the 3,000 racing greyhounds whose corpses were found in Alabama. ADLA members also led the animal protection community to form the Arizona Greyhound Protection Alliance, which celebrated an overwhelming 80% victory in defeating Proposition 201.

## Anti-Fur campaign

ADLA is heading Arizona's efforts in the national anti-fur campaign launched by the Fund for Animals. We are targeting Neiman Marcus, the nation's #2 fur retailer. Launched in November with a demonstration in front of the Scottsdale store, activists began asking customers to contact the store and ask that they stop selling furs. The tag line is: "Fur is cruel and unnecessary." This campaign continues in 2003.



ADLA activists protest against contest hunts in Flagstaff.

PHOTO BY DONNA CASSANO



## Educational exhibits

ADLA volunteers designed and staffed educational exhibits regularly at public events in Tucson, Flagstaff, and Phoenix throughout the year. The exhibits contained a range of literature about animal protection issues as well as books, images, puppet shows, and/or videos. ADLA also presented a series of five lectures on animal rights at Mesa Community College.



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