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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Welfare Association Addresses COVID-19 Concerns

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Voorhees, NJ – The Animal Welfare Association (AWA) is committed to the health and safety of our community, pets, and staff. We are closely monitoring developments around COVID-19, including documented cases in the SJ region. We encourage you to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) advice to protect yourself and your family.

At present AWA, in consultation with our partner agencies, may temporarily suspend Pet Therapy visits (going to assisted living and nursing homes), our PAWs program (youth from area agencies), and Humane Education (visits to area schools). The adoption, pet clinic and volunteer programs remain in operation. And major fundraising events planned for late May are proceeding as normal.

We encourage you to have a plan in place for the care of your pets.

Here are important steps you can take:

- Identify a friend/family member who can take care of your pet(s) in the event you become sick.
- Have food, supplies, and crates available so that you can move your pet(s) quickly.
- Keep your pet(s)’ vaccines up to date.
- Document medications, along with directions for giving them. It’s helpful to include the prescription from your veterinarian.
- Microchip your pet(s) and have a collar/harness with ID tags.

Here are general resources about COVID-19:

Federal guidance about COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>.

Camden County COVID-19 updates: <https://www.camdencounty.com/service/health-human-services/covid-19-updates/>

The AWA will continue to monitor the situation. In the meantime, we wish you, your family, and your pets stay well.

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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 2019 over 16,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.