

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **Maya Richmond**
802-598-3658 cell
856-424-2288, ext. 109
mayar@awanj.org

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Starved dogs make no noise as Animal Welfare Association staff comes to rescue.

VOORHEES, NJ—The Animal Welfare Association (AWA):

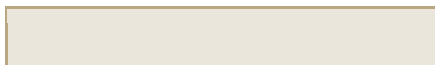
Somewhere close to our homes and our hearts, animals are being abused and neglected. On Friday, Animal Welfare Association (AWA) received a call from someone who wanted to surrender their dog. The “need” behind the call turned out to be more than we could ever have imagined. “When we arrived at the caller’s home the dogs were scared, but not aggressive. “They didn’t know they were close to death from being starved” share Desiree Osbeck, AWA’s Canine Care & Behavior Rehabilitation Manager.

“Scooby, a lab-mix, is in the saddest shape I have ever seen a dog in all my years as an animal shelter worker,” Osbeck said. “He’s doing better but he’s has a long way to go before he can be considered healthy.”

Speedy, a collie-mix, so weak he slowly raises his head to bark but no bark comes from him, is now being nursed back to health by the Animal Welfare Association (AWA) in Voorhees, NJ. AWA is now searching for foster families and donations to help provide ongoing care for Scooby, Speedy and four additional dogs ages one, three, five and twelve years old.

Once taken from their owner, all six starved dogs were examined by AWA’s veterinary staff. It was determined that along with suffering from long-term starvation, each was also dehydrated, had Lyme disease, bite wounds, and fleas. **The average weight for a dogs this size and ages is 45 lbs. Not one of these animals came close to weighting 45 pounds. Some weigh only 30 pounds!** “They are skin and bone” shared Dr. Vanguru, “they lack that spark in their eyes that you see in a happy health dogs.”

“We believe the dogs are siblings” states Maya Richmond, AWA’s Executive Director, “because of their ages and the fact not one was spayed/neutered, ever seen by a veterinarian, or let out of the house and yard.” The owner told AWA staff that she would put down two or three bowls of food -- when she was able to afford dog food -- for the dogs to all share. Some dogs ate. Some dogs clearly were at the bottom of the pack and rarely got any food after the other dogs finished eating. Aside from the dogs’ physical condition, Richmond says that dogs living in a pack, never socialized with other dogs or



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people, often require significant training and rehabilitation to adjust into new loving homes. "These dogs never were walked on a leash. They haven't been in a car. They have never been to a veterinarian. **They are seeing an entire new world after living in one home, one yard, and seeing only one person for many years.**"

"For more information, contact Maya Richmond, 802-598-3658 or visit www.awanj.org or 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. 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 more than 13,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.

