

Almost Home Animal Shelter in Pennsauken to Close (2017 Statement)

AWA Statement:

The Almost Home Animal Shelter opened a warehouse in Pennsauken, NJ, over a decade ago to serve as a temporary facility. In 2015, Camden County expanded Camden County Animal Shelter in Blackwood, NJ, to house more of the county's stray animals.

Camden County Animal Shelter has ample space in their new center to house the extra animals. Over the past two years, Camden County Animal Shelter's adoption rates have soared: over 90% of dogs and 92% of cats find new loving homes. This is above national averages, and makes Camden County Animal Shelter a model municipal animal shelter and adoption center in New Jersey.

Running an animal shelter is expensive. While it is sad to see a shelter close, it is admirable that the director of Almost Home Animal Shelter acknowledges that being unable to cover operating expenses puts animals and people at risk.

Facts:

Almost Home Animal Shelter was intended to be a temporary facility and was never properly designed or set up to care for animals' long term needs.

- Almost Home Animal Shelter stopped taking in contracted animals on December 31, 2015. Since then, Almost Home Animal Shelter has operated as a privately funded shelter.
- They will not euthanize the animals that need placement.

Many local animal welfare agencies have offered support and help to them as they seek placement for the few animals currently in their care and as they transition to a "rescue volunteer based" organization.

- There are four shelters in Camden County - two limited admission private shelters (Animal Welfare Association & Animal Adoption Center) and two shelters with municipal contracts (Camden County Animal Shelter and Voorhees Animal Orphanage.) Collectively these shelters have the ability to provide care and adoption services for animals in need and work cooperatively.