

(MARCH 21) OAKLAND, CA — [Open Paw®](#), the foremost resource for transforming animal shelters worldwide, is pleased to announce its 2012 Open Paw® Shelter Grant award recipient: The Washington Animal Rescue League ([WARL](#)) of Washington, DC. Open Paw®'s revolutionary [shelter program](#) helps WARL become a community education center, getting pets into homes and keeping pets out of shelters.

“For our animals already on the Open Paw® Shelter Program, it has been a real lifesaver, literally,” says Michelle Yue, WARL Behavior and Training Director. “Many of the animals on the program are our higher needs or higher energy animals that would quickly deteriorate and become unadoptable without this program.”

“Open Paw®'s program has enabled us to teach unwanted, untrained, and difficult to handle animals some basic manners and skills that allow them to get adopted or keep them in homes instead of being abandoned. We started with a pilot group of dogs and cats and after a year of positive results, we are now eager to expand the program so that all of our animals can reap the benefits! I expect only great things from the program in the future.” said Yue.

“We look forward to helping this outstanding shelter give its residents tools to get and stay adopted. As with all Open Paw® shelters, WARL will become an excellent community resource, where people come to learn about animal care and training,” says Kelly Gorman, President of Open Paw®. “Animal lovers will eagerly visit WARL to adopt and learn from the friendly, well-trained animal residents that have benefitted from our people- and animal-friendly behavior and education program.

Shelters using the Open Paw® program have increased their save rates for both dogs and cats, decreased the average length of time animals spend in the shelter before being adopted, and increased their number of active volunteers. Staff and volunteer morale improve tremendously and even shy dogs and cats greet visitors calmly and happily.

The 2012 Open Paw® Shelter Grant is sponsored by Emily Scott Pottruck's [Tails of Devotion](#).

Congratulations to the Washington Animal Rescue League.