







Dear Friends and Supporters,

Wow 2022 was an amazing year for AWA! After several years of planning and fund raising, and amidst construction and Covid challenges, we proudly opened the doors to our new 25,000 square-foot facility on June 24.

To all the staff and volunteers that overcame challenges, adjusted to a changing workspace, embraced new procedures and still kept your spirits high and the dream alive – thank you for your daily dedication to our mission. I am lucky to work every day by your side. To all those that believed in the dream of *Building a Place Where Happiness Begins* and supported us through your generous donations and partnerships – thank you for believing in us.

I feel humbled and honored to have joined the AWA team at such an amazing time. A time when we can make a huge impact on the welfare of pets. Since we opened the building in June, we have worked hard to develop the foundation for many programs that create a community of support, education, and fun for pets and their owners.

As we review 2022, we do so with a sense of pride and gratitude of all that we have accomplished and all the wonderful support we have received. And as we look forward to our 75th anniversary in 2023, we look towards an exciting



and even more meaningful future for AWA. I can't wait for us to grow and look forward to you sharing it with us!

Laura Houston, Executive Director



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Sometimes dreams do come true! We all experienced it this past summer when we opened the doors to the *Place Where Happiness Begins*. Thanks to such a dedicated community, staff, volunteers and supporters, this day arrived after several obstacles, with the biggest being a pandemic. We were thrilled to celebrate with so many at the grand opening and it was great to feel the energy and excitement from everyone involved.

We can't wait to see the thousands of ways the new building will not only benefit our animals, but how it will bring the community together through partnerships, education, and events.

We were also fortunate to welcome many new staffers to our team, including a new Executive Director.

Laura Houston joins the AWA team with more than 20 years' experience working to advance the human-animal bond. She has done a great job, quickly stepping into the role and learning what makes the Animal Welfare Association (AWA) so special.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to one of our beloved board members, Mark Schott. Mark dedicated more than a decade of his time to supporting AWA and he is greatly missed. Mark was honored this summer with a plaque in our new shelter.

We looked forward to celebrating our 75th anniversary with you this year. It is a major milestone that belongs to our staff and supporters. On behalf of all of us at AWA, thank you for your continued support.

### Rebecca Acevedo,

On behalf AWA's Board of Directors

In June of 2022, AWA officially opened the doors to the new Adoption and Education Center. All of the staff, volunteers and animals were back together in one building ready to expand and grow. The new facility was funded by our generous donors through a successful Capital Campaign, several charitable Bequests and a loan AWA secured with Columbia Bank.

In FY 2022, operating revenue remained consistent with the prior fiscal year but there were several factors driving the increase in operating expenses:

- AWA increased staff to operate the larger facility, expanded services and new programs.
- Wages increased to comply with the annual rising NJ minimum wage rate and to be more competitive in the workforce, filling key roles and retaining highly qualified staff.
- Inflation greatly impacted the cost of drugs and medicines, supplies, equipment and utilities.

## **KEY EXPENSES**



**\$88,675** Veterinary Fees



**\$66,802** Drugs & Medicine



**\$42,443** Utilities



\$68,21	L2
Shelter \$	Supplies



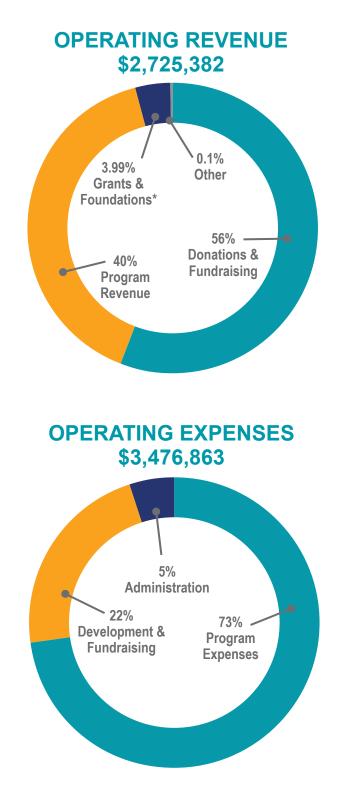




Building & Grounds Maintenance

\*Excludes \$58,329 PPP Grant Revenue. Clinic and shelter at reduced capacity due to construction and veterinarian team transition. Fiscal year is July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. AWA was fortunate to qualify for additional funding from the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan in 2022, which provided assistance with operating expenses, while recovering from the economic impact from the pandemic.

Our financial position remains strong. The new building was built for growth and provides the platform to increase operating revenue. The increased capacity will allow for the adoption of thousands of animals, expansion of services offered to the public in the Pet Clinic and the hosting of fundraising events at AWA.



**9,670** vaccines were administered to community pets

**1,488** pets received wellness exams at the Pet Clinic

**1,459** dogs, cats and small furries found their forever homes

**1,171** animals got a second chance through AWA's Transport program

**1,110** shelter animals were spayed or neutered before going to a new home

**826** shelter animals required medical care and treatment before adoption

**585** animals benefited from staying with a foster family

**581** pets in the community received spay or neuter surgery

**541** pets received care through Vets on Wheels (VOW)

**374** shelter animals received behavior training/rehabilitation

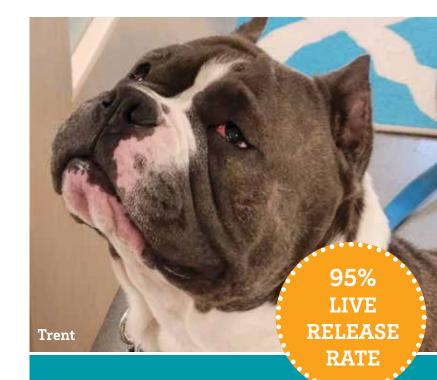
**218** public Training Classes were offered to pet owners

**3** skilled veterinarians on staff

**47,677** hours our dedicated and generous volunteers donated to help AWA fulfill the mission started 75 years ago

# **Transport Partners**

ACCT Philly ASPCA Animal Care Centers of NYC Animal Rescue Corps Atlantic County Animal Shelter Brandywine Valley SPCA **Burlington County Animal Shelter Gloucester County Animal Shelter** Greater Good Charities Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center HSUS Maine Coons & More Cat Rescue Pennsylvania SPCA Sato Care Alliance Shelby Humane Animal Shelter Society for Companion Animals of Dallas South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center Voorhees Animal Orphanage



## **OUR MISSION**

To eliminate animal suffering, promote the importance of the human-animal bond and improve the role of animals in the well-being of people.



AWA has always been more than just a shelter. Understanding that pet owners and animal lovers sometimes need additional support guides the programs and services we develop and provide. Your support funds these three programs and more.

**The Pet Food Pantry** helped ease some of the financial burden of high inflation for pet owners needing assistance feeding their pets. This valuable program allows pets to stay where they belong—in their homes. We are thankful for the generosity of donors who help keep our pantry shelves stocked and the volunteers who help distribute food. **4,602** consultations with pet owners requiring re-homing or pet retention support

**1,804** families utilized the Pet Food Pantry, helping feed 3,826 pets by distributing 23,407 pounds and 12,720 cans of pet food

**259** post adoption behavior or training consultations with adopters

**173** feral cats received vaccines and spay/neuter surgery

**100** pet therapy visits to schools, senior care centers, rehabilitation facilities, special need centers, and outreach events

**The Pet Therapy Program** continues to bring joy and comfort to a variety of animal-lovers of all ages and abilities. We thank our volunteers and therapy pets for committing their time and talents to this wonderful and appreciated program.

**The Pet Bereavement Program**, new in 2022, offers a safe, welcoming, and compassionate space for people experiencing the loss of a beloved pet. Being able to celebrate a pet's life and share stories with others who are grieving can help ease the heartbreak of saying good-bye to a friend.

"The pet food pantry has been an asset to our community. During these personal challenges I'm going through, it was so important to not only have the resource but also compassionate people there who don't judge me." - Pet Food Pantry Client On a beautiful June afternoon, we all gathered to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Adoption and Education Center and the newly renovated Pet Clinic.

We are grateful for the commitment and generosity of our *"Happiness Builders"* for making this long-time dream a reality for the animals and animal-lovers.

This is an exciting time at AWA, this new space will allow a mission that began 75 years ago to grow and adapt as the needs of animal welfare change in the years ahead. The new space has been a place where lifesaving work happens daily, but it's also a place where people who care about animals gather to do good work, have some fun, and make the world a better place for our furry friends.

### TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS

Barbara & Albert Dragon Patricia McNamee William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation South Jersey Charitable Foundation

#### **EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS**

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#### SIGNIFICANT GIFTS

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**Thank You Happiness Builders** 

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SAVING LIVES & HAVING SOME FUN













Sitting pretty in a Cat Curio after a trip through the Cat Tunnel Highway.







Keeping pets healthy with vaccines.







### **Finding Her Happy Ending**

Imagine leaving a home you have lived in for seven years with people you knew and trusted. Now imagine you are a dog and have no understanding of why your whole world just changed. Becky's owner moved into a long-term care facility and there was nowhere else for Becky to go, so she was surrendered to AWA.

The first few days were extremely traumatic for her, so instead of staying in a kennel she made Dr. Emily's office her temporary home. She wasn't comfortable being in the office alone, so during working hours she "assisted" the development department with their important work.

In less than a month this sweet girl was ready for adoption. Because separation anxiety was an issue for her, the staff knew she needed a special family that would make her feel safe and loved again. Thankfully, that family found her, and this update shows how well she is doing.

"Becky (now Sadie) has settled in very quickly and although she does prefer when we are home, when we do leave the house, she will lay in her bed or quietly look out the window. Sadie is a super sweet girl who loves people. The more people around the happier she is. She LOVES going for walks and sniffing around the back yard. She loves kids and when she's around them she acts like a puppy herself. At night she is more than happy to snuggle up on the sofa and relax. We are so happy to have her as part of our family!"

The photo below says it all. Your support gives animals that arrive at AWA a chance at happiness.





**Bubbles, Helped by the Healing Heroes Fund** Bubbles came to AWA from the Animal Care and Control Team (ACCT) in Philadelphia. He was found wandering the streets with a hair tie wrapped around his neck and head. As Bubbles grew the hair tie cut deeply into his skin leaving a gaping open neck wound.

Because of the generosity of our donors, AWA can have a skilled medical team on staff to care for animals like Bubbles that need emergency or extended treatment and longer recovery time.

After his surgery, Bubbles used Dr. Sarah and Dr. Leroy's joint office for his recovery. He soon became a staff favorite, willing to provide lots of affection to anyone who stopped to visit him.

Because we have the support of a community of animal lovers, Bubbles could take the time needed to make a full recovery before he was ready for his new home.

Once he was cleared for adoption this little charmer wormed his way into a young woman's heart and convinced her to take him home.





### MASH TNR Clinic

At first glance the photo on the left looks like a row of cat "purritos". In actuality, these feral guys and gals are recovering from their spay or neuter surgery at a feral cat Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) event held at AWA's Pet Clinic.

Cat colony caregivers work tirelessly and at their own expense to assist these free-roaming feline friends. In 2022, 173 cats received their spay or neuter surgery through AWA's affordable TNR program along with two vaccines that protect them from rabies and other life-threatening feline diseases.

Considering one female cat on average can have 180 kittens in her lifetime and a male cat can impregnate multiple female cats a day illustrates the value of this program.

Thanks to the support of our donors, we are able to partner with feral cat caregivers to fulfill a critical component of AWA's mission—working towards reducing animal populations. With our Education Center officially open in June, we spent the rest of 2022 finding innovative ways to fill it with animal loving community members. We revamped our Education department and doubled program offerings, educating nearly 1,000 guests who left empowered to improve the lives of animals.

The Education Center has been home to Field Trips, Birthday Parties, Scout Badge Events, Workshops, and P.A.W.S. groups. Summer Camp was not only back and better than ever, but we added our Kid's Day Off year-round camp series. We couldn't do any of this without partners, such as AAA, who provided 10 camp scholarships, Holman Enterprises, who sponsored the Compassionate Kids Reading Program, impacting over 200 children in Camden schools and Ravitz Family Markets for sponsoring our Tales with Tails program.

This year, we are launching TAIL Talks, a seminar series discussing animal welfare. Next, we plan to reach an even wider audience by adding Teen and Home-school STEAM focused series, Internships, and much more. Our team can't help but think of exciting ideas to continue AWA's legacy and mission of helping animals through education.

**941** children participated in AWA's education programs

**100** P.A.W.S. (People Achieving With Support) volunteers contributed to the mission of helping animals

**83** kids attended Camp Tails & Whiskers Summer Camp

**81** kids read to shelter animals through the Tales with Tails program

#### LIBERATORS \$5,000+

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For information regarding Constant Companions or joining our Legacy of Love Circle with a planned gift please call 856.424.2288 ext 107 or email info@awanj.org

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