



# Animal Tails



## Homeless... Sick...and at Death's Door

You Helped Save  
Parvo Positive  
Pups from a  
Grim Fate

Luther, King, and May transferred to AWA so they would not be euthanized. They were diagnosed with parvovirus - a highly contagious and life-threatening disease. They were so ill and lethargic, you could see the sadness in their eyes. They came from a shelter that struggles with disease control and treatment options for the hundreds of animals that come through their doors. We asked you, our kind donors, to help save these precious pups, and you did.

Parvovirus mostly affects puppies and unvaccinated dogs and still remains a scary disease to have surface in our shelter. Because of its extremely transmittable nature, it puts enormous strain on a shelter in all stages of care including safe

transport, an extended period of isolation, round-the-clock monitoring, fluids and medication, and an additional recovery time before the pup is ready for adoption. Within our old building, treatment and quarantine are especially difficult. Yet, we manage.

With your support and the tenacity of the AWA team, all three parvo positive puppies are now healthy and thriving. Luther, May, and King have all been adopted and are happy in their new homes.

Thank you for giving them a second chance and for giving AWA the chance to reach out and save animals in our community.

Thank you so much to our donors and all of the animals' rescuers and friends. Because of you, we helped over 21,000 animals in 2017!



Luther, King, and May (clockwise) all had parvo- a very contagious and life threatening virus. They were quarantined, treated, and cured thanks to you. Luther, far left (now Coal), enjoys snuggling in his bed with his loving forever family.



# Dear Friends,

Sit down. Put your “barking dogs” up. I guarantee your heart will warm and your lips will curve up in a wonderful smile as you read our many happy stories. This spring’s newsletter is the perfect antidote to March’s Nor’easters.

For more than seventy years, AWA has been a vital part of the community - rescuing, aiding and saving pets and people. The community is more humane because of the broad and effective programs AWA has delivered year-after-year. AWA has made SJ safer for animals by delivering relevant programs each decade. Most recently, we focused our efforts on pet over-population and spayed/neutered over 5,000 outdoor cats and 2,500 of pets in the City of Camden. The impact was that there was a significant decline in the number of cats and dogs going into our two municipal animal shelters. Creating space in those shelters means less euthanizing for space!



Recently we took in several parvo positive pups. Many years ago it was considered a “dream” to treat parvo virus in puppies due to the grim chances of survival and how contagious the illness is to other dogs. Even today a diagnosis of parvo makes us nervous, yet we are able to diagnosis the illness earlier and provide care so we can celebrate their survival and subsequent placement into new, loving homes.

As more animals are being saved at our local municipal shelters, AWA has been able to save dogs and cats outside our community through our transport program. Often we say “he or she is transported to us” but what does that mean when it comes to your donation? In just the last seven months, AWA’s team has taken 50 trips totaling over 2,486 miles to bring back over 230 dogs and 187 cats to our Adoption Center. Many of these dogs and cats needed extra medical and behavioral care. Our behavior team provided hundreds of hours of special behavior rehabilitation and our veterinary team provided treatments for heartworm, skin infections, eye issues, and broken bones - conditions that would have led to euthanasia if they didn’t hitch a transport ride to AWA. Transport saves lives!

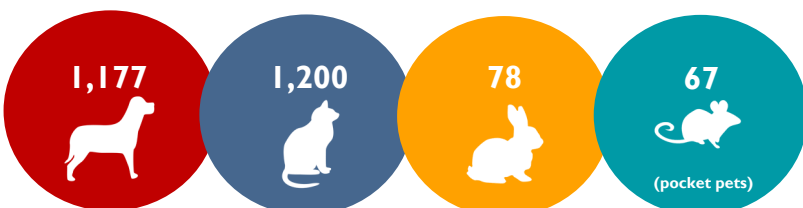
On our last page, we will walk you through our transport journey from early morning pick ups to happy adoption. Learn how we directly use your gifts to save lives from shelters near and far to save pets like Luther, King, and May.

It is because of YOU, the staff, volunteers, and other supporters – that we have so many happy dog, cat, and bunny adoptions and can share so many amazing stories!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maya Richmond".

Executive Director

**You helped us find 2,522 forever homes in 2017. That’s a save rate of 96% !**



## OUR MISSION

AWA is dedicated to eliminating animal suffering, promoting the importance of the human-animal bond and improving the role of animals in the well being of people.

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Michael Lacivita, *Pet Clinic Manager*

### MAILING ADDRESS

Animal Welfare Association  
509 Centennial Blvd.  
Voorhees, NJ 08043  
Telephone: 856-424-2288  
Website: [www.awanj.org](http://www.awanj.org)  
E-mail: [info@awanj.org](mailto:info@awanj.org)

## ABOUT AWA

Founded in 1948, AWA was one of the first organizations to serve Camden County and all the surrounding areas. AWA is pleased to provide the following programs and services to our community:

- Adoptions
- Public Spay/Neuter, & Pet Wellness Services
- Pet Retention and Rehoming Support
- Humane Education
- Pet Therapy

AWA is a private charity and receives no local, state, or federal support. No animal is euthanized due to space, length of stay or for treatable medical or behavioral issues.

For seven decades, AWA has been the leader in helping pets and people in our community by making a difference. All of our life-saving programs have been made possible by the generous support of our donors and volunteers. Help us save lives for another seven!





# Happy "Tails" from Our Facebook Friends



Dear AWA,  
Daisy (Delta) has made herself right at home with us. She is absolutely wonderful with our one and a half year old daughter and they love to take naps together. Daisy enjoys playing a never ending game of fetch, basking in the window and barking at people walking around below, long walks, and playing with our neighbor's dog.  
Fran



Dear AWA,  
You'll be happy to know Mr. Phathead got a clean bill of health today from my vet. He came through it like a champ and is now taking a well deserved nap. The staff all thought he was a sweetie!  
Maryann



Dear AWA,  
We adopted Jill (now Grace) a few weeks ago. She is now ruling the house and her older brother Roz. Happens to love the camera. We love having her. Thank you Animal Welfare Association!  
Valerie



Dear AWA,  
Geronimo (now Finn) is the most fantastic cat ever. He is perfect for our home. We couldn't believe how easily he fit in with our other pets. He is such a love bug and seems so happy to have a home. He loves to be picked up and cuddled. We love him so much!  
Thank you AWA!  
Jennifer



Dear AWA,  
Four years ago today, the AWA gave me the greatest gift ever: Toby. Toby (now Wall-E), is a very happy four year old boy!  
Jessica



Dear AWA,  
Luke (pictured) and his brother Noah are doing great. They are so lovable and I can't imagine life without them! I can tell they were well cared for by their foster family because they are so sweet and social. We visited my brother's this weekend and as you can see, Luke made himself right at home!!  
Margie

**Thanks for the updates.  
Nothing makes us happier  
than seeing our shelter  
animals so happy and  
loved in their new homes!  
Friend us on Facebook  
and be one of our 243,000  
followers!**



Dear AWA,  
Maggie May is getting lots of love from her new siblings. She loves playing with them and is loving her new home.  
Erin



# You Help Save Our Most Needy Pets



From a shelter in hurricane-hit Houston to a loving home in South Jersey. Harvey on his way to his forever home.

**The 2017 hurricane season was especially devastating.** The impact included hundreds of pets being displaced from homes in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Because of you, AWA was there to help. AWA took in dozens of animals from shelters from the affected areas to make room for pets that were separated from their families during the storm. The AWA staff were so proud and touched by the outpouring of support from our community. The phone did not stop ringing with people calling to see how they could help! We also received hundreds of supplies that we were able to share with other shelters in need.

**Harvey** was one of the first dogs we brought in from a shelter in Houston. He would have most likely been euthanized to make much needed space for displaced pets. He was suffering from skin allergies, an ear infection, and kennel cough. After medical care, Harvey got a clean bill of health and is now healthy and a beloved member of an adoring family. A family member writes: *"We couldn't have asked for a better addition to our family. I can't express enough how much we love him and could not imagine life without him."*

## Who Would Shoot a Helpless Cat?



Tom was transferred from a local shelter with what we thought was a fractured leg. It's not that uncommon for homeless cats to have leg fractures - they fall, get hit by cars, etc. That's why we were shocked when x-rays showed that Tom's leg contained bullet fragments and his ankle was completely shattered. Who would shoot such a sweet cat? Was it a hunting accident? Was it on purpose? We will never know. Tom was rushed to surgery and our vet team amputated his leg to save his life. His surgery went well and he is now recovering. Even in pain, Tom is such an affectionate cat. Once he is ready to be placed, we will find him the loving home he deserves. Your gifts help us give pets like Tom immediate life-saving care. We are grateful!

## ...and Create Heartfelt Stories

### Holyfield Gets Love and Continuous Care

Holyfield is a special needs cat who spent several months at our shelter. This senior guy was diagnosed with megacolon - a severe form of constipation which causes the large intestine to become enlarged. Holyfield's condition is chronic and for the rest of his



A chronic condition did not stop Holyfield from finding a forever home. His owner was grateful to adopt him and thanked us for "the opportunity to care for this awesome little guy."

life will need to be on medication and a special food diet. Because of this, it was difficult to find him a forever home. With your gift, we were able to feed and medicate him. We were also able to keep him engaged with playtime and lots of TLC to keep him healthy and stress-free. Now Holyfield is completely adjusted in a new home that he shares with two dogs.

### A Perfect Match for a Hearing Impaired Dog



Patch, a hearing impaired dog, finds the perfect forever home.

that he would have a rough time adapting. Our behavior team worked one-on-one with Patch, giving him special enrichment and plenty of time outside of his kennel. His special needs required an experienced owner. Then one day, it happened! A woman in our community heard his story and came in to meet him. She had experience with dogs, taught hearing impaired children and even knew dog sign language! It was love at first sight and she knew Patch was the perfect dog for her!

Mark Twain once wrote that "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear." Patch knows this to be true. Patch is a deaf dog who found the perfect forever family. A shelter can be a stressful environment for any dog, especially one who cannot hear. When he came to AWA, he was anxious and out of sorts, and it became obvious



## AWA Depends on Our Foster Volunteers

Spring is in the air...and along with the buds and the fledgling flowers, we will see lots and lots of kittens! We depend on foster volunteers during the spring and summer months to help us save lives. Fosters bring animals into their homes to give them the specialized care they need. They bottle feed neo-natal kittens, provide care to puppies, help pre-natal kittens, help animals recover from surgery, and much more. We could never save as many lives without them. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding experience, please e-mail [fostercare@awanj.org](mailto:fostercare@awanj.org) or visit our website at [awanj.org/volunteer](http://awanj.org/volunteer).



In March alone, pet food was donated to 105 families with pets. Thank you for keeping our community's pets fed and in their homes.

## Our Pet Clinic Works Hard to Make an Impact

Staff at our **Pet Clinic** are always busy with spay/neuter surgeries, vaccine clinics, wellness exams, workshops, and more. Our lost-cost wellness and spay/neuter clinic keeps pets in our community healthy and controls pet over-population. In 2017:

6,958 pets  
helped  
through  
vaccine clinics

8,081 spay/  
neuters  
performed

3,567  
Wellness  
Exams

Connie Adams loved her dog more than anything. Midget was a therapy dog that had helped Connie through some severe ailments over the last 10 years. Midget is her forever companion that helped her on her path to recovery. Midget came down with a serious eye issue and it needed to be removed. Because of financial hardship due to her medical bills, Connie was prevented from getting the care Midget needed and deserved. Through our Helping Hands program, Midget was able to receive the care she so desperately needed. Connie and Midget were so very grateful.



## Making a Difference with Our Special-Needs Volunteer Program

Each week, five special-needs groups come to volunteer at AWA to get some hands-on vocational training. Our Volunteer Coordinator was asked how she thought this program was making an impact and she told a touching story: "I bring my therapy dog, Flash, in to visit with the kids. One particular young man, 'Jack' would hang back while the others pet Flash. With every passing visit, Jack seemed a little more at ease with Flash but still wouldn't pet him. I'd ask him each time if he wanted to try and he'd always say 'next week.' His instructor took me aside to tell me that Jack's mom said that Jack had been terrified of dogs his whole life but seems to be letting his guard down. If he was outside and the neighbor's dog came out, he would run in the house hysterically. She noticed that instead of running in the house, Jack has started to calmly watch the neighbor's dog from a distance. She expressed her gratitude and said how much it meant for her to see the fear of dogs fade from her son."



Thanks to donors and support from **The Camden County Board of Freeholders**, AWA continues to deliver a variety of pet care services to targeted Camden City neighborhoods. Through our **Vets on Wheels** program, pet owners can get exams and vaccinations, as well as access to free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries. AWA staff is out in the neighborhoods talking to residents and giving away pet food. This program helps keep their pets healthy and in their lives. We helped pets like Bruno whose owner could not afford vaccinations and was about to become homeless because his residence required vaccinated pets. Through our **Vets on Wheels** program, Bruno got vaccinated and also went home with a 4-month supply of much-needed flea/tick treatment to help with skin allergies. During our Camden Pet Care Day, not only did we help hungry pets, but thanks to Ravitz Family Markets, we were able to provide hungry children with water and healthy snacks.





# You Help Us Celebrate with Fun Events and More!



**We're back at Cooper River Park!**



**Saturday, May 19th**

9am - 2pm

**Cooper River Park**

Pennsauken, NJ

**5K Walk and Run and Smile Mile Fun Walk™** Help raise money for homeless pets in our community.

[awanj.org/pf2018](http://awanj.org/pf2018)

## Your Kids Will Love AWA's Unique Summer Camp!

Our program teaches children ages 9– 12, the importance of the human-animal bond in a fun and friendly environment. We offer 4 sessions that are packed with new friends, fun, art, animals and adventure:

**July 23 - 27**

**July 30 - August 3**

**August 6 - 10**

**August 13 - 17**

For more information, visit our website at [awanj.org/camp](http://awanj.org/camp) or contact [outreach@awanj.org](mailto:outreach@awanj.org), 856-424-2288, ext. 122.



Following an exciting scavenger hunt, the campers were thrilled to meet "Knox" - a miniature therapy horse. They learned that horses are used more and more to help people with special needs.

## Does Your Dog Lack Basic Manners? We Can Help!



AWA offers on-site **Well-Mannered Dog** sessions to train your dog in basic manners and introduce owners to training methods to help your dog become better behaved. Fee is \$100. For more information or to register for classes, go to [awanj.org/well-mannered-dog](http://awanj.org/well-mannered-dog).

## Be Kind to Animals Poster Contest



We know you love animals, but can you draw? Students in grades K-12 can enter our annual "Be Kind to Animals" poster contest from April 23rd to May 7th. Show us how you can tell the story through words and thoughtful pictures of this year's theme, "I Help Animals, They Help Me!" For details, visit [awanj.org/event/kind-animals-post-contest](http://awanj.org/event/kind-animals-post-contest).

## Save the Date

We'd love to see you there!

### AWA WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Pet First Aid & CPR (Free)

April 12, 6-7pm

Well-Mannered Dog Training, 3-Week Session

April 7, 14, 21, 12 - 1pm

June 9, 16, 23, 12 - 1pm

August 11, 18, 25, 12-1pm

### AWA EVENTS

Be Kind to Animals Poster Contest

April 23 - May 7 for students grade K-12

Paws & Feet

Saturday, May 19th, 9am-2pm

Cooper River Park, Cherry Hill

Mini MEGA Adoption Event

Sept. 15th, 12-4pm hosted by PetSmart, Marlton

Trunk or Treat

Kids and (well-mannered) dogs can safely Trunk-or-Treat right in the AWA parking lot!

**October 27th, 1-3pm**

70th Anniversary Celebration

**Thursday, Nov. 8th** Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate 70 years of saving, helping, and caring for pets and people. We want to celebrate with YOU, our supporters because we could not have done it without you! Stay tuned for event details!



Check out our event page for details and updates!

[awanj.org/events](http://awanj.org/events)

# Why We Need Support from Animal Lovers Like You

Transport saves lives! As more animals are being saved at our local municipal shelters, AWA has been able to save dogs and cats outside our community through our transport program.

Just in the last seven months, AWA did a total of 72 transports. AWA made 50 trips and traveled 2,486 miles. We drove as far as Allentown to pick up homeless pets and we drive to airports to pick up unwanted pets from the south that would be euthanized for space. Transport costs AWA around **\$130,000** annually. Your gifts help pets and other shelters' animals both near and far. Below is the journey that these pets make from transport to adoption. Your donations make a direct impact!



Your generous gift to AWA

=



Staff drive to partner shelters to pick up unwanted pets.



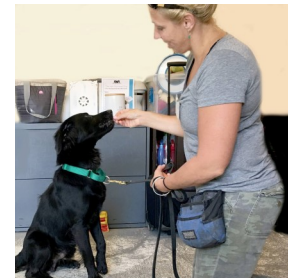
Staff and volunteers carefully unload pets from the van.



All pets are medically evaluated and treated accordingly. Healthy pets (if old enough) are vaccinated and microchipped..



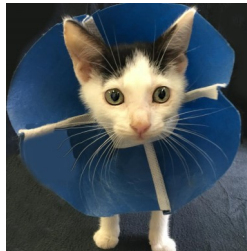
Neonatal pets enter into Fostercare.



All adult pets receive behavior evaluation from our Behavior Coordinator. Dogs and cats receive behavior rehabilitation if needed to help them get adopted. and become great pets.



Rain or shine, our dogs are walked daily by our wonderful volunteers and staff to keep them healthy and happy - and to get some basic training on our training trails.



All dogs, cats, and bunnies get spayed or neutered.



Waiting on the adoption floor...



## Happy Adoption!

AWA is a charity. We receive no government or national funds. Everything that we do for animals and the people who love them is funded by donations, grants and funds that we raise through our programs.

### YES, I WANT TO HELP!

Name:	
Address:	
City:	Email:
State:	Zip:
Please charge my credit card: ( ) Visa ( ) MasterCard ( ) Amex ( ) Discover	Donation Amount
Credit Card Number:	Expiration Date: Security Code:
Cardholder Name:	Phone:
I would like to be a monthly donor ( <i>Constant Companion</i> ) starting on _____	Monthly Amount to be charged until I cancel: \$ _____

Your contribution to AWA is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. AWA is a registered 501 (c) 3 organization and relies on the generosity of our supporters. Donations may be made online at [awanj.org](http://awanj.org) or call 856-424-2288, ext. 107.



Consider making a monthly recurring gift and be a **Constant Companion** to homeless animals.

For annual gifts of \$500 and above, you can be a member of AWA's special **Lifesaver's Circle**. Please call 856-424-2288, ext. 107 for more information.

You can count on us to put your dollars into supporting our mission!

For the 4th year in a row, AWA has been given a **4-star rating** from **Charity Navigator**.



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Instagram: @AWA\_NJ

Twitter: @AWANJ

Thanks to grants from the following, we are able to help prevent neglect and help control over-population, keeping more pets out of area shelters:



Bernice Barbour Foundation

William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation

## Heroes Make Us Smile



**Thank You for Being Their Heroes!**