

Fall 2019

Animal Tails

**The Difference
YOU Make**

Happiness Updates

Who Rescued Who?



Building Community

since 1948

From the Executive Director

You save pets' lives by touching peoples' hearts and encouraging them to roll up their sleeves and put their hands to work.

AWA's founders knew that to make a difference far greater than what one person alone can accomplish, you have to engage and partner with others. Today, AWA still embodies this spirit.

It happens in many ways, like when a teen clears the brush from the trails so volunteers can take the dogs out for long walks. Or, when a neighbor attends AWA's free feral cat workshops and goes on to help several outdoor cats. Or, when one of our PAWS volunteers sits with a scared bunny and provides him with loving pats.

Partnerships with people and other nonprofit agencies is one reason AWA remains the trusted leader in saving pets' lives. This unique way of delivering lifesaving programs is the cornerstone to our approach to help tomorrow's animals.

The **Building a Place Where Happiness Begins** capital campaign will fund the construction of a state-of-art animal shelter, yet the space is far more than bricks and mortar. The building will enable AWA to expand our lifesaving programs.

The design of this welcoming building centers on the importance of the human-animal bond. Consider the neonatal kitten nursery. It's designed for wheelchairs to easily maneuver through, so AWA can pilot a program that trains residents from assisted living facilities to care for orphaned kittens.

The training room's small kitchenette will be used by PAWS volunteers and Summer Campers who grow veggies that are turned into treats for the dogs, cats, and bunnies. And the covered outdoor play yards will be accessible year-round, as well as after dark, so the dogs will get more exercise and socialization time with volunteers.

Eliminating animal suffering and promoting the human-animal bond comes to life each day because of your generosity. Imagine all the new ways pets' lives will be improved once we are able to expand programs.

Thank you for bringing the mission to life!



Maya Richmond

Our Cover Dog: Dinky!

Our houndsome cover model was so excited for his photoshoot that he couldn't stop wagging his tail! He's pictured to the right in an outtake moment, and one of the rare pictures where he stayed still!

Dinky, now known as Dinkus, was originally a Southern Gentleman--you can hear it in his bark. He made his way to AWA all the way from South Carolina!

This photogenic one-year-old is one of 507 pets transported from overcrowded shelters in 2019 alone, giving these precious animals another chance at happiness. Thank you so much for making our transport program, and Dinky's smile, possible.



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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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 Friends

2019



2012

"Baby turned 8 this year. We adopted her 7 years ago from you and she's been awesome — oh, and she still loves her 'little' boy who is over 6 feet tall now..."-Michele W.



"Lady saying hello...she loves going for rides in the jeep!"-David N.



"Thank you so very much AWA!! This was a perfect fit for all, and we really hope every animal there is in their furever home very soon!!"-MB K.



"Happy 1 yr Gotcha day to Nova! He makes us smile everyday! He enjoyed his new toys and banana/strawberry 'cupcakes.'"-Melissa K.



"Sandy Ann (now known as Maggie) has adjusted well and has me wrapped around her paw. She wanted to thank everyone who took care of her from start to finish, especially the foster parents who watched her heal."-Michael R.

**Sandy Ann above is one of 569 pets
fostered so far in 2019!**

Read more about Sandy Ann's foster on page 5



New Year, New Me-ow's Resolutions

New Year, New Meow, spent nearly five months at AWA in 2019, before being adopted by a lovely family. New Year, New Meow (now Binx), is one of the most thoughtful cats we've ever had the pleasure of hosting--and he was always dressed to impress. So, as one does, we offered him an advice column on setting 2020 Resolutions. Per New Year, New Meow, every cool cat has the following on their list:

- 5** **Wake up purring.** Start every day thinking "what can I do to make the world a kinder place?" If you are a volunteer at AWA, you're off to a great start!
- 4** **Know the little things make a difference.** One man's toilet paper roll is another gerbil's hour long chew toy. Thanks to all of you who contribute in-kind goods to the animals--especially those who bring tuna.
- 3** **Have you adopted your maximum reasonable number of pets?** If not, to a homeless animal, every lap is a lap of luxury. **Consider bringing home a new family member in 2020.** (This resolution dedicated to my mom, dad, and all adopters of my furry friends).
- 2** **Focus on physical well-being.** Clinic users, you got this one in the incredibly-enticing-paper-bag. Thanks for choosing AWA's low-cost pet clinic, where the proceeds help save animals' lives--just like their GREAT veterinary team.
- 1** **Live life eventfully.** **Come to AWA's events!** If you attended an AWA event already, you have our catitude--err, gratitude, AND an invitation to come back!

Save the Date

BUY TICKETS TO WIN!
Drawing Dec. 12th 7pm

It's time for our annual 50/50!
Each ticket is just \$5, and all proceeds go to help animals.
Get your tickets today at support.awanj.org/raffle

Exciting News!

Paws & Feet
Spring 2020



In 2020, we're expanding our signature event! You'll see more entertainment than ever before--for you and your family, including the fur-legged members.

And, watch awanj.org/events to learn more about the fantastic new event we'll be debuting in Fall 2020. Get ready, get set, for...

Run to the Rescue!

Save Lives Year-Round

40% of our funding for the ENTIRE year comes during the holiday season. And we need you this year more than ever! 2019 was a pretty ruff year for charitable giving across the board--and we weren't immune, which is why we're so glad we have YOUR support. There's no vaccine our clinic can offer for tax-law changes or stock market drops, both of which had a profound impact on donations.

And entering into 2020 we will implement NJ's new state law increasing the minimum wage to \$15--which adds \$164,000 more to our payroll expenses over four years. When you combine the high standard of care we offer your community's homeless pets, with the increasing expenses like vaccines and meals, we are so glad we can count on you.

Because of your incredible generosity, AWA is a leader in animal welfare. We are able to say YES to pets in crisis like Ty on page 6, saved from Hurricane Dorian, because of YOU! Our goals, which I'm sure you share, are to grow the life-saving programs you make possible.

Please, give your most generous gift to the animals this holiday season in the enclosed envelope, or online at support.awanj.org/Fall19



Happy Holidays Ahead for Pets!



Pride and Soul were abandoned in a crate outside of Development and Administration, shivering and terrified. Luckily, staffers were working late that day.

Brought to the shelter, the two dogs were named, groomed, and given love. They proved to be inseparable. Pride, the blonde terrier, went through a costly treatment for a benign mammary mass, as well as dental disease--we're so grateful to people like you for making this treatment possible!

The day the dog-duo was adopted--together, of course--was one of the most heartwarming in AWA's history. We wish Pride and Soul many happy years ahead...especially with their new dog big brother!



Pretzel was blind and alone on a city sidewalk. Her eyes were completely crusted over from a severe upper respiratory infection. She was crawling, mewling for help, when a young man scooped her up, holding her in his arms while a woman ran to get a carrier.

That woman brought Pretzel to AWA, where she remained in isolation, recovering from her very nasty URI for nearly two weeks. Her beautiful green eyes emerged, her belly started to grow, and her personality started to show! All thanks to AWA supporters--animal lovers like YOU!

On the Balance *with* Money-Bunny, CPA



Money-Bunny here. I'm a C.P.A. (Cutie-Patootie-Animal) and Underrabbit with Barklays Investment Bark. The victories you've read about in these pages are made possible because of gifts to AWA. Not only that, your year-end gift is tax-deductible! Thank you so much!

And did you know for five years in a row, AWA has been awarded the highest possible rating by Charity Navigator?

The Pet Clinic *and all YOU make possible*

Thanks to you, we've worked with countless cat trappers to spay or neuter nearly 400 feral cats in 2019.

If you've ever been at the clinic when a trapper is dropping off a cat in a trap, you know the human-animal bond extends too to these animals. But it's not just wild cats we help.

One group of trappers we work with concentrates at a transitional housing site for the homeless, and the residents sometimes have to leave their pets behind when they find housing that will accept them, but not their furry companions.

A recent kitten was trapped at this location, and proved friendly even with her injured and swollen paw. Her rescuers brought her to AWA's pet clinic for her spay, and she was ultimately diagnosed with a sprain, and thankfully no broken bones.

Not Only That... *we've got stats!*

Generous gifts like yours have enabled AWA's Pet Clinic to, in 2019 alone....

- Offer 1,046 Wellness Appointments
- Spay/Neuter 166 pitbulls
- Perform 1,404 affordable fixes
- Donate nearly 1,500 pounds of dry pet food to the community
- and 560 cans of food too!

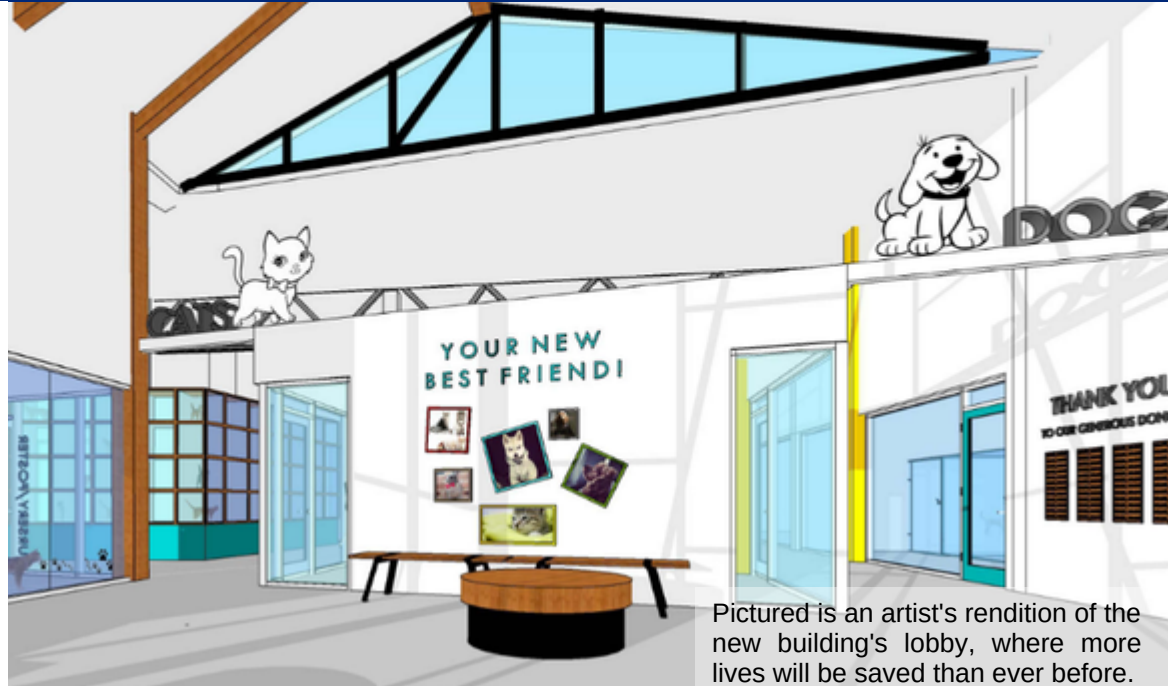


Every gift to our holiday campaign helps keep pets who visit the Pet Clinic and your community shelter safe, full, and happy. Thank you.

Building a Place Where **Happiness** Begins

You've likely heard that AWA is actively fundraising for a shelter & adoption building so we can improve animal care and expand our lifesaving programs. The vision can only become a reality once we reach the critical 80% of the campaign's ultimate goal of \$2.5 million dollars.

Best practices for building campaigns like ours show that nearly every dollar raised comes from existing donors—the folks like you and me who believe in the mission and want to be certain hurting and helpless animals have a safe place to go, will always receive outstanding care, and will find their new loving families here.



Pictured is an artist's rendition of the new building's lobby, where more lives will be saved than ever before.

WHO RESCUED WHO?

Every single one of the 569 pets that have been in foster care so far this year has a story...and so does their foster family. Sandy Ann, pictured on page 2, was in foster care while she underwent medical treatments. Her foster, Jim M., took care of Sandy Ann's medical needs as he tended to his own...Jim has stage four cancer, and has been given five to ten years to live.

Each morning Jim chooses happiness. He goes to the gym, caring for his physical well-being, and then comes to AWA to care for his mental health—and his heart. There, he walks the dogs, finding peace on AWA's trails. "Teaching them to sit. Trying to turn them into the best dog. It brings happiness to me." In one year, Jim logged more than 200 volunteer hours.

Our celebration of the human animal-bond is what makes AWA so special. Bringing Jim and Sandy Ann together is why we do what we do. And, these moments, for Jim, for Sandy Ann, are made possible because of YOUR generosity.

We can't wait to make even more of these moments occur in the building, as well as beyond its four walls.

FUTURE GENERATIONS

Summer Camp is just ONE of the programs we'll be able to grow with our donors' help in the new building.

We'll be able to hold more sessions of camp, in the comfort of an air-conditioned classroom, thereby reaching more of the next generation of animal advocates!

What kind of difference can summer camp make in a young child's life? Read the following message from a grateful mom.

"When I received the email that she got a scholarship, the look of pure innocent joy in my 12 year old's eyes was worth everything. The scholarship gave me a chance to apply for something that helped me, (living pay to pay), to make my baby happy. My daughter doesn't ask for much.

She was so grateful...she wants to go into a career working with the animals that are placed in shelters. This camp was perfect. She felt like she was a part of a team and she made a difference, whether big or small. I can't thank you enough!"

IMAGINE...

...more lives saved, and more lives touched, because the community unites and we can start building your modern day community shelter, aka, "Building a Place Where Happiness Begins!" It's a beautiful vision, that CAN become a reality, and we'd love to have your support.

For more information on making a gift, including gifts of stock and other assets, contact director@awanj.org, or call Maya Richmond directly at (856) 424-2288



EXPANSION FACTS

- **We've raised \$1.6M.**
We have only \$900,000 left.
- The fundraising milestone of 80% raised (\$2.0 million) by December 31, 2019 is like a "tipping point" when most nonprofits know they will succeed and construction can begin.
- The Building is more than 15,000 sq. ft., three times larger than the current shelter.
- 1,000 more pets will be saved each year.
- Expanded programs will engage and aid more than 200 more people a year.

Look how happy Ty is in the arms of his new best friend!

Our 50+ year-old shelter building is beyond repair.

SHELTERING IN A CRISIS

The dogs in Hurricane Dorian's path must have felt such fear! Especially when they heard the furious wind, the rain blowing against the roof of a tiny, Southern shelter, and saw the unusual tension and electricity in the staff's hurried motions.

Ty, pictured above and to the left, was just one of ten dogs we were able to save from a Southern Shelter. This rescue in turn permitted the shelter to house dogs displaced by the storm, until their reunion with their owners.

Ty and his nine pup-pals were quickly adopted, following just a few days' stay in our small, 5,000 foot square facility. Their chances at happiness began because of AWA's partnerships throughout the country--which are only possible because of people like you.

But imagine if instead of ten dogs, we'd been able to rescue and bring happiness to 25? Because the community had rallied together, the new shelter had been built, and we could house 75 dogs at a time instead of 37?

The new building will redefine animal care by meeting the increasing needs of the most fragile pets we aid each year, and allow for all members of our Community to be a part of the mission.



Please, give generously in the enclosed envelope, so that we can help homeless animals have "Happy Holidays" too.

Or make your gift online at support.awanj.org/Fall19



Want to help animals far into the future? Consider AWA in your estate planning. For more information, please call (856) 424-2288 ext. 109, or email director@awanj.org.



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



Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation, Inc.

Bernice Barbour Foundation
M. Edward Morris Animal Foundation

Thanks to YOU, Happiness is Building...

