

The Arlington Connection

Campers at Encore Stage and Studio Spring Break Camp strike a tableau while other campers guess the story.



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Hope of Easter
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In Person!

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

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AR PETS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE SWART FOR LDCRF

Kobe

These Two Cats Have Six Legs Between Them

BY JOAN BRADY
 ARLINGTON CONNECTION

I watched as Hank stopped dead in his tracks to observe the jaunty step of the three-legged dog as he passed us on his way up Wilson Blvd. Hank didn't turn away until the canine and his pet parent were well out of sight. While I obviously can't read Hank's mind, it looked to me like he was marveling at the sight; enthralled by the dog's ability to take the hand he was dealt and not let it deter him.

While many may have seen a three-legged dog or two walking the streets, how many of us have observed a three-legged cat? The Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation (LDCRF) apparently sees 4-5 a year, so they are way more common than I would have thought.

Today I want to introduce you to not one, but TWO tripod cats. Kobe and Mia are not litter mates, soul mates or particularly interested in being adopted together. But they each hope to find a forever home. Here are their stories...

KOBE

Kobe came to LDCRF all the way from Mississippi. Many rescue animals end up in this area because they are significantly more likely to find permanent homes here. Not much is known about why the Mississippi vet thought that Kobe's front leg had to go, but apparently there was some trauma that precipitated the decision. While the surgery may have been done down south, Kobe did his rehab with foster dad and cat room coordinator for LDCRF, Steve Swart.

Swart has previous experience with three-legged felines and says, "Three legged cats lead very healthy normal lives. They adjust well to life without a limb and don't seem to worry about it much at all...they learn their limits and

find solutions easily."

According to Swart, it took just a little time for Kobe to gain enough confidence to jump on and off furniture, but he adjusted pretty quickly. Other activities have required a bit of cat ingenuity. Without a left paw, how would Kobe groom the left side of his face? Kobe figured out if he licks Swart's hand, he can then smash his face into that wet palm and use it a bit like a washcloth. Now that is pretty creative.

Swart reports that Kobe is a "good guy who wants to be your buddy." He doesn't have an adorable story to tell of mayhem created by the Kobe-ster, but mentioned that Kobe is the sort of bathroom attendant he "never needed." I'm guessing quite a few pet parents out there can relate.

If Kobe would talk, he could tell you that his handsome face, cool scars and perseverance are hard to resist. And he would want you to know that he is a great napper and would love to share your bed. Swart says that anyone who is lucky enough to bring Kobe home will feel loved, needed and appreciated every day. Check out Kobe's page at lostdogrescue.org or email Steve at cats@lostdogrescue.org

MIA

Mia will be ready for adoption in the next few weeks as she is dealing with a few health issues beyond her three-legged status. So just a few highlights for now...

Mia hails from West Virginia and recently arrived in this area. Her foster mom reports that she is "mellow-tempered, loves to be pet and is both people and cat friendly." She likes to relax in the sun and watch the birds through the window. And she LOVES to be showered with attention. But hey,

SEE THESE TWO CATS, PAGE 3

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



Campers at Encore Stage and Studio Spring Break Camp strike a tableau while other campers guess the story.



Campers Excited to be Back in Person

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Cars full of bouncing, excited children line up in the parking lot of Cherrydale United Methodist Church on the first day of spring break to participate in Encore Stage and Studio outdoor, in-person Spring Break Camp.

Each camper has completed a health screening focused on COVID-19 symptoms and will un-

dergo a temperature and symptom screening before interacting with others each day. Each camper will remain in the same small group for camp activities and will be provided with their own supplies so that students are not sharing materials. Frequent sanitizing breaks are scheduled throughout the day.

Masked campers emerge from their cars with blanket, water and snack tucked under their arms and head for “Over the Moon,” the first day’s theme for movement, theatre

games and crafts led by Encore’s Teaching Artists.

Day 2 is “The Sword and the Stone;” Day 3 “The Emperor’s New Groove;” followed by “Tangled” on day 4 and “Wonder Park” on day five. Enrollment can be tailored to an individual’s schedule by choosing selective days or the entire week with morning or afternoon camp offered.

Multi-colored blankets are spread out in the yard of the church while hands shoot up in

the air. “Who wants to be in the tableau?” Alicia Sykes, counselor, says, “Okay, based on today’s play of the Moon Goddess, what were we looking at?”

“I was looking up at the moon.” “I’m so glad you weren’t stolen.”

A tiny voice volunteers, “a rocket.” Someone adds in, “everyone else was dancing.” Sykes explains that they create a tableau, which is a frozen picture. “You strike a pose and then we see if the others agree with the story.”

Encore is a theatre company In Arlington “by children for children” that touches 15,000 children and adults in a normal year. All classes are taught by professional artists and geared toward the skill level of the students enrolled.

Encore| has been offering virtual classes during the pandemic but “can’t wait to get back together again on stage” and are offering their award winning camps in person this summer. <https://www.encorestageva.org/>

These Two Cats Have Six Legs Between Them

FROM PAGE 2

who doesn’t?

You can email Steve at cats@lostdogrescue.org to learn more about Mia.

Adopting

If you are interested in adding a cat, dog or small animal pet to your household, here are a few local rescue organizations who might be able to help you find your perfect match:

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria <https://alexandriaanimals.org/>
Animal Welfare League of Arlington <https://www.awla.org/>
Homeward Trails <https://www.homewardtrails.org/>
Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation <https://www.lostdogrescue.org/>
PetConnect Rescue <https://www.petconnectrescue.org/>
Wolf Trap Animal Rescue <https://www.wtarescue.com/>

highlighting the well-loved pets of Arlington as well as animals who are available for adoption. If you or your dog, cat, iguana, bunny, rat or any other pet, has an interesting pet story to tell, send email to: joan@joanbradyphotography.com. Joan is an award-winning Connection Newspapers columnist and local photographer specializing in pets, children and families and contemporary business portraits.

ArPets is a weekly feature for



Mia

CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE SWART FOR LDCRF