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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Animal Welfare Association Saves Lives of South Jersey's Most At-Risk Pets Through PetSmart Charities-Funded Program

VOORHEES, NEW JERSEY, *July 8, 2013*—The Animal Welfare Association (AWA), South Jersey's largest and oldest veterinary spay/neuter clinic and no-kill animal shelter announces a spay/neuter program aimed at saving pets that have the highest risk of being euthanized due to overcrowded shelters: pit bull terriers. During the month of August, AWA's **Primp Your Pit** program offers spay/neuters to 100 pit bulls for a greatly discounted \$20, a program that is funded through a generous grant from PetSmart Charities.

"We do our best to help over-crowded shelters and rescue groups in South Jersey and Philadelphia by transporting in and finding forever homes for many cats and dogs," says Judi Russo, AWA's clinic manager, "but unplanned litters are a burden that quickly overwhelms us." Primp Your Pit aims to reduce hundreds of homeless pets in South Jersey.

"Tragically, many wonderful pets are at risk for euthanasia," says Maya Richmond, AWA's executive director, "With this program, we will be able to perform 100 more spay/neuter surgeries and help the most at-risk pet population."

The Primp Your Pit program builds on AWA's mission to eliminate animal suffering. Primp Your Pit is limited to 100 pit bulls; pet-owners are urged to make their appointments immediately through AWA's online appointment webpage at awanj.org or by calling 1-856-424-2288, ext. 105.

Last year, AWA provided high-quality, affordable spay/neuter surgeries for nearly 11,500 pets, an increase of 25 percent from the year before. Donations from the public help AWA offer these types of programs and resources. Members of the public can join the fight to end pet homelessness by making a tax-deductible donation online at awanj.org/donate, by email to rond@awanj.org or 1-856-424-2288, ext. 107.

The Animal Welfare Association (www.awanj.org), a private, non-profit, 501(c) 3 animal welfare organization has been serving the people and animals of southern New Jersey since 1948. 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. South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care, AWA offers a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, In 2012, more than 16,000 pets were served through AWA programming. To learn more about AWA, visit awanj.org or call 1-856-424-2288.

Established in 1984, PetSmart Charities, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization that creates and supports programs that save the lives of homeless pets, raise awareness of companion animal welfare issues and promote healthy relationships between people and pets. The largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America, Pet Smart Charities has provided more than \$165 million in grants and programs benefiting animal-welfare organizations and has helped save the lives of more than 5 million pets through its in-store adoption program.

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