



Animal Welfare Association

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282 Homeless Animals Find New Leashes on Life in 48 Hours!

AWA's MEGA ADOPTION EVENT empties area shelters

VOORHEES, NJ, October 7, 2012—The Animal Welfare Association (AWA) hosted southern New Jersey's first Mega Adoption Event this weekend, at the Moorestown PetSmart. Twelve animal welfare rescue groups and shelters joined together under a giant tent with one single goal, adopt out hundreds of dogs and cats in two days.

“There are no bones about it – the weekend was a great success!” said AWA's Adoption Manager, Nicole Dubois. AWA received a grant from Petsmart Charities to cover portions of the event's expenses. Crowds of more than 1,000 filled the adoption tent and others made their way inside the PetSmart store to visit with the 100 adoptable cats.

“Cumberland County SPCA had a dog adopted from the event that had been with them for months,” Dubois said, “Mega events draw so many people that nearly every pet finds his home.”

Baxter is one of these lucky dogs. A family on their way to dinner just happened to spot the tent and decided to stop. They fell in love with and adopted Baxter, a 13 year old

Chihuahua with thyroid issues. Baxter was an older dog with medical issues, while other dogs and cats were young, healthy and just looking for their first homes. **Adopters of Kiwi, a young puppy**, were on their way back home to Connecticut when they were looking on Petfinder.com for their next four-legged companion. They saw the event listed on the site, discovered they were only an hour away, and one special dog on the site caught their eye. After a few hour detour, they were on their way home with Kiwi. Then there is Mac, **an 8-year-old** Cocker Spaniel from Cumberland County SPCA, who spent all of yesterday gazing at possible adopters and yet not a single person looked back at him. He didn't lose hope though, and early Sunday morning the right family came along and fell in love with Mac.

“Adoption is like falling in love,” says AWA executive director, Maya Richmond. “People fall in love with their dogs and cats for many reasons. **For** some it is “love at first sight,” **for others it takes a little longer and some looking around**, but whatever the process, we celebrated 282 ‘love is adoptable’ moments over the weekend.” Mac’s new family (who was at the event in the hopes of adopting a puppy) came and found him! Have a great life Mac!”

“We ended the first day with adoptions 184, 155, and 186, a triple match of three kittens, Emma, Braise, and Solder with a family of three young girls,” said Richmond. “**Imagine** the laughs they had that night.”

The theme for the Mega Adoption Event and AWA’s month-long adoption promotion is Race to the Right House. Two-hundred and eight-two dogs and cats raced their way into many amazing families’ hearts and homes. 282 adoptions are equal to emptying two areas shelters or a full moth of adoptions for the Animal Welfare Association.

“**On Sunday, we woke up and thought**, ‘MEGA ADOPTION equals MEGA WORK’,” and by the end of the day we were thinking, ‘MEGA ADOPTION equals MEGA SUCCESS’,” Richmond said with a smile. “Every group attending adopted pets and many adopted more dogs and cats from the event than they would normally do all week.”

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The **Animal Welfare Association**, a private, non-profit, 501(c) 3 animal welfare organization, serves the people and animals of southern New Jersey. Through a variety of

programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, 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. In 2011 over 13,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.



Mack's adopter



CT Couple Adopts Kiwi



Baxter and his new family, they are now all going out for dinner.



