

Spring 2021

Animal Tails



**AWA Programs
Go Remote**

**4 Days of Fun at
Paws & Feet 2021**

**Friendships
Made at AWA**



**365 Days and Counting
Moving Forward During Covid-19**



**Walls are Going Up
At New Shelter/Education Center**

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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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, and Pet Wellness Services
- Pet Retention and Re-homing Support
- Humane Education
- * Pet Therapy

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

You are the reason AWA can do what it does. With your support, good things happen. Looking back on the last year our hearts are filled with even more gratitude because you were with us as we pivoted and adjusted due to Covid-19 to keep the doors open, animals aided, saved, and loved.

It was Friday, March 13th when I left AWA unaware of how much life would change. On Monday I learned of the quarantine and lock-down. I thought, "this will be only for a few weeks, as I sent those who could work at home back to their homes where they rescheduled spay/neuter and wellness appointments, postponed transports of dogs from other shelters, and messaged our volunteers to "watch for an update, we will see you soon!"

By mid-week #2 the re-imagining of all that happens at AWA began. How will we do adoptions? Can we see pets at the Clinic? How do we keep people safe and still save pet lives? From need comes solutions, no time to wallow. Each day a process was tested in the quest to do more and meet customers' expectations. Our foster volunteers offered to accept more animals into their homes and learned how to do Zoom adoptions, therefore, keeping animals and adopters out of the shelter and safe. **That one change saved hundreds of lives.**

I am proud of what the team accomplished. Early in the pandemic they asked, "what else should we do NOW to help?" News of people being unable to feed their families put fear into our hearts over the plight of hungry pets. The on-site food pantry was expanded for pickup every day in addition to distributing food to over 10 locations across the region. The development team quickly virtualized Paws & Feet, AWA's largest fundraiser along with revising 2020's fundraising plans as income dropped and the need for every donated dollar became more dire.

I'm grateful to the donors who, in 2019, contributed towards the new Adoption & Education Center and messaged me saying "all great things are worth waiting for" when learning that Covid-19 caused a 7-month delay in construction. It was this month – March 2021 – that we were to move in and celebrate Happiness. Mark your calendars to celebrate together this fall instead.

Most of all, Thank You – donor and friend -- for being an animal lover who believes in AWA's mission, values, and programs. You are the reason happy tails can be told after a rough and scary year.

You are the reason so many Pandemic Pets are safe and we were able to change the lives of so many people.

You helped put smiles on a lot of faces in 2020!



1,504 Adoptions



598
Dogs



844
Cats



62
Small Animals

Happy "Tails" From Our Facebook Friends

Save the Date



Venus

Venus (formerly Doe) has been a great addition to our family. She keeps us busy and every day we learn something new about her. Thank you so much.



Apollo

Apollo (formerly Beast on left) has settled in nicely and loves his big brother, Rocky! He has been an amazing addition to our family. Everyone who comes by instantly falls in love with Apollo! He's got a big personality in such a little body.



Garnet

Garnet (formerly Panda on right), has adjusted very well. She is so full of love. Her and her furry brother Wrigley have really started to bond, but not so much with our cats. She is scared of them. She loves going hiking and camping with us! We are so lucky to have her.



Darweena

Happy Holidays! Thanks for the best gift! It's been a full year with Darweena (the artist formerly know as Java) and I couldn't be happier; she is an absolute saint!



Dasher

He has been the most perfect addition to our family. Dasher is such a playful and loving cat. He has also passed all vet appointments with flying colors and even caught a mouse (we didn't know when had) in our basement. We couldn't be happier with him and we don't think he could be any happier either!



Paws & Feet Virtual FunDay
May 19 - May 22

For details and registration
visit: awanj.org/pf2021



PUTT FOR PETS

Presented by
HALE
SPORTS & GOLF

Putt for Pets
August 22

(Rain date August 29)
Pleasant Valley Miniature Golf
Rt. 73, Voorhees, NJ

Upcoming 50/50 Raffles
You could be the
next BIG WINNER!

Summer Raffle - Drawing June 17
Fall Raffle - Drawing September 16
Super Raffle - Drawing December 16

Visit our Event Page for
the latest information
awanj.org/events

10,597

Pets received pet care
in 2020 at the AWA Pet Clinic,
thanks to your support.



7,126

Pets Vaccinated

3,078

Spay/Neuter Surgeries



393

Wellness Exams



Spreading Smiles and Joy Outside Our Walls



Kianna, a student at Kingsway Learning & P.A.W.S. volunteer.

Dedicated donors, like you, allowed AWA to continue moving forward during a difficult year by allowing us to develop new ways to save lives, provide services and reach the community through vital programs such as the **P.A.W.S Program** (People Achieving With Support) and **The Compassionate Kids Reading Program**.

Look at Kianna's smiling face as she proudly shows off the snuffle pad she made for the shelter dogs. By sniffing and foraging for treats in these pads, shelter dogs keep engaged and stimulated. According to Kianna's teacher she had as much fun making the snuffle pad as the dogs had using it.

"She liked seeing the video of the dogs using the snuffle pad. If you asked her if she enjoyed making it, she would say "yes"!"

Kianna and other P.A.W.S. volunteers have been making enrichment toys remotely during the pandemic. We miss seeing them in person, but they are still able to contribute and make a difference for the shelter animals at AWA.

Every month, totes with items needed to create an enrichment toy or other projects are delivered to participating schools and organizations and once completed, picked up by AWA.

We can't wait to welcome our P.A.W.S. volunteers to the new building later this year where so many new activities and opportunities for learning await them. We want to thank **Columbia Bank** for sponsoring this wonderful program that benefits both the participants and the shelter animals.

Compassionate Kids Reading Program Goes Remote

Watching a child sitting by a kennel reading to a dog or a cat is heartwarming. By reading aloud the child gains confidence and improves his or her reading skills, and the shelter animal enjoys some individual attention. We couldn't invite the children here due to Covid-19 restrictions so we took the reading program to them in Camden. We received positive response from all the organizations who are participating, including The Kroc Center.

"We are excited for this great opportunity and think it is a perfect fit for the children in our program."

At upcoming summer camp programs with partnering organizations in Camden, the children will read to Sophie (a therapy dog). Learning to respect and treat animals with kindness is another essential aspect of this program. We thank the program's sponsor, **Holman Enterprises**, for their commitment to the children of Camden.



Keeping Pets' Bellies Full

Your support provided pet meals to pet owners experiencing financial hardship, so no pet is surrendered to a shelter because their owner is unable to feed them.



28,204 lbs
Dry Pet Food



27,572
Cans of Pet Food



97,375
Pet Meals Served



1,065
Pet Owners Assisted
at CHOW Stops

Building a Place Where Friends are Found



When Randi walked into the AWA shelter in 2006, she found more than just her best friend Elliott. This sweet ginger cat with extra toes inspired her to start a cat toy business, which she named Polydactyl Cat Toys in his honor. Randi came quite a distance to write a message of thanks at the old shelter during our Whack the Walls event. The friendship that started within those old walls would not be forgotten.

For 73 years animal lovers have found their best friends at AWA and animals have returned that friendship unconditionally. Friends found and families formed will continue just as in the past, the only difference will be the new building, constructed of bricks and sticks but built on a promise of love and friendship.



Samson was very shy when he first arrived at AWA. He would cower in the back of his kennel whenever anyone came near. With behavior modification training in the **Behavior Room**, he learned that people weren't so scary after all, and he really enjoyed getting treats. Now he is going home with his forever family, and is so excited that his tail won't stop wagging.

Brian, a seven-year old boy, stepped into the **Dog Adoption Room** and saw Charlie, a puppy that just arrived from Texas on a transport. Charlie stares up at him with those big brown eyes and an instant bond forms between the two of them. Brian imagines all the fun they will have together, exploring, chasing balls and at the end of the day they both will fall into Brian's bed exhausted.



Dog
Adoption

Behavior
Training Room

Small
Animal
Room

Kitten
Nursery

HAVE YOU GIVEN?

Become a part of AWA's story and future.

Learn more about *Building a Place Where Happiness Begins* in the special insert.

Two P.A.W.S. volunteers just came from the Kindness Garden with fresh lettuce grown especially for the bunnies in the **Small Animal Room**. Meghan and Katie met at AWA and have become good friends. They love feeding the bunnies and making enrichment toys for all the cats and dogs at the shelter.

A little abandoned kitten is brought to AWA, where kind volunteers care for her in the **Kitten Nursery**. Soon she is big enough for adoption. A young woman arrives looking for a grey kitten just like her. Her new home has a cat tree, birds to watch from the window and a new mom to snuggle with on the couch.



Four Days of Fun at Paws & Feet 2021



Hoola

Look at this brave girl standing for the first time after her surgery. You allowed us to say **YES** when her information was listed on the transport roster shown below. Being able to bring her to AWA saved her life and gave her the medical care she desperately needed.

Name	Species	Age	Sex	Breed	Comments
Hoola	Dog	6 yrs	F	Sheba Inu Mix	Thermal burn shoulder, left hind leg injury

By supporting **Paws & Feet**, AWA's largest fundraiser of the year, you are helping dogs like **Hoola**. We can only imagine what this little girl endured before she found a haven at AWA where her body and spirit could heal. Can the shelter animals count on your support this year so they receive care until finding their new adoptive homes?

Just because the party can't be in person doesn't mean we can't have a blast! We've planned **four days of Paws & Feet Fun** this year. **Will you join the fun and help raise \$50,000 for the shelter animals at AWA?**

Here's the Line Up.

Wednesday, May 19th - kicks off with Comedian Dena Blizzard performing a live show via Zoom. The Marketplace will be open to all who registered for Paws & Feet. AWA's signature games such as, Biscuit or Cookie and dog trivia. Winners for 1st night premium prizes will be picked.

Thursday, May 20th - Astala Vista, self-proclaimed Crazy Cat Lady of Drag, will be doing a live show via Zoom. More of AWA's signature games such as Nose Knows, and cat trivia.

Winners for 2nd night premium prizes will be picked.

Friday, May 21st - take a live zoom class with Liz, AWA's Behavior Coordinator during the day and dine & donate at a local restaurant.

Saturday, May 22nd - get your favorite four-legged friend and take a walk when and where you want. Be sure to wear your commemorative Paws & Feet t-shirt and post a photo on AWA's Facebook page.



Dena Blizzard (left)
Astala Vista (right)
bringing the fun to
Paws & Feet 2021!

Help Us Raise \$50,000 For Shelter Animals



\$50 & \$100 Tickets Available

Help give the shelter animals the care they need by joining us for four days of fun at Paws & Feet 2021!

 **Register Today at awanj.org/pf2021** 

Register Early for **FREE** Access to AWA's Zoom Training Classes through May 22nd!

This year's fundraising goal is 50% less than what was raised at past in-person Paws & Feet Events. Reaching this goal will help provide care for the shelter animals at AWA. Can we count on your help?

Leaving a Legacy of Love for Homeless Animals

Jane left a Legacy of Love to AWA because she loved animals. She always had a pet, both as a child and as an adult, and remembered traveling with her family from Collingswood to the shore along a quieter less congested Route 70 and 73. From the backseat, with their pet German Shepard, she took in the scenery and noticed the Animal Welfare Association shelter along the way (the old Red Lion Shelter in Vincentown, New Jersey).

As a life-long teacher in the Cherry Hill area, she and her husband John influenced many children.

There was always a pet in their home; they had a sweet tuxedo cat that lived to be 18. When John passed away, Jane decided it was time to bring a new pet into her home. She had become lonely and thought a dog would be the perfect companion. She remembered AWA from those long-ago trips to the shore. **One day she walked into the shelter, fell in love with Mandy and adopted her.** They became a familiar sight on their daily strolls around their neighborhood and Mandy was a great comfort to Jane during her battle with cancer.

When Mandy came to AWA, she was very fearful. She required patience along with extra time and behavior training at the shelter before she was ready to be adopted. Knowing what Mandy overcame to become a loving, well-mannered dog awakened something in Jane. She became a champion for dogs with behavior issues. Dogs that are scared and cower in their kennels or bark and show aggressive behaviors are harder to place in homes, but with proper training and an investment of time these dogs can be rehabilitated.

Jane believed these dogs, like Mandy, could become someone's treasured pet if given a chance. Her passion took the form of a generous bequest to AWA upon her death last year. **Her Legacy of Love gift will ensure that dogs needing additional assistance will find it at AWA, as no dog should be denied a chance for a happy home.**

We are grateful for donors like Jane who have demonstrated their trust and belief in the life saving mission of AWA with their benevolent gifts.

If you are interested in learning more about the **Legacy of Love Program** please contact Maya Richmond, Executive Director at director@awanj.org, or 856.424.2288 x109.



Mandy's adoption photo.



\$35 VACCINATES ME

\$100 SPAYS OR NEUTERS US



\$150 10 DAYS OF CARE FOR ME

\$500 TREATS MY INJURY



Your Gift Can Change a Life

You changed Zuko's life. **Because of your support** he received the eye surgery he desperately needed and now he is living pain-free in his new home.

Your commitment to caring for the homeless animals at AWA means they receive the medical care and behavioral training necessary so they can be adopted by loving families.

Can they count on your continued support?



Zuko after his surgery.

To donate on-line visit: support.awanj.org/donate-now



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Look who's going to their forever homes because of you!

