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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Animal Welfare Association Exceeded Goal of 3,000 Spay/Neuter Surgeries
*PetSmart Charities Grant Funded the 2-Year Project***

VOORHEES, NEW JERSEY, *June 12, 2013*—The Animal Welfare Association (AWA) is pleased to announce that it exceeded a PetSmart Charities grant goal by spaying and neutering 3,500 feral, stray and owned cats in high cat-surrender areas at Camden County shelters in just 18 months.

AWA's unique program involved a strategic street-by-street, grass-roots outreach campaign. Areas pinpointed as being the sources of high surrender rates of feral, stray and owned feline were targeted in Bellmawr, Lindenwold, Voorhees, and Gloucester Townships.

"We are thrilled to actually have surpassed the goal," says Christie Rogero, AWA's Targeted Spay/Neuter Manager, "Best of all, we are seeing verifiable reductions in kittens and cats being surrendered from those targeted communities."

For example: Camden County has seen a 46 percent reduction in feline intake from Bellmawr and a 17 percent reduction in feline intake from Gloucester Township.

"We are excited by the outcome of our first-ever targeted spay/neuter program," says Maya Richmond, AWA's Executive Director, "and hope to continue our efforts in our original target towns as well as expand to other areas in need."

AWA was awarded a generous two-year grant by PetSmart Charities in 2011 to offer free spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccines for 3,000 feral, stray and owned cats in designated areas. AWA collaborated with Camden County Animal Shelter on this endeavor.

The Animal Welfare Association (www.awanj.org), a private, non-profit, 501(c)3 animal welfare organization, is celebrating its 65th year of serving 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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