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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Animal Welfare Association Shares Gratitude for its Youngest Supporters**

11/26/19

Voorhees, NJ – Animal Welfare Association (AWA) is grateful for every advocate of its life-saving mission, and this Thanksgiving season the organization is serving up big thanks for its youngest supporters--the next generation of animal lovers.

Among them is one of the most recent donors to AWA's important work, Benna Clark. The young girl combined her birthday money and allowance to make a \$50 contribution that ensures the homeless pets of South Jersey can also experience happy holidays.

A \$50 gift to AWA can help spay or neuter a pet in need, like Naomi pictured below, which not only reduces the homeless animal population and euthanasia, but also readies the pet for adoption and can lengthen its life expectancy.

The organization applauds each of the children in 2019 who baked dog treats, held a pet food drive for their birthday, encouraged their parents to adopt a pet, or collected funds on AWA's behalf.

Executive Director Maya Richmond says, "we count on the next generation of animal lovers to carry our work forward. Instilling compassion for animals at a young age is integral to the AWA mission, as evidenced by our Summer Camp, which reaches nearly 100 youths in a month, our school visits with therapy pets that reach hundreds more children, and the opportunities for children as young as 12 to volunteer with a parent."

**Animal Welfare Association**, a private, non-profit, 501(c) 3 animal welfare organization, serves the people and animals of southern New Jersey. AWA is dedicated to eliminating animal suffering, promoting the importance of the human-animal bond, and improving the role of animals in the well-being of people. Through a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, in 2018 over 22,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.

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Benna Clarke, recent birthday girl, is pictured holding George Washington, an AWA adopted pet.



Naomi is a 1.5 year-old Labrador Retriever/Poodle mix that was spayed at AWA's Pet Clinic thanks to generous gifts like Benna Clarke's.