

SPRING 2019

Animal Tails

A Capital Gift

The Importance
of TNR

Before & After:
Dog Edition



Building Community

since 1948

From the Executive Director

Dear AWA Community Member,

It is with great pleasure I update you on our *Building a Place Where Happiness Begins* Capital Campaign, which is off to a strong start, as the AWA community has contributed more than \$1,325,000 of our \$2,500,000 goal.

The needed funds left to raise will be obtained in a combination of generous Leadership Gifts solicited during our current Major Gift phase, as well as gifts given during the public phase from the entire community.

Together, we will break ground on our new shelter, and open the doors in 2020, **saving 1,000 more animals a year!**

You are invited to join in AWA's life-saving endeavor, and several significant naming opportunities remain for those interested in giving a transformational gift. For more information on giving a contribution to help tomorrow's pets please visit awanj.org/capital-campaign, or keep reading!



Barbara and Al Dragon pictured above with their AWA adopted dog, Winston.

You'll join such donors as Al and Barbara Dragon, whose incredible individual gift of \$250,000 is the largest in AWA's history. Al and Barbara have supported AWA for more than thirty years. They've served as both donors and volunteers, as well as adopted their beloved dog Winston from AWA nearly 11 years ago.

Winston was rescued during a cruelty investigation, and arrived at AWA severely underweight, suffering from pneumonia, and only knew life in a dirty, wire cage. Al and Barbara began as Winston's foster parents, then realized quickly he was meant to be with them forever.

In recognition of the Dragon's incredible commitment to our animals, the entrance lobby, pictured below in an artist's rendering, will be named the Al and Barbara Dragon Lobby. Each time a pet like Winston walks out into the lobby, and into the arms of his new family, we will have the Dragons to thank!



If you too are touched by AWA's mission on a daily basis, page 5 details why this vision of saving many more lives is so important, and how you can help.

Maya Richmond

OUR MISSION

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.

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MAILING ADDRESS

Animal Welfare Association
509 Centennial Blvd.
Voorhees, NJ 08043
Telephone: 856-424-2288

ABOUT AWA

Founded in 1948, AWA was one of the first organizations to serve Camden County and all the surrounding areas. AWA is pleased to provide the following programs and services to our community:

- Adoptions
- Public Spay/Neuter, & Pet Wellness Services
- Pet Retention and Rehoming Support
- Humane Education
- Pet Therapy

AWA is a private charity and receives no local, state, or federal support. No animal is euthanized due to space, length of stay or for treatable medical or behavioral issues.



Happy "Tails" From Our Facebook Friends



"Krazi Kodi's favorite thing to do so far is chillin' on his bed and getting belly rubs...he's settling in wonderfully and seems to be a quick learner."

—Rachel



"Little Miss Peppermint (formerly Black Jack), adopted recently, is an absolute love-bug and playful girl. We love her so much!"—Meri



"Biff (formerly Jack, adopted 1-12-19) is adjusting well to his new home and loves his family. He loves his spot on the couch and sleeping in our bed. No toy stands a chance but that's just how it goes. We're very glad he's a part of our family." —Nicholas

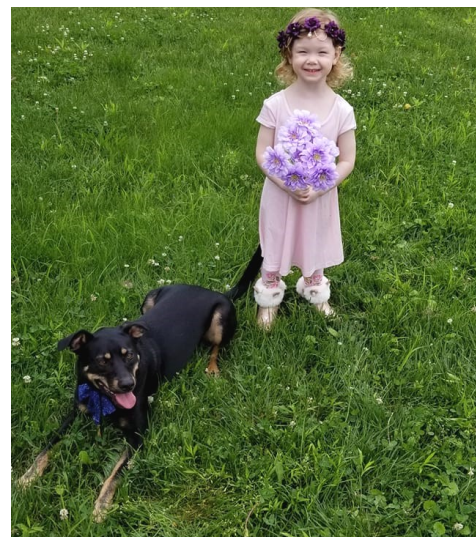


"Finn (formally Jangle) made my husband turn into a cat person! So loving and playful, he's always my little shadow (this is him joining me in my workouts)." —Jennifer



"Ginger (formerly Monet) adopted December 2017 as a Christmas surprise for the kids, but she has blessed our whole family! Such a sweetie pie."

—Kellee



"This is Frankie—adopted in 2016—the day he got "married" to his best friend in the whole world, per my daughter's request."—Amanda

Like us on Facebook,
and join 254,000 other
animal-lovers, plus your
pet might be featured
in a future newsletter!



"2 years ago today we adopted our little furry girl. She has been such a great addition to our family. She is the gentlest, and happiest dog I've ever been around." —Bridget



KITTEN SEASON

Top Ten Facts

1. Kittens start to purr around week three.

2. Only cats raised around humans meow—it's a communication mode that cats reserve just for people!

3. An unaltered female cat can produce as many as 180 kittens in her life time. Trap/Neuter/Return is a great intervention in this cycle.

4. Kittens love a playmate, so consider adopting two if able!

5. For the first week of their lives, kittens are blind and deaf. Their eyes open in the second week, but they are still very sensitive to bright light!



6. Just like humans, kittens have two sets of teeth! Their adult teeth come in when they are about four months old.


7. New research shows spaying/neutering can be done as soon as your kitten reaches two pounds. Adopt from AWA and they will already be fixed!

8. By four months of age, your cat's tail has grown to its adult length.

9. **BREAKING SNOOZE:** Kittens sleep about 18 hours a day!

10. Older cats have a harder time getting adopted during kitten season. Please don't forget them!

Fosters Wanted



AWA's current facility can care for 1,200 cats a year, and 37 dogs at any given time. By becoming a foster for AWA, you allow the number of animals we provide life saving treatment for to increase. You give a foster animal a second chance at life, for which we—and they!—are so grateful.

Email fostercare@awanj.org to help!

The Great Dog of China



Shanbao, pictured at left in the arms of her adopter, Zach Myket, almost had a very different fate—*Shanbao was rescued from the Chinese dog meat trade.*

Along with two other dogs, Shanbao was rescued in the nick of time from the back of a truck headed to take them to slaughter.

Shanbao must have been so confused when the first set of loving arms she'd ever known reached around her to pull her from the truck!

The journey only got stranger—Shanbao flew on a plane with her rescuers, not knowing it was her future that was about to take off! In the United States and after a long car ride, she and her two dog friends arrived at AWA.

Though it took them some time to adjust, Shanbao soon warmed to the kind voices and gentle pats. It wasn't much longer before Zach fell in love with Shanbao, was approved for adoption, and brought her home.

There, Shanbao (now Kai) met her other true love, Romeo—a 9 year old shih tzu that can't believe his good luck!

This happy beginning brought to you by AWA and its growing community of partnerships.



We are disappointed this was not called a "pawspport"



May 11, 2019 at Cooper River Park

We are **back at Cooper River Park** for AWA's **BIGGEST** fundraising day of the year! Each year, Paws & Feet brings in more than \$100,000 for the animals, through community support and we can't do it without you!

Whether you register to run the 5k at JUST \$40—or pay \$25 to run and fundraise for us, we can't wait to see you there. Not a runner? Walk the Smile Mile™ or let your dog enjoy a drink at the Barktini Bar™! It's a day full of music, food, activities and games with something for everyone!

**For more information, including
how to register, visit: awanj.org/pf2019**

Paws & Feet is presented by the Camden County Board of Freeholders.



Why a Capital Campaign?

In 2019, we plan to take a Big Bite out of the \$2.5 million Capital Campaign's remaining 1.2 million dollars left to raise so the groundbreaking starts and the doors can open in 2020.

When people ask why we've embarked on a Capital Campaign, I have more than 1,000 reasons—the number of additional pets we'll be able to save each year, PLUS the improved areas to provide specialized care to those animals most at risk, as well as community spaces to engage even more people in the mission.

Imagine: when you enter the new adoption center, you will be welcomed by our staff and volunteers in an open, sun-lit area where people finally have adequate space to visit without tripping over each other. You will peer through the glass and see volunteers in the new Foster/Neonatal Room feeding baby kittens.

As you head across the lobby to the adoptable dog areas, you will no longer hear scared barking bouncing off concrete walls. You will pass "Real-Life Rooms"—similar to the community cat rooms—where you're likely to spot a couple of our "senior dogs," just peacefully sitting on a couch, waiting to do exactly that in an adopter's living room. And just beyond, there are two new "Meet & Greet Rooms" so families can visit with dogs and cats without having to be outside.



Our dream for the baby kitten foster/neonatal room!



And we didn't forget the dogs! The separate wing will include "Real-Life Rooms," as well as spaces for new dogs to get acclimated.

At the rear of the new building, behind the larger and better equipped laundry and kitchen areas, you will find a medical suite servicing intake and acclimation rooms for newly-arriving animals. The medical suite is directly located near the treatment rooms and behavior and training rooms, necessary to help animals get well and ready for adoption. On the second floor, over the Pet Clinic, are flex spaces for classes, and community, staff and volunteer meetings and training sessions. These are just a few of the spaces within the new 15,000 sq. ft. building's walls.

Without the steadfast dedication of the entire AWA team (its volunteers, staff, donors, adopters, and leadership), the *Building a Place Where Happiness Begins* Capital Campaign would be just another dream. The beautiful artist's renderings would be just lines on paper. AWA is determined that, through planning and teamwork, including the support of our AWA community, we can make this dream a reality.

If the AWA mission has reached you, **I invite you to join us in making a leadership gift to the Capital Campaign.** Significant naming opportunities remain for those ready to make a transformational gift to pets and the people who love them.

If you have any questions, or want to tour our aging, 5,000 square foot facility so as to compare it to the beautiful vision of a modern day animal shelter that best serves pets and people, please, contact me at director@awanj.org, or by calling (856) 424-2288, and my direct extension is 109.

"Imagine being helpless, lonely, frightened, or in need of love. Imagine coming into a warm, welcoming setting where people care. Feelings of sadness begin to fade. Injuries heal. You are safe. This is the AWA community, where second chances at love and happiness begin."



2019: BIG NEWS

The most meaningful victory of 2019 will be when we break ground on our new shelter. In the meantime, we're pretty grateful for the following achievements in community partnerships, all of which you helped make possible!

CHOW STOPS! AWA, Subaru, and the Food Bank of South Jersey's Hope Mobile are elated to announce a partnership formed to help animals and people—Chow stops will be a free food bank for qualifying individuals and their pets in Camden!

Services are on every third Wednesday of the month from 8 am to 11 am at Cooper Plaza. If you're interested in helping, please, spread the word, and donate food at AWA.

VETS ON WHEELS—NEW TERRITORY!

Vets on Wheels has been serving the residents of Fairview for the past two years, and our commitment to Camden is continuing with our move to Von Nieda Park in Cramer Hill. Vets on Wheels works in under-served communities to deliver a variety of pet care outreach services. A whole new neighborhood of pet owners can get vaccinations, examinations, and help with minor medical conditions as well as access to low cost spay/neuter surgeries!



SUMMER CAMP—SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE! For inquiries on these need-based scholarships, please email info@awanj.org.



Save the Date

We'd love to see you!

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Well-Mannered Dog

Training, 3-Week Session

(All times 12-1pm unless otherwise noted)

PUPPY 101: Apr 6, 13, 20, 1-2pm

BASICS: June 1, 8, 15

BASICS: July 13, 20, 27

BASICS: Aug. 10, 17, 24

BASICS: Sept. 14, 21, 28

BETTER BASICS: Oct. 5, 12, 19

TNR Workshops

(All times 6-7pm; Please RSVP by calling 856-424-2288 option 1, or by emailing clinic@awanj.org)

Apr. 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

Aug. 15

Sept. 19

Oct. 17

EVENTS

Beef & Beer Fundraiser for Paws & Feet

Apr. 6, 3pm-6pm

Harper's Pub

Paw Crawl Fundraiser for Paws & Feet (Pub Crawl)

Apr. 13, 12pm-6pm

Haddon Township

Restaurant Week Fundraiser

for Paws & Feet

May 6-10, stay tuned!

Paws & Feet

May 11, 8am-2pm

Cooper River Park

SUMMER CAMP

Registration is now open!

July 22-July 26

July 29-Aug 2

Aug 5-Aug 9

Aug 12-Aug 16

Visit awanj.org/events for more details, including rates when applicable!

A Community Solution

Tanya Parker has been caring for cats since she was two years old. Now she and her husband are raising their three children as the next generation of Cat-vocates. Tanya has been visiting AWA over the past nearly 15 years, in every capacity from volunteer to donor to adopter.

These days, she spends most of her time at the Clinic as one of our most frequent cat trappers. We asked her why TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) is so needed in New Jersey, and why the work never stops. She says “there are ALWAYS going to be feral cats. It’s a community problem—all towns. It’s not the cats’ fault they are homeless.”

Tanya breaks the types of cats she traps into three basic groups: Ferals, cats that are born and raised in the wild with little-to-no contact with humans, and who are very fearful of them, semi-ferals that “are born in the wild but might gain trust of certain human caregivers,” and throw-aways and lost cats, i.e. domesticated cats that are lost or dumped by their owners.



Tanya is pictured cuddling Harry, our cover model, during one of her many visits to the shelter.

Spaying and neutering ferals and semi-ferals is crucial, says Tanya, not just because you’re reducing the homeless kitten population, but the cats’ health risks go down as well. For the throw-aways and lost cats, when Tanya traps them she says “you give them a second chance.”

She brings roughly 90% of the cats she traps straight to AWA’s Pet Clinic, and says AWA has been a “huge” resource for “spay/neuter, ear-tip, and rabies...simply because flat out it’s convenient...and AWA gives a great price.”

Tanya went on to compliment Paula Dean for her great customer service at the clinic, the high quality of the vets’ medical skills, and AWA’s overall success at procuring spay/neuter grants that lower (or eliminate) the cost of these procedures. When Tanya learns AWA has obtained one of these grants, she says, “It’s like winning the lottery for a TNR person!”

Further, she remarks, “I think AWA really did a great job with the [Pet Clinic Construction in 2013]..and it’s really clean in here! The shelter staff works really hard.”

“The importance really for me, for TNR, is teaching my children to be sympathetic and empathetic to animals. Because, let’s face it, we have to teach the next generation we share this Earth with other animals.” —Tanya Parker

The Pet Clinic
spayed or neutered
1,141 feral cats
in 2018!



Thirty Shamong Dogs Found Refuge at AWA



BEFORE: Gracie (FKA Skye) and her brother Sebastian, two of the Shamong dogs, wait in an AWA kennel for a bath.

Last November the local news was dominated by stories of the Burlington County hoarder and the hundreds of dogs who suffered at this person's hands. Long after the news vans drove away and the story was replaced by others, the AWA family continued its care for 30 of these precious dogs.

Though the shelter was already at capacity when we received the call to be a part of the rescue effort, we knew our dedicated staff and volunteers would be there for the Shamong dogs. And, our incredible fosters would make it possible to take in many of these dogs in need, most of whom were in medical crisis and would need frequent visits to the clinic.

When our fosters stepped up with their open homes and hearts, we turned to our incredible donors to make the rescue financially possible. Our animal-loving donors responded with outstanding generosity!

Thanks to our staff, volunteers, fosters, and donors, the dogs were able to heal both emotionally and physically, and when they were ready for adoption, another community wave commenced.

Because so many people were moved by the story of the Shamong dogs, members of the community lined up as early as 6am to be first in line for a chance to see, cuddle, and adopt a dog.

When the shelter opened, and after the adopters were approved, they met their new family members and were able to take them home. It wasn't long at all before each of the 30 dogs waved their tails goodbye at AWA, so happy for their second chance at life.

Truly, the Shamong Dogs Hoarding Case Rescue was a communal effort, showcasing the best of South Jersey and its animal loving community. This joint endeavor would not have been possible without our staff and volunteers, as well as each foster, donor, and adopter.



AFTER: Gracie models her new sweater, clean as can be!

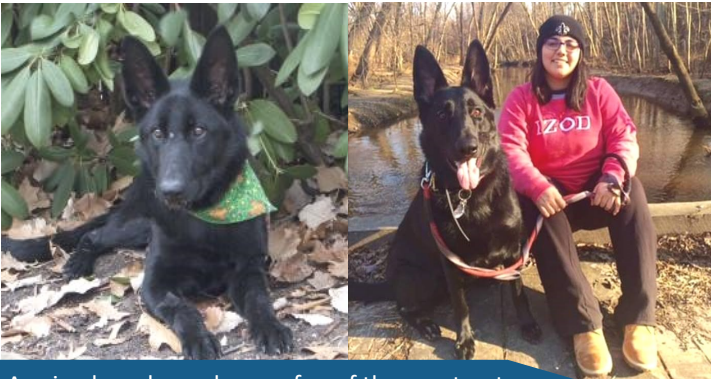


—
**Thank you
for not
turning
your back
on the
animals
that need
you so
urgently.**
—



This Page has Gone to the Dogs!

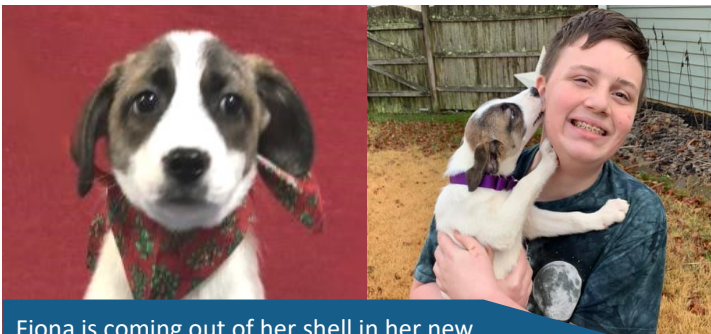
Before & After



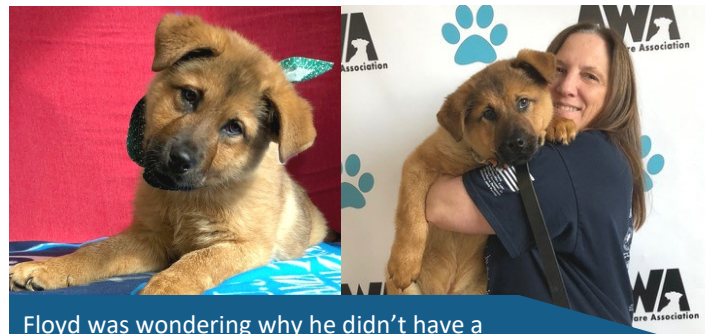
Armina has always been a fan of the great outdoors—but it's the best when you have a family.



River rolled right over for belly rubs from his new family!



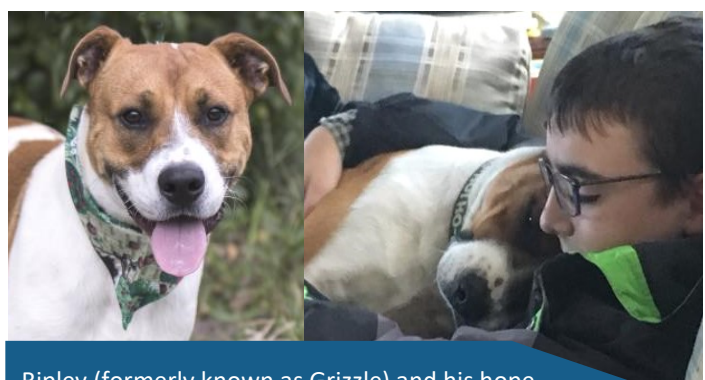
Fiona is coming out of her shell in her new home!



Floyd was wondering why he didn't have a home—but not for long.



Eleven year-old Aman got the very best holiday gift of all!



Ripley (formerly known as Grizzle) and his hope for a boy to hold him has been fulfilled.

Without you and other AWA supporters, the animals of South Jersey wouldn't have second chances at happiness!



2018: YEAR IN REVIEW



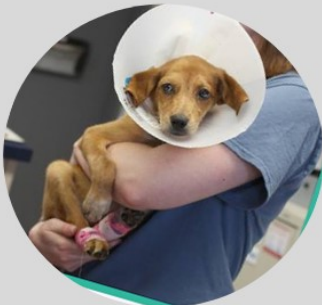
14,063

Pounds of food
distributed
through our pet
pantry



7,678

Spays and
Neuters
Performed

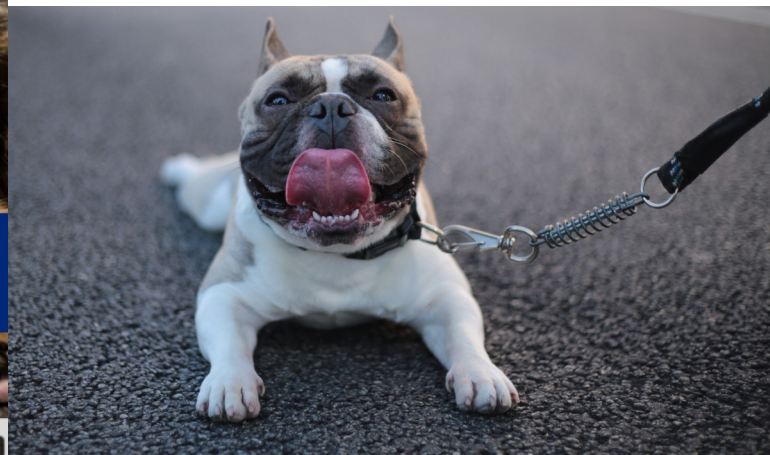


136

Helping Hands
Surgeries

2,466

Animals
Adopted



Please...

I hope you've found a compelling reason for your support of AWA in the previous pages—whether as a cat person who anticipates the great toll Kitten Season will take on our facility, or as a dog person for whom our intake of 30 innocent creatures from the Shamong hoarding case brought you pride, there is so much AWA does for our community.

We are grateful to you for each of the victories we are able to describe in this newsletter—and we ask you to once again open your hearts to 2019's animals with a gift in turn.

Every gift makes a difference to our shelter, and the animals and people it serves. Whether you want to give \$25 and help make vaccinations possible for puppies, \$50 to help provide formula for a litter of kittens, or \$100 to spay/neuter a homeless animal, your gift will provide love and happiness to an animal in need.

Name:	
Address:	
City:	Email:
State:	Zip:
Please charge my credit card:	Phone:
() Visa () MasterCard () Amex () Discover	Donation Amount:
Credit Card Number:	
Security Code:	Expiration Date:
Cardholder Name:	
I would like to be a monthly donor (<i>Constant Companion</i>) starting on:	Monthly Amount to be charged until I cancel: \$

Your contribution to AWA is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. AWA is a registered 501 (c) 3 organization and relies on the generosity of our supporters. Donations may also be made online at awanj.org or call 856-424-2288, ext. 107.

THANKS TO YOU!

Consider making a monthly gift
and be a **Constant Companion**
to homeless animals.

For total annual gifts of \$500 and
above, you can be a member of
AWA's special **Lifesaver's Circle**.
Please call 856-424-2288, ext. 107
for more information.

For the 5th year in a row, AWA has
been given a **4-star rating** from
Charity Navigator



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www.awanj.org



Instagram: @AWA_NJ

Twitter: @AWANJ

Thanks to Annual Program grants
from the following, we are able to
help prevent neglect and help
control over-population, keeping
more pets out of area shelters:



Michele and Agnese Cestone
Foundation, Inc.

Bernice Barbour Foundation

M. Edward Morris Animal Foundation

Our Happy Adopters...



...with their even happier adoptees!