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**South Jersey Charitable Foundation Kicks Off AWA's 65th Anniversary Celebration
With a \$100,000 Gift Toward Its Clinic Expansion**

VOORHEES, NEW JERSEY, *May 18, 2013*— The Animal Welfare Association (AWA) announced today a \$100,000 gift from the South Jersey Charitable Foundation (SJCF). The gift will support AWA's expansion campaign that will help the organization increase its capacity to help the community's homeless animals.

"AWA is truly grateful for the gift from the South Jersey Charitable Foundation," said Maya Richmond, executive director of AWA. "The Foundation's gift is a significant contribution toward our campaign to expand the clinic and shelter for homeless animals as well as our innovative programs. With the support of partners like the South Jersey Charitable Foundation, we will increase the number of animals we are able to provide safe refuge to."

AWA's year-long 65th anniversary celebration will culminate with the opening of a new 4,300 sq. ft. spay/neuter and pet wellness center, part one of a two-part expansion plan designed to update SJ's oldest and most successful animal welfare charity to optimize their remarkable programs.

"We believe in their vision," says South Jersey Charitable Foundation trustee Richard Mohrfeld. "The trustees of SJCF have granted AWA with capital gifts for the past several years and this year when we met and discussed AWA, all the trustees stated how pleased they have been with the work done there."

"When AWA decides to do a program, it is well thought-out and has a positive impact on the animals and people in our community," says fellow SJCF trustee, Richard Culbertson. "SJCF recognizes that it can be hard for local charities to secure capital gifts, and we wanted to help AWA take the next step."

AWA's progressive programs and leadership set the bar for quality animal care. AWA was the first animal group in New Jersey to have a written adoption contract, to provide foster care, to operate a public spay/neuter clinic, and to run pet therapy and humane education programs. "The impact of AWA in the overall welfare of our region's animals is unchallenged," says Richmond.

Last year, AWA found adoptive homes for nearly 2,000 dogs, cats and rabbits, provided affordable wellness services to the pets of 4,500 area residents, and spayed/neutered another 11,000 pets inside their tiny existing 40-year-old clinic. With the completion of the new clinic, AWA will more than double the number of pets to 23,000 annually that it provides wellness care and surgery for. Additionally, veterinary externships, job skill training opportunities for area youth, and a summer camp for kids aged seven to eleven will be added to AWA's array of programs.

"We never stop asking what else we can do to promote the human-animal bond and improve the welfare of our region's neediest animals," says Jonathan Furlow, AWA board president.

With the opening of the new clinic in November 2013, AWA will host a series of open houses for the community and public tours of the facility along visits with the staff, volunteers and, of course, adoptable animals.

Summary:

The Animal Welfare Association embarks on its first major site development and expansion in more than 30 years. AWA is building a new spay/neuter and pet wellness clinic, including an education center, behind its current pet adoption shelter. To kick off the June-to-December funding drive, AWA received a \$100,000 gift from the South Jersey Charitable Foundation. The new clinic will open this November. AWA is collecting items for a Time Capsule through September that will be buried on the property to be opened on AWA's 100th anniversary. AWA will launch new programs designed to save pets and service the community in 2014.

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The Animal Welfare Association (www.awanj.org), 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 2012, over 16,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.

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