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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AWA Proudly Receives Transport Grant from PetSmart Charities®**

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**Voorhees, NJ:** Animal Welfare Association (AWA) is proud to announce that it has received a generous grant from PetSmart Charities to support its transport program. AWA transports homeless pets from overcrowded shelters around the country and the region so they don't have to euthanize for space. Many dogs and cats have been saved because of AWA's transport program.

"Transport programs increase the amount of lives saved on a national level", says Maya Richmond, Executive Director of AWA. "Some areas of the country have too many homeless pets, and other areas have more adopters than adoptable pets. By networking with other organizations we can level out the amount of pets in shelters. And these transport networks prove to be critical when it comes to rescue missions like Hurricane Harvey, where thousands of animals need to be transferred to safer locations."

The grant from PetSmart Charities will directly support ongoing expenses including medical costs like spay/neuter for homeless dogs and cats, as well as special needs medical cases. "Another tremendous benefit to our transport programs is increasing breed diversity across shelter kennels," said David Haworth, CEO of PetSmart Charities. "Research proves that increasing breed diversity by adding, say, beagles, hounds, and small terriers actually increases the chances that common shelter breeds like pit bulls and chihuahuas will get adopted."

To learn more about AWA's lifesaving programs, visit [www.awanj.org/programs](http://www.awanj.org/programs)

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#### **About AWA**

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 2016 over 23,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.

**About PetSmart Charities®**

PetSmart Charities, Inc. is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to find lifelong, loving homes for all pets by supporting programs and thought leadership that bring people and pets together. In addition to finding homes for almost 500,000 shelter pets each year through its in-store adoption program in all PetSmart stores across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, PetSmart Charities provides funding to non-profits aligned with its mission through four key areas of grant support: Preventing Pet Homelessness; Helping Shelter Pets Thrive; Supporting the Bond Between People and Pets; and Emergency Relief and Disaster Support. Each year, millions of generous PetSmart shoppers help pets in need by donating to PetSmart Charities using the pin pads at checkout registers inside PetSmart stores. In turn, PetSmart Charities efficiently uses 90 cents of every dollar donated and has become the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, donating about \$300 million to date. PetSmart Charities, a 501(c)(3) organization, has received the Four Star Rating from Charity Navigator, an independent organization that reports on the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of nonprofits, for the past 14 years in a row – placing it among the top one percent of charities rated by this organization. To learn more visit [www.petsmartcharities.org](http://www.petsmartcharities.org).