

Girl Scouts and Lucky Dogs, Toys and Parades!

On January 26, the same day that "The Lucky Ones" documentary premiered at the Arlington Cinema and Drafthouse, there was another Lucky Dog activity going on in Arlington. Earlier in the day, just two miles from the Drafthouse, and right down the street from the January 26th Falls Church Pet Smart adoption event), Lucky Dog foster and now Lucky Dog owner Bess and her good friend and fellow dog owner London led a rescue dog-themed Girl Scout meeting!

By the time they reach middle school, members of this Arlington Girl Scout troop are expected to lead their own meetings. They also get to choose their own theme for the meetings they lead. Sixth graders Bess and London decided to center their meeting around rescue dogs, fostering, and adoption, based on Bess' experience with Lucky Dog. First they decided they would do a presentation for troop members to share some facts about rescue organizations and fostering. Then for their activity, they would have the troop make fleece dog toys to donate to Lucky Dog. And before the end of the meeting, each troop member would receive information on Lucky Dog, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, and ways their families might get involved in volunteering, fostering and even adopting.

About ten 11- and 12-year-old girls attended the 90-minute meeting. Bess and London did an exceptional job with their presentation, describing how Bess learned about Lucky Dog, started fostering, and then ended up adopting one of her fosters. They also shared background on how rescue organizations, dog fostering, and adoption work. Then they demonstrated how to make dog (and some cat) toys out of fleece strips, supervising production of more than 50 toys!

Once the girls had finished their project, they gathered around the computer screen to watch the trailer for "The Lucky Ones" and then visited the Lucky Dog website to see all the dogs waiting to be adopted. Before the meeting ended, they enjoyed homemade dog- and bone-shaped sugar cookies and signed a card to be presented to Lucky Dog with the toys they made that afternoon.

Bess and London and other members of their troop presented the toys to Lucky Dog when they came out to volunteer at another "lucky" event, this time in Alexandria - the St. Patrick's Day Parade Fun Dog Show on March 1. And they did all of this in the height of Girl Scout cookie season!