

Animal Tails

ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION • SPRING/SUMMER 2025



Dear Friends,

As we reach the midpoint of the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the compassion, dedication, and community spirit that continues to define everything we do here at Animal Welfare Association.

Over the past six months, we've celebrated countless wagging tails, gentle purrs, and joyful adoptions. Thanks to your support, we've been able to provide second chances to animals in need — from the tiniest kittens found by good samaritans to senior dogs looking for a place to enjoy their golden years. Every adoption, every wellness check, every meal served, every vaccine given and tail wagged is a direct result of your belief in our mission.

This year, we launched several new initiatives — including dental services for dogs, an expanded foster care program, and new partnerships such as Project Refit — all designed to keep pets healthy, safe, and with the families who love them.

But the need continues — and so does our commitment. As we look ahead to the second half of the year, we're focused on building stronger community

partnerships, increasing access to veterinary care, and finding innovative ways to make animal welfare more inclusive and available to all.

Behind every life we save is a network of people like you — adopters, volunteers, donors, fosters, and advocates — who make this work possible. On behalf of our entire team (two- and four-legged alike), thank you for standing with us.

Here's to a hopeful and impactful rest of the year.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Laura Houston
Executive Director



Meow There!

I hope you enjoy this Spring/Summer Newsletter, packed with heartwarming tales of once-homeless pets who found comfort and care at AWA before heading off to their forever homes. You'll also find inspiring updates from AWA's Education Department highlighting the powerful impact of our children's programs throughout the community.

As the Chief Affection Officer (CAO), I have a front-row seat to the incredible work happening inside this building every single day. I see animals arrive scared, sick, or injured — and I watch as our amazing staff and volunteers bring them back to health with compassion and expertise. Our Behavior Team works wonders with pets who need help overcoming fear, anxiety, or just a bit of extra training to become the best companions they can be.

None of this would be possible without generous donors and volunteers like you. You are the reason tails wag, purrs happen, and lives change.

Also — not to brag (okay, maybe just a little) — I've been told I'm becoming quite the star on Instagram. Be sure to follow me for behind-the-scenes updates from the Development Office, where I perform important tasks like napping and charm distribution. You'll also get plenty of chances to admire my undeniable adorableness (a widely accepted fact around here).

Thank you for being part of the AWA family. Homeless animals rely on kind-hearted humans like you — and so do we.

With purrs and gratitude,

Paul, CAO 



@paulie.wogs

AWA's 2024 IMPACT

ADOPTION CENTER

2,476 - Pets adopted - 15% increase over 2023

1,830 - Shelter pets spayed or neutered

1,923 - Shelter medical cases

447 - Shelter pets that received behavior help

659 - Behavior consultations and training

PET CLINIC

9,914 - Vaccines administered

3,479 - Wellness exams performed

3,460 - Spay/neuter surgeries

VETS ON WHEELS (VOW)

1,561 - Pets received care

35% increase over 2023

FERAL FIX-IT

1,561 - Feral cats spayed/neutered

235% increase over 2023

PET RETENTION ASSISTANCE

1,073 - Pet parents or guardians assisted

2,546 - Total animals helped

1,714 Cats, 752 Dogs, 80 Small Animals

PET THERAPY PROGRAM

227 - Pet therapy hours

3,279 - Pet lovers impacted

PET FOOD PANTRY

3,684 - Households served

2,257 - Cats fed

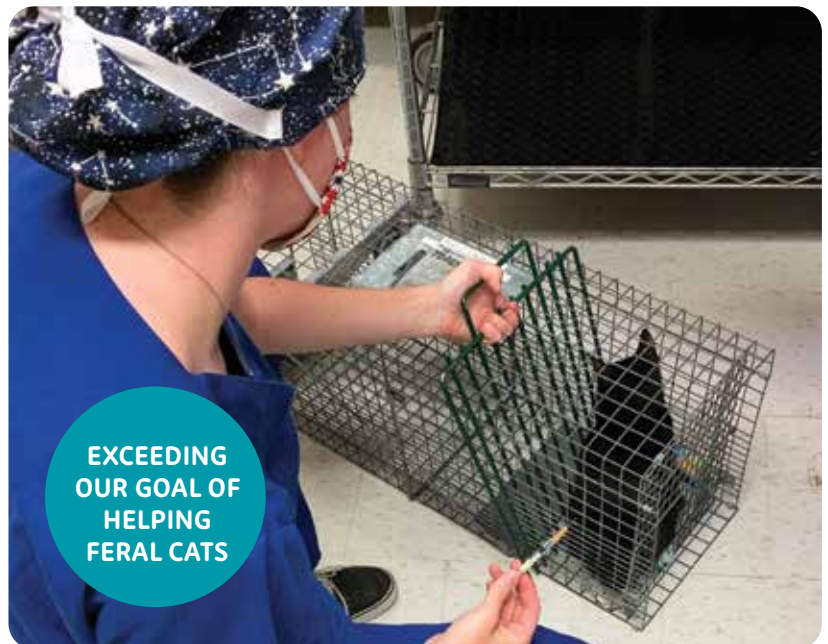
1,473 - Dogs fed

TRANSPORT PROGRAM

29 - Partner organizations

1,623 - Lives saved via transport

870 Cats, 724 Dogs, 29 Small animals



HAPPILY EVER AFTER: TALES OF NEW BEGINNINGS

TWO STARS FIND THEIR HOMES

John Wayne and Clint Eastwood, two inseparable Australian Shepherds, arrived at AWA in September. Just two years old, these energetic herding dogs needed plenty of enrichment to stay happy and healthy, both mentally and physically. They loved romping around the dog yards together or simply relaxing side by side in their shared kennel.

Being in a new and unfamiliar shelter environment made both boys anxious. To help them cope, AWA's Behavior Team developed personalized behavior modification plans tailored to each dog's unique needs. John Wayne was the more outgoing of the duo, while Clint Eastwood tended to be more cautious, often hanging back in the kennel and letting John take the lead.

After a few months, the team realized the best chance for them to find loving homes would be to help them grow more independent. With gentle introductions to other shelter dogs through walks and playgroups, John and Clint slowly learned to build confidence apart from each other. It was recommended that each be adopted into a home with another canine companion to help them feel secure.

After 136 days for John Wayne and 139 days for Clint Eastwood at AWA, their happy endings finally arrived. Both found wonderful forever homes where they continue to thrive. Clint Eastwood now delights in zoomies, rolling in the grass, and endless outdoor play. John Wayne loves nothing more than chasing a squeaky ball with his new dog sibling by his side.

The entire AWA team and volunteers were overjoyed to see these sweet boys, who simply needed extra time and care, to find the loving homes they deserved.



**AWA'S SUPPORTERS
MAKE THESE BEAUTIFUL
STORIES POSSIBLE!**



A TALE OF TWO FELINES

FINDING A LOVING HOME

Two cats arrived at AWA on the same December day in 2024—though their journeys there were very different. Twincie was just four months old, full of energy and curiosity. Bagel, a little over a year old, was sweet but extremely timid. During her intake, staff noted that Bagel was clearly frightened. To help her feel safe, she was moved to a quiet office in the Development Department. For weeks, she stayed hidden in her cozy hut, peeking out just enough to show half her face. But with patience, love, and gentle encouragement, Bagel slowly began to come out of her shell, gaining confidence one step at a time.



Twincie, on the other hand, was outgoing and welcomed attention from the moment he arrived. But behind his playful demeanor was a serious medical issue. Twincie was diagnosed with a rare and complex condition called Peritoneopericardial Diaphragmatic Hernia. In a healthy cat, the heart sits in a protective sac within the chest, with the diaphragm separating the chest from the abdomen. Twincie's protective sac never formed, and his diaphragm was underdeveloped—allowing his abdominal organs to move into his chest cavity.

Despite the severity of the condition, Twincie showed no immediate signs of distress. Because he was stable, AWA's medical team had time to research surgical techniques, potential complications, and create a detailed pain management plan. The surgery was a success, and Twincie amazed everyone with his resilience. Just two hours after the procedure, he was already showing interest in food. He faced a strict recovery period with cage rest and pain management, but his fighting spirit never wavered.

What makes this story truly heartwarming is what happened next: Twincie and Bagel, each with their own challenges, not only found care and healing at AWA—they found each other. Today, they are living happily as siblings in the same forever home.

Thanks to your support, these two deserving cats got the second chance they needed—and found a lifetime of love together.



EDUCATING FOR A KINDER FUTURE



COMPASSIONATE CLASSROOM

We are thrilled to celebrate the completion of another year of our **Animal Academy Home-school** Program! Throughout the year, our students explored a wide range of animal-related topics, including Veterinary Science, the differences between endangered and extinct species, and the impact of pollution on wildlife. These young learners engaged in meaningful discussions, hands-on activities, and interactive lessons that helped deepen their understanding of animals and the natural world. We're already looking forward to another exciting year when the program resumes in September!

EDUCATION IN ACTION

On April 5th, we had the opportunity to participate in the Pennsauken Animal Hospital's Open House, where we set up our always-popular Pretend Pet Clinic. Children stepped into the shoes of veterinarians and technicians, learning about daily animal care and getting a behind-the-scenes look at the important work the hospital staff does every day. On April 6th, we wrapped things up with a STEM Day for students ages 11–13. Participants dove into the fascinating world of Animal Science through hands-on experiments and critical thinking activities designed to spark curiosity and a love of learning about animals.



SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

Our **Summer Camp** kicked off on June 23rd, at full capacity! This 10-week program runs six hours a day and offers an immersive, behind-the-scenes look at shelter life. Campers learn about animal rescue, rehabilitation, and the day-to-day operations of running an animal shelter—all while enjoying games, crafts, and lots of time with furry friends. It's one of our most in-demand programs and a highlight of the year for both kids and staff.

UPCOMING AWA EVENTS

BARKING LOTS SIPS & BREWS

August 1, 2025 - 5:30 - 8:30pm

Join us for some summer fun at AWA's campus.
Enjoy food trucks, local brews, live music, corn-hole,
and more! Fun for all ages!

FREE Admission - Drink Tickets Sold to 21+

PUTT FOR PETS

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 8, 9 & 10

Pleasant Valley Mini Golf

Check awanj.org closer to event date for ticket purchase.
Scan the QR Code below to purchase your tickets.



LUMINARIES FOR LOST LOVE

Sunday, September 14

Light up the Night for Lost Loves

More information at awanj.org as the event gets closer.

MUMS

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Purchase beautiful flowers and help the animals at AWA!



Mark your calendars for a tail wagging time! **Family Fun Night** is back and this year, Marshall, the Firefighting Paw Patrol Pup will be visiting. Come enjoy games, the Pretend Pet Clinic, food, popsicles, face painting, free caricatures and much more! Visit awanj.org/events to learn more about this event that is fun for the whole family.



PUPS WOOF FOR ICE CREAM

For every pup cup sold during the 2025 season, Sprinklz will donate a portion of the sale to AWA to help homeless animals that depend on AWA for a better life!

Located at 223 Haddon Avenue, West Berlin, NJ

**Stay up-to-date on all events
by visiting awanj.org/events**

Animal Welfare Association, Inc. is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift may be 100% tax-deductible according to federal regulations. Federal Tax ID: 22-1752792

HOMELESS ANIMALS NEED HELP

With your generous gifts, homeless animals find a safe and loving place as they wait for adoption into their forever homes.

PET SPONSORSHIP

The animals in our Pet Sponsorship program are in the most need. They may be having a difficult time being adopted due to age, breed, or size, or have medical or behavioral challenges making it harder for them to find homes.

CONSTANT COMPANIONS

Monthly giving helps AWA spend more time and resources on lifesaving initiatives, and less time fundraising. For only \$10 a month (\$0.33 per day) you can help provide food, medicine, and care.

CELEBRATION WALL

Honor a beloved pet, past or present, with a place on AWA's Celebration Wall. For an \$85 one-time donation, you can celebrate any animal—whether they were adopted from AWA or not. More information at awanj.org/donate/celebration-wall

HEALING HEROES FUND

This fund is available for animals with extraordinary medical needs. With funds available, medical care and treatment can begin immediately without the delay for fundraising.



**To donate online
please scan the
QR Code with
a mobile device.**

PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO SAVE LIVES!

Name

Address

City/ST/Zip

My gift of: \$ ☐ Check enclosed

Charge my card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Card number

Expiration date CVV

Name on card



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FINDING FOREVER LOVE AT AWA

