

The Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC

49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade Information

NOTE: This is the latest information which includes instructions from the event organizers, The Campagna Center.

The 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade is at hand! As a member of the Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC (“ATCMW”), Airedale Terrier Rescue of the Virginias (“ATRVA”), or just an Airedale lover, we want to extend a warm welcome to you and hope you will join us for the parade. Please read on for important event information.

WHAT: Members of the ATCMW and ATRVA will be parading with other groups filled with the magnificent tartans of Scottish Clans, the stirring sound of Scottish bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs (that’s us but perhaps better described as dogs from the United Kingdom and Ireland), dignitaries, classic cars, Santa Claus, and much more. All dog breeds (pure and mixed breeds) originating in the British Isles and their handlers are invited to participate. It is a great chance for your Airedale to strut their stuff, do a few tricks, and receive adoring cheers from the people of Alexandria.

WHERE: The parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. The parade will take place rain or shine. Please see the attached parade map for the parade route.

WHEN: Saturday, December 7, 2019. The parade starts at 11:00 AM and groups are asked to be in place by 10:00 AM. Realistically, you can arrive between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM, but parking and getting to the staging area will become more difficult approaching start time. Look for members Wilder Leavitt, Mary Morningstar and their Airedale Juno who will be in place by 9:30 AM.

WHO: All ATCMW members, ATRVA members, friends of the ATCMW and ATRVA, and of course, Airedale terriers (pure and mixed breeds) are invited to participate.

GENERAL DOG HANDLING GUIDELINES: So that we all might have a fun and safe experience, please keep the following best practices in mind. Please use a standard 6-foot leash on your dog during the parade and avoid retractable leads which can get tangled in the close quarters of the Old Town streets. During the parade, position yourself and your dog behind the ATCMW banner. The banner bearers will be setting our parade pace and will stop frequently as needed. Enthusiastic onlookers, especially children, will want to reach out and pet your dog along the route. This will typically happen without warning and there may be other dogs as well along the route watching the parade with onlookers. Anticipate this and handle your dog accordingly. If you and your dog wish to interact with the crowd, by all means do so. But be aware that your

Airedale can get overwhelmed with all the attention and he or she may need a break from the petting and hundreds of hands reaching out from the crowd. If you think your dog might become overwhelmed by all the activity, simply parade him or her close to the centerline of the road. Be advised that some groups who are marching ahead of us will be throwing candies and other treats to the crowd. Some of these items invariably remain strewn on the parade route tempting our dogs to lunge for an easy treat. Again, paying close attention to your pup will help prevent an unfortunate ingestion issue. There will be musical groups, loudspeaker announcements, drums, and other errant noises. Most dogs do very well with the stimulation. The excitement and interaction with other dogs and admirers during assembly time usually inures them to the activity once the parade starts. Finally, if at any time you feel like the parade is getting to be too much for your dog, simply step out of the parade anywhere along the route. You and your dog's welfare are our primary concern. The event should be fun for all and the moment it stops being fun for you or your Airedale is the time to call it a day. Keeping these best practices in mind has resulted in a highly enjoyable and successful event in the past for those who have attended.

STAGING AREA: The staging area for the ATCMW is **Block C**. Block C is the first block in the parade, following directly behind our parade dignitaries. This is the **500 block of Wilkes Street between South Pitt Street and South St. Asaph Street**. Wilder Leavitt will check in with event organizers early on Saturday and receive our group's exact placement within the staging area.

PARKING: Ample parking is available in garages at Market Square, Union Street or S. Pitt Street if you are arriving before 9:00 AM. There is also limited street parking. We encourage you to carpool or use Metro and take the free King Street Trolley (what's more festive than arriving to the parade by trolley?). Information on the trolley, route, and hours of operation can be found at <https://www.visitalexandriava.com/plan/maps-and-transportation/king-street-trolley/>. We recommend you arrive early!

FESTIVE ATTIRE: The parade organizers request all those marching to dress in traditional Scottish or festive holiday attire, but please do NOT dress as a Santa character. Santa appears at the end of the parade as part of the program for children. Airedale marchers will look more like a "group" if everyone can wear black and tan attire.

BANNER: Wilder will be bringing the ATCMW banner to the event and we will carry it at the head of our group during the parade. We would like two volunteers who will not be handling a dog to carry the banner. If you would like to be a banner bearer, please notify Wilder Leavitt at wilderleavitt@gmail.com or notify Wilder or Mary during the parade staging period.

RUFFS: Club member Jeanne Esmond has created and supplied a number of ruffs for wear by our Airedales during the parade. Members Wilder Leavitt and Mary Morningstar will have the ruffs and will hand them out on a first come, first served basis at the Staging Area. They will also collect the ruffs at the end of the parade so we can use them again in the future. **Please be sure to return the ruffs to Wilder or Mary as soon as we finish the parade so we can use them for next year's event.**

PHOTOGRAPHY: Please feel free to photograph members and their Airedales and share them with the group. Any suitable photos sent to the ATCMW will be posted on our Facebook wall and the ATCMW website. Please send all photos to Wilder Leavitt who will make sure they are publicized. Please include any captioning you would like to be included when published. Wilder's email is wilderleavitt@gmail.com.

POST PARADE PARTY: This year we have an invitation from Cathy Biersack to join her at her home for a pizza party after the parade! Please see the invitation on our website or ask a member during the parade for information. Thanks, Cathy!

Scottish Christmas Walk Parade Staging Area



A Note from Cathy Biersack of the Airedale Terrier Rescue of the Virginias ("ATRVA")

THE ATRVA Party: This will be the 5th annual party at my (Cathy Biersack) home for Airedales, Almost Airedales, Any Breed & their humans! Every year we hope it is more fun than the last year. I hope to corral one of our volunteers to do the candid photos as I am usually running around doing I do not know what. The food will include Pizzas, Savory appetizers, Veggie platters, Fruit and Sweets. You may bring something, but you do not have to. The drinks will be hot & cold and not alcoholic. There will be dog treats too (of course). Starting time: 12:30pm. Ending: ? Usually around 4pm, but you can stay as long as you want.

My house is on a cut-de-sac with easy parking. My yard is double fenced to allow dogs to have an off-leash play area. I only ask that you be there with your dog and if he or she starts to get a bit crazy, time out may be in order. My Address: 2548 N Upland St Arlington, VA 22207 Plug the address into your GPS as Arlington roads do not always make sense (there are 4 N Upland Streets). If coming from Old Town Alexandria, it is an easy 20 minute drive north on the GW Parkway to the Spout Rd exit.



AIREDALES & Their People

Pizza
Goodies
Portrait Photos
Play
Conversation



At
2548 N UPLAND ST
ARLINGTON, VA 22207



Immediately following the Scottish Walk
December 7, 2019
Noon until 4pm
(weather permitting)



Sponsored by Airedale Terrier Rescue of the Virginias (ATRVA)
Donations accepted