

Animal Tails

ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION • FALL/WINTER 2025



FINCH

DEAR FRIENDS,

As the leaves change and we settle into the fall season, I'm reminded how much transformation is at the heart of AWA's work. Every day, we witness lives changing—not just for the animals who find comfort, care, and new beginnings here, but also for the people whose lives are brightened by their companionship.

This season, our team continues to build on our vision of a compassionate community where every pet has a home and every person has access to the resources they need to care for the animals they love. Through our outreach programs like Vets on Wheels (VOW) in Camden, we're providing free vaccines, microchips, and pet food to families who otherwise might have to go without. Through "Operation Compassion," our education initiative, we're inspiring the next generation to care deeply about animals and empathy. And within our shelter walls, our adoption, veterinary, and training teams are helping more pets than ever find their way home.

This season marks an especially meaningful milestone for AWA: the purchase of five acres of land adjacent to our campus. This investment represents

so much more than property; it's a promise to the future of animal welfare in our region.

AWA's progress is only possible because of supporters like you—our adopters, donors, volunteers, and advocates.

Your compassion fuels everything we do and ensures we can continue to meet the growing needs of our community.

As we head into the holiday season, I hope you take pride in knowing that your support makes life better for thousands of animals and people every year. Together, we're creating a kinder world—one paw at a time.

With gratitude,



Laura Houston
Executive Director



MEOW THERE!

Since I reside in the Development office here at AWA (my kingdom, if you will), I consider myself quite the expert on all things AWA. I patrol the halls, supervise the humans, and keep a watchful eye on everything that happens in this building. One thing that really makes my whiskers twitch with pride is the top-notch veterinary care our Pet Clinic provides to pets in the community. From wellness exams and vaccine clinics to low-cost spay/neuter surgeries, these affordable services help keep tails wagging and purrs going strong.

It's not just pets in the community who receive skilled medical care here at AWA—homeless pets arriving at the Adoption Center do, too. Every pet gets a thorough intake exam by our shelter medical team, and any illnesses or injuries are treated before they're ready to meet their new families.

Now, I'll admit I'm not exactly a fan of needles, but even I understand that vaccines and wellness visits are a small price to pay to stay healthy. After all, I have an important role as AWA's Chief Affection Officer (CAO), and I need to be at the top of my game every single day.

Thanks to your support for both AWA and our medical services, countless animals are now healthy, happy, and living their best lives. We couldn't do it without kind, generous people like you.

Paul, CAO 



Follow me on Instagram
[@paulie.wogs](https://www.instagram.com/paulie.wogs)

SUMMER SHOWERS BRING FOREVER HOMES FOR CATS & KITTENS

This summer, AWA's Raining Cats promotion, with reduced adoption fees, truly lived up to its name. During July and August, 418 cats and kittens found their forever homes. Families fell in love with adorable kittens, sweet seniors, and playful young adults, each adoption opening the door for more lives to be saved.

Every spring, kitten season begins, bringing an overwhelming number of tiny paws through our doors. By summer, AWA is full of kittens in need, along with older cats patiently waiting for someone to notice them. That's why adoption promotions like Raining Cats are so important: every cat who leaves with a loving family creates space for the next life in need of rescue.

Behind each number is a story, a shy kitten learning to trust in the arms of a child, a senior cat curling up on the couch, a bonded pair who got to stay together. Thanks to our adopters, this summer was about new beginnings, lots of purrs, and the joy of giving hundreds of felines their second chance.



**418 FELINES
WERE ADOPTED IN
JULY & AUGUST!**



MADRID

Madrid, an eight-year-old female cat, arrived at AWA in February 2025. She was a little nervous in the busy cat condos, so she made herself comfortable in the Development office, where staff quickly fell in love with her gentle presence. After almost seven months of waiting, everyone was overjoyed when, in August 2025, Madrid finally found her forever home.



A NEW CHAPTER: LAND PURCHASE OPENS DOORS FOR FUTURE GROWTH

We're excited to announce that AWA recently purchased five acres of undeveloped land next to our campus. Securing this nearby land is a proactive step to protect the environment around the shelter and to plan wisely for the future. This land represents more than just open space. It's an investment in the well-being of our animals, our team, and the broader community AWA serves.

Although, no development is planned right now, we are exploring the idea of adding walking trails. These trails would offer a peaceful place for our community to enjoy while also giving our shelter dogs additional trails for their daily walks.



FROM TEXAS FLOODS TO NEW BEGINNINGS AT AWA

When we hear the news about a natural disaster striking a community in our country, our hearts immediately go out to the people affected. But we also know that pets and local animal shelters feel the devastating impact as well. Shelters in the hardest-hit areas suddenly face a surge of animals needing safety and care.

Because of the generosity of our animal-loving donors, AWA was able to say yes when help was urgently needed after the July floods in Texas. Working in partnership with the Bissell Pet Foundation, which coordinated the transport of 100 animals out of the flood zone, AWA opened its doors to welcome two displaced dogs in need of safety, care and a chance at adoption.

Wanda Li, just six months old when she arrived from Texas, got her happy ending with her forever family here in New Jersey.



WANDA LI



DUCHESS

A FOREVER PALACE FOR A DUCHESS

Duchess, a beautiful snow-white cat with a gentle spirit, spent an astonishing 208 days at AWA. Befitting her name, Duchess had her own "palace"—the kitten nursery—where she could watch every visitor who walked through our doors. From her perch, she saw many kittens and cats go home with loving families while she continued to wait for hers.

Though her stay was comfortable, with cozy napping spots and daily play sessions with staff, Duchess deserved more. She deserved to be someone's cherished companion. On August 8th, that dream finally came true. After more than half a year of waiting, Duchess found her perfect match and began her happily-ever-after.

Because of compassionate donors like you, Duchess's long stay was filled with love, care, and comfort until her forever family came along. While we'll miss her sweet face in the nursery, we couldn't be happier knowing she's finally where she belongs—home.

A NEW HOME FOR SENIOR BROTHERS

Back in 2016, two tiny brother kittens, Tom and Tim, arrived at AWA and were adopted together into a loving home. Sadly, nine years later, their owner was faced with difficult decision to surrender them back to AWA. It's always heartbreaking when life forces families and pets apart.

Now senior cats, Tom and Tim were no longer the playful kittens they once were, and older cats are too often overlooked in shelters. Still, AWA staff made sure they were safe, comfortable, and loved while waiting for their second chance. Though it wasn't required that they be adopted together, everyone hoped the brothers would find a home side by side, just as they had started their lives.

That wish came true when a kind adopter came to meet Tim in the community cat room. Upon learning he had a brother staying in the development office, she immediately asked to meet him as well. The bond between the brothers was clear, and she made the wonderful decision to adopt them both. Thanks to her, Tom and Tim are now enjoying their golden years together in a new forever home—proving that sometimes happy endings really do come full circle.



TOM & TIM AS KITTENS IN 2016

Brotherly
LOVE



TOM



TIM



FRANCES

The animal care team was in for a surprise one morning when they discovered an unexpected new arrival in the small animal room. Overnight, Olympus, a guinea pig, had given birth to a baby girl! The tiny bundle, named Frances, is healthy and growing quickly. Once she's a little older, she'll be ready to begin her journey to a forever home.

A GREAT SUMMER OF FUN FOR KIDS

Our **2025 Summer Camp** season wrapped up on August 29th after an incredible nine weeks of animal-filled fun for campers ages 6–13. This year, we welcomed more than 250 enthusiastic children through our doors, each eager to learn, create, and connect with animals. From hands-on crafts and engaging games to inspiring guest speakers and up-close encounters with our shelter pets, every week was packed with memorable moments. Not only did campers spend time with our adoptable animals, but they also had the unique opportunity to meet some extraordinary guest creatures—including lambs, bearded dragons, and ferrets! We are so proud of the joy, curiosity, and compassion our campers brought to the shelter all summer long—and we can't wait to see many of their smiling faces again next year! A big thank you to our guest speakers, Farm Friends, Leah Fichter, Crisis Response Canines, Seeing Eye Dogs, Wild Exotics, Voorhees K9s, and Cherry Hill K9s for educating our children about the importance of animals and how they enrich our lives.



A GREAT EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

The Education Department was proud to host their premier event of the year, **Family Fun Night**, and it was a tremendous success! Throughout the evening, we welcomed an estimated 250–350 attendees, all enjoying a night filled with laughter, learning, and community spirit. AWA's activity stations were a major highlight. Children had a blast at "Paint the AWA Van," played their hearts out with our inflatable carnival games and lawn games, explored our pretend pet clinic, and captured memories at the photo booth. The face painting and caricature artists were crowd favorites, and Story time with Mrs. Camden County 2025 added a special touch of magic to the evening. We were also honored to have the Voorhees Fire Department and Voorhees Police Department on-site with their vehicles, giving kids a fun and educational experience. Cars on Tap delighted guests with appearances by their Lightning McQueen and Monsters, Inc. themed cars.



Thank you to everyone who came out to make the night unforgettable. We're already looking forward to next year's Family Fun Night!



**CHECK OUT
ALL EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**



EVENTS AT AWA

HOWL-O-WEEN AT AWA

October 17th - 5:00pm to 8:00pm

AWA's Howl-O-Ween Bash

A night of eerie fun, wicked cocktails, and ghostly beats, Trunk or Treat, Vendors, Cocktails, Kids Crafts, Live Music, Food Trucks, and more!

AWA FALL DRAG SHOW

November 7th - 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Join AWA as this sensational star-studded cast of some of the fiercest drag performers from Drag Queen Entertainment bring you an incredible evening at the beautiful Collingswood Grand Ballroom. Doors open at 6:00pm, show starts at 7:00pm

SHRED FOR A CAUSE

November 15th - 8:00am to 12:00pm

All you can shred for \$40

at Tab Group Inc - 341 Cooper Rd, West Berlin

CHECK OUT ALL AWA EVENTS



DONATE



ONLINE

YOU CAN HELP A HOMELESS PET FIND A FOREVER HOME WITH YOUR GIFT

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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GOING HOME!

