

Animal Welfare Association

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Transport Saves Dogs and Cats Lives: New Transport Van Unveiled at AWA's Paws and Feet Event on May 19, 2012

VOORHEES,, NJ—The Animal Welfare Association (AWA) transfers dogs and cats from many area shelters so they can get a second chance at finding new adoptive homes. Pet transfer or transport programs is a phenomena that grew after the Katrina Hurricane disaster, where more pets were saved by transporting them from shelters that take in far more pets than can be adopted to shelters, like AWA, that place a large number of adoptions with less intake. To facilitate this program the AWA applied to the Petco Foundation in 2011 for a modern new vehicle especially designed for transporting pets to replace their old 1990 cargo van.

“We are so pleased to receive the grant,” says Maya Richmond, AWA’s Executive Director.

“It can transfer up to 18 dogs and cats during one trip,” says Desiree Osbeck, Canine Care Manager, “We used to have to load up our old van with wire dog or cat crates and then drive to one shelter, and then return to AWA, unload, clean everything then head back out to another shelter.”

“We got a little worried on hot summer days,” says Betsy Ransom, Shelter Director, “because the old van’s air-conditioning often failed. I worried about the dogs and cats sitting in traffic and getting stressed in the heat.” The new Sprinter vehicle has heat and air supplied to the individual cages and the inside can be completely hosed down for sanitation.

Maria Stoerrle, Foster Care Coordinator at Cumberland County SPCA in Vineland who sees AWA staff visit her facility frequently says, “Before we had our relationship [with AWA] we knew that the majority of cats and even kittens had such a small chance of being placed. Now, there is hope for these animals again. Close to 100 cats and kittens were transferred to AWA to be adopted last year and that is in addition to the dogs that were pulled directly from the shelter. Truly amazing!”

On May 19 at AWA's Paws and Feet fundraiser the AWA will unveil the new van and thank the Petco Foundation for their generous support. The ceremonial dedication and unveiling occur at 10:00 AM.

The AWA is fully-funded by donations and could not afford a capital improvement like this vehicle without grant funding. “We know the pets are safe as they travel down the road and we are all so happy knowing they soon be adopted and the next ride they take may be in the front seat of a nice care with their new mom,” shares Richmond, “that is what matters the most.”

For additional information or images, please contact

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Summary:

The Animal Welfare Association (AWA) transfers dogs and cats from shelters that run out of room for more dogs and cats and are forced to make difficult euthanasia decisions. AWA brings the dogs and cats to their Voorhees shelter so these dogs and cats can get a second chance at finding new homes. Thanks to significant grant funding from the Petco Foundation, the AWA was able to purchase a completely specialized new 2011 Sprinter van including specialized cages for dogs and cats. It replaces a 1990 Cargo van that lacked sufficient air conditioning in the summer and heat in the winter. Now animals are safe as they travel to the AWA. AWA transferred 625 dogs and cats from local shelters to their adoption center in 2011. The dedication is May 19, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at Cooper River Park in Cherry Hill, NJ.

About AWA:

Animal Welfare Association (AWA) is a private shelter in Voorhees, NJ that has provided animal care, sheltering, adoptions and affordable veterinary care to the southern New Jersey communities since 1949. Last year, nearly 2,000 dogs, cats and rabbits found their next home through the work of AWA. The spay neuter clinic sterilized over 9,000 dogs and cats for the general public and provided low-cost vaccines to over 4,000 pets. AWA is a charitable organization, and all funding comes from donations. No adoptable pet is euthanized at AWA; there are no time limits for how long a pet is available for adoption and AWA provides extensive medical and behavioral care to our shelter pets.

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PHOTO ESSAY OF AWA's APRIL 30th TRIP TO CCSPCA

AWA's new Sprinter transfer vehicle arrives at Cumberland County SPCA (CCSPCA) in Vineland, NJ.



Dara Ruble places Anya in the new Sprinter transport van for the 40 mile trip back to AWA. Above Anya in the top cage are Booker and Ginger.



Four cats look out from the Sprinter transfer vehicle waiting calmly for the driver to secure them, close the door, turn on the air and drive back to AWA.



After an hour on the road, Dara Ruble begins unloading the dogs and cats at AWA.

