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Segal Family Endows Fund Dedicated to Pet Therapy in Perpetuity

An Endowed Gift Helps Strengthen AWA's Community Outreach

VOORHEES, NJ - Thanks to the generosity of the Segal Family, an endowment gift has been provided to Animal Welfare Association (AWA) in support of AWA's Pet Therapy program. The program is part of the organization's larger "humane programming" initiative that centers on strengthening the human-animal bond.

The endowment gift was established by Nina Segal in memory of her parents Eileen and Len Segal, long-time Board members of AWA during the organization's years of growth. In addition to the Segal's deep dedication to each other, they also shared a deep love for animals.

AWA's Pet Therapy program consists of using trained and certified animals, many who have been rescued and adopted, and their handlers to achieve physical, social, cognitive and emotional goals with people who benefit from such stimulation. They are dedicated AWA volunteers who regularly bring cats and dogs to a variety of organizations and facilities including nursing homes, senior centers, and schools. It has been found that pet therapy can contribute to the health and well-being of people by decreasing stress, anxiety, depression, reduces blood pressure, and can provide a motivating factor for physical rehabilitation.

"At AWA, we know the healing and restorative role that animals play in our lives. This special gift will enable AWA to bring our therapeutic programs to pet lovers of all ages, from children in day care centers to seniors in nursing homes," stated Maya Richmond, AWA's Strategic Director.

Animal Welfare Association was founded in 1948 and was dedicated to educating the community around the risks to dog and cats when left to roam the streets and the deplorable conditions at the Camden pound. Through the support of members like the Segals, the organization expanded its scope of services to include a shelter, and a spay/neuter clinic. In the 1980's, AWA launched one of the state's first official pet therapy programs.

"We are indebted to the Segals for their decades of volunteer work, advocating for the welfare of animals, and donating to support the shelter," said Richmond, "and we thank Nina for her touching and generous gift."

If you would like more information about contributing to the Pet Therapy endowment gift, please call Maya Richmond at 856-424-2288, x109, or email at mayar@awanj.org.

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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 wellbeing of people. Through a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, in 2021 AWA programming provided services for over 13,000 animals. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.



AWA Volunteer Doug and his Pet Therapy Dog Sophie visit a school in South Jersey servicing students with cognitive challenges as part of AWA's Pet Therapy program