



BUILDING A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS TOGETHER FOR 75 YEARS!

With Gratitude

2023 IMPACT REPORT

A Note From Laura

As I look back on 2023, I see an amazing year of growth for AWA. Over the last year we focused our efforts on growing our adoption numbers, which saw a 47% increase over the previous year, but also on our dedication to community outreach and education. We doubled our Vets on Wheels program, providing free vaccines for almost 1,200 pets. We created a program (Malibu and Gus) to provide spay/neuter of cats for those who are financially challenged. 297 cats received services under this program. And our education programs – I am not sure we could even accurately represent the growth, it was huge! All these programs, as well as the myriad others offered by AWA, help us to both reflect on the terrific foundation we've built over the past 75 years and look forward to AWA's having an even greater impact in the future. We are committed to not only helping today's homeless pets, but also preventing tomorrow's.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated staff and volunteers that work in the shelter and clinic every day, as well as our wonderful supporters. AWA is lucky to have such a passionate and dedicated family. To each and every one of you, I say thank you for all that you do and give each day.

As you read the 2023 Impact Report, I hope the stories bring you joy and hope and you feel the same sense of gratitude and pride I do each day. To AWA – here's to another successful 75 years of saving lives!

Laura Houston
Executive Director



From the Board of Directors

Dear Friends and Supporters:

We want to thank you again for your unwavering support in 2023 and helping us celebrate 75 years of connecting with animals, people, and the community. It has been quite a journey.

From our humble beginnings, 75 years ago, as a few women's vision of caring for animals, to today, when we are one of the most comprehensive animal shelters and pet clinics in our region, so much has happened. But some things remain the same - our commitment to education, the welfare of animals, and serving the community through low-cost vet services.

The new shelter continues to exceed our expectations, becoming a central place for not only animal welfare but also true community connections by hosting kid camps, seminars, volunteer and reading opportunities, and fun events.

The new space allowed us to expand our educational program this year including:

- Field Trips for children and adults to foster love and understanding of animals.
- A pet bereavement program, bringing comfort to pet owners who lost their pet.
- Tails Talks, a series of seminars that discusses popular animal-related topics.

- Camp Tails and Whiskers expanded to eight weeks.
- A Pet Sponsorship program, which allows animal lovers who are unable to own a pet still make an impact.

We also grew our community outreach support, and our staff and services continue to grow including:

- Wellness appointments and vaccine clinics were expanded, and we completed our new dental suite that will offer low-cost dental services!
- Our reading programs continue to be popular, and we also offer one in the City of Camden.
- Our foster program is growing and allows us to transport animals from other high-kill areas; our intake has increased by 43%.

Our staff and dedicated volunteers continue to be the heartbeat of AWA. Their unwavering commitment and vision are felt every day. They thrive on finding solutions to save homeless animals and take care of family pets. We couldn't be more grateful for all our donors and sponsors who make all this possible. Your support ensures our vision will prosper for another 75+ years.

On behalf of all of us at AWA, thank you for your continued support.

Rebecca Acevedo
On behalf of AWA's Board of Directors.



With respect for the environment, the 2024 Impact report will be shared digitally in 2025. If you would like to continue receiving a printed copy via mail please email info@awanj.org or call 856.424.2288.

Financial Health

The first full year in the new building brought growth in all areas. Revenues increased from expanded programs, generous donations, and grants. Expenses also increased with continued inflation from the prior year and in the operation and maintenance of a larger building.

Factors driving the increase in expenses:

- Wages again increased to comply with the annual rising NJ minimum wage rate and to remain competitive in the industry, retaining qualified staff.
- Vendors significantly increased service rates, costs of drugs and medicines, supplies, and utilities.
- Increase in merchant credit card fees and loan interest expenses.

AWA was awarded funds from the Camden County Animal Shelter Covid-19 Community Recovery Grant Program. The funds from this grant allowed AWA to expand its Vets on Wheels program, which provides free vaccine clinics to pet owners in the City of Camden; expansion of AWA's outside dog kennels to increase capacity of adoptable animals; medical upgrades to our Clinic; and the completion of a Dental/Radiology suite to provide much needed dental procedures and radiology services.

Our financial position remains strong. Charitable bequests have allowed AWA to cover our deficits, and in 2023, several of these permitted AWA to significantly reduce the outstanding balance on its construction loan. The generosity of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and foundations greatly contributes to AWA's goal to grow and expand in helping save as many lives as possible for years to come.

KEY EXPENSES



\$167,579

Clinic Supplies



\$125,298

Drugs & Medicine



\$107,075

Utilities



\$91,345

Technology



\$65,543

Shelter Supplies



\$61,922

Merchant & Payment Processing Fees



\$50,845

Insurances

REVENUE - \$5,182,551



62%

Donations & Fundraising



33%

Program Revenue



5%

Grants & Foundations

EXPENSES - \$4,435,836



83.6%

Program Expenses



12.8%

Development & Fundraising



3.6%

Administration

AWA runs on a fiscal year - July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Support for the Community

PET THERAPY PROGRAM

AWA is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who regularly take therapy pets to a variety of facilities in the community. These visits have positive effects on people of all ages. Interacting with pets can provide emotional support, companionship, and a sense of connection.

161 Pet Therapy Sessions
3,064 Pet Lovers Impacted

PET RETENTION ASSISTANCE

We are committed to assisting pet owners or guardians facing the challenging decision of surrendering or re-homing a pet. Providing counseling helps find a solution that allows a pet to either stay in their home or have the opportunity to find a new loving home.



1,365 Total Animals Helped **1,351** Pet Parents or Guardians Assisted
556 Dogs **671** Cats **138** Small Animals

PET FOOD PANTRY

AWA expanded the Pet Food Pantry in 2023 offering twice-a-month and quarterly events at AWA's campus. Monthly, we collaborate with HOPE Church to distribute pet food through their pantry. Pet food is also offered to pet owners at Vets on Wheels events.

3,288 Households Served
2,695 Dogs Fed **2,174** Cats Fed
27,266 Pounds of Kibble Distributed
23,579 Cans of Wet Food Distributed

VETS ON WHEELS

More visits to the City of Camden means more pets receive veterinary care. We had 11 visits from May to October, with two visits per month from April to October planned in 2024.

Services offered are: Distemper, Rabies, and Bordetella vaccines, deworming, flea and tick preventatives, microchipping or microchip check.

1,159 Pets Received Care
11 Visits by VOW to the City of Camden

HELPING CATS IN THE COMMUNITY

Through the support of the Malibu and Gus Foundation, AWA's Pet Clinic was able to assist cat owners in the community facing financial constraints with select vaccines, spay/neuter surgeries, and other services such as microchipping and nail trimming.

We are so grateful that these generous funds helped ensure the well-being of beloved pets and gave support to their owners.

297 Cats Benefited From This Program



Importance of Volunteers

FOSTER PROGRAM

132 Active Foster Families

1,212 Animals Healed, Chilled, and Experienced Love in a Foster Home



Relaxing in foster care.

Wally (formerly Walle) an adorable Chihuahua mix was a staff favorite while at AWA. We knew it wouldn't take long for him to find his forever home, but first, he needed urgent medical treatment for an advanced case of heartworm.

Due to his condition Wally needed to restrict activity, which meant only short walks and limited play, a challenge for a young pup with two-year-old energy.

Fortunately, Wally was able to spend time with a wonderful foster family and as you can see, from the photo, he took advantage of a soft couch to relax.

Within days of Wally's return to the Adoption Center, he was adopted. Now this sweet boy can recover and heal in his own loving home.

IMPORTANCE OF FOSTERS:

Stress Relief

Shelter environments can be stressful for animals, especially for those who have experienced trauma or abandonment. Fostering provides a temporary home where pets can experience a more relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, reducing their stress levels.

Socialization

Foster homes provide an opportunity for pets to socialize with humans and, in some cases, other animals. This is especially beneficial for animals that may be shy, fearful, or have behavioral issues, helping them build trust and confidence.

Bottle-Feeding and Neonatal Care

Neonatal kittens, often abandoned or orphaned, require around-the-clock care. Foster volunteers who engage in bottle-feeding and provide constant attention play a critical role in ensuring the survival and healthy development of these vulnerable little ones.

Recovery and Rehabilitation

Animals recovering from illness or surgery may need a calm and supportive environment during their rehabilitation. Foster homes offer a space where pets can heal, receive necessary medications, and regain their strength before being adopted.

Behavioral Assessment

Living in a home environment allows foster volunteers to observe and assess the behavior and personality of the pet. This valuable information helps match animals with suitable permanent homes.

Fosters make a significant impact on the lives of pets by providing them with love, care, and individualized attention. Their efforts contribute to the overall well-being of animals, preparing them for successful adoption and a brighter future.

300,000 Hours Volunteers Gave From 2013 to 2023

AWA is thankful for the dedication and support of all of our volunteers. They help bring AWA's 75-year mission to life!

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

A Powerful Tool

EDUCATION

It was a busy 2023 for AWA's Education Department: new programs were added, summer camp expanded to eight weeks, and animal lovers of all ages enjoyed some wonderful experiences.

5,158 Pet Lovers Were Impacted

THREE NEW PROGRAMS

Wags & Wiggles was created to help teach our youngest animal lovers about animal safety, compassion, and empathy. Teaching kids early about animals and safety is crucial to helping them have appropriate animal interactions..

Kids Night Out is an opportunity for adults to drop off their animal-loving children for a night of fun with the animals! Kids enjoy making a craft, visiting with the animals and playing at different activity stations, including the Vet for a Day: Dramatic Play Clinic, which is always a big hit.

Animal Academy Home School is a series of 8 classes geared toward home school students. This provides the opportunity for home school children to explore new opportunities and experiences, along with getting to know other youth their age.

VET FOR A DAY: DRAMATIC PLAY CLINIC

This activity was created with funding from a community grant from Holman Enterprises and has been very successful and well-received.

Children utilize tools, some that are real vet tools, to transform into veterinarians and vet their pet! Children dress the part with lab coats, real working stethoscopes, and gloves and masks, and choose their stuffed animal to care for. The highlight of the activity is the surgical station. Kids are able to operate on a stuffed animal dog or cat that opens up to reveal pretend organs. Using various tools, kids can remove the organs and perform surgery!

CAMP TAILS & WHISKERS

Camp was once again well received by parents and campers. We thank our partner AAA of South Jersey for sponsoring 10 camper scholarships. In 2024, camp will expand from 8 weeks to 10 weeks.

Camp incorporated various S.T.E.A.M. activities. Campers engineered their dream shelters, viewed parasites under microscopes to learn about pet health care, designed an invention to help pet owners, and more!

154 Campers



Meeting kittens at Kids Night Out.



Pretend vet diagnosing a cat.



Meeting a Voorhees K9 dog at summer camp.

Changing Lives

PAIN FREE AND A NEW HOME

Connie, came to AWA from a local shelter partner. She didn't come here for medical reasons, but simply to have a better chance at catching the eye, in a less crowded space, of a forever family.

Because she was so scared she took up residence in Dr. Emily's office, a quiet place where she could hide until she felt safe enough to interact with people. When Dr. Emily examined her, she discovered a strange bump and decided to explore the cause. To her horror, the bump was a pointed air rifle pellet that was lodged under Connie's skin in front of her right ear.

It is so sad that she had to encounter this kind of cruelty. It is understandable why she was hesitant to let anyone near her.

Connie is now enjoying the pampered life she is entitled to—napping and play are her top priorities.



Connie relaxing pain free.



Brewzer with his box.

A BIG LOVABLE GOOFBALL

Brewzer (formerly Mr. Big) stayed at AWA for 115 days, so the staff was very excited when his adoption day arrived. He's now been in his home for over a year, and his family recently shared that he is doing well and very much loved.

He is healthy and reached his recommended weight, which is great to hear. He's very playful and enjoys his big stuffed animal collection, cuddles, and running around in his own back yard. He also is a huge fan of boxes as you can see from the photo above.

It is great hearing that a former AWA resident is thriving in their new home. His family tells us he has brought them so much love and joy. Thank you for helping create this happy ending.

HELP FROM HEALING HEROES

Magnolia's eyes were scarred from chronic irritation due to previous entropion (where the eyelashes fold in and touch the eye surface). While this had been repaired, the damage had already been done. She was completely blind and had constant discharge from her eyes due to the damage to her tear ducts. To free her from constant discomfort, the decision was made to enucleate her (removal of the eyeballs).

After healing from her surgery, Magnolia was ready to find her forever home. Not every adopter feels comfortable bringing a cat with vision loss into their home, but cats are very adaptable, and with patience and a little guidance, they can live a full and happy life. It didn't take long for Magnolia to be adopted. In her new home, she is enjoying exploring, playing, and napping in her favorite spot.



Magnolia after surgery.



Cookie relaxing in her new home.

A SWEET NEW LIFE

Cookie, a two-year-old, blue-eyed mother and her four pups were saved from a horrifying case of neglect. Dogs were found scattered around the yard—many were restrained on chains in thick, tall grass littered with debris. The dogs had no access to clean water, food, or adequate shelter, and most were severely underweight, including Cookie.

The puppies found new homes quickly, but it took Cookie a little longer to leave AWA. She's in her new home now and will never be neglected again.

LUCKY DAY FOR LUCKY

Lucky, a senior black cat, didn't always have luck on his side. Even with his soft fluffy fur and wise golden eyes he was often passed over in favor of younger, more playful kittens. But his luck changed during a three-day spring break Kids Day Off Camp at AWA.

Among the camp attendees was a kind cat-loving boy, drawn to Lucky's top corner cat condo. There seemed to be an instant connection between the two. Each day when his mother picked him up they would stop and visit with Lucky. On the final day of camp, Lucky was adopted, and this once-overlooked senior cat found his loving new home and a new best friend.



Lucky and his new best friend.

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