



Animal Welfare Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Welfare Association Awarded \$199,000 Grant to Save MORE Lives With Free Spay/Neuter for Cats in Local Communities

VOORHEES, NJ, *August, 2013*—After a successful two-year grant program that exceeded its goals and saw a measurable decrease in feline intake at our area’s municipal shelter, Camden County Animal Shelter, the Animal Welfare Association (AWA) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a second major grant from PetSmart Charities to continue its work to save the lives of Camden County cats.

Thanks to the original 2011 grant from PetSmart Charities, AWA was able to perform 3,500 free spay/neuter surgeries for cats living in four specially targeted areas of Camden County, NJ. **As a result of these targeted services, the Camden County Animal Shelter saw a 46 percent reduction in feline intake from Bellmawr; a 17 percent reduction in feline intake from Gloucester Township; and a 7.2 percent reduction in feline intake from Lindenwold.** With the new two-year/3,500 cats grant, AWA will be expanding its targeted program and will begin offering free spay/neuter (including a rabies vaccine) to more cats starting on September 1, 2013.

Through this special program, residents of **Bellmawr, Lindenwold, Cherry Hill** (an important new addition to the program) **and Gloucester Township (including Blackwood, Sicklerville, Glendora,**

Erial, Chews Landing, Hilltop, Blenheim and Lambs Terrace) are eligible to have their cats spayed or neutered at no cost. The only requirement is proof of residency in one of the target communities. Stray and feral cats from these communities are also eligible for this free program.

About 15,000 cats enter shelters in Camden County and the surrounding areas each year. Roughly half of those cats make it out alive. “The grant from PetSmart Charities has enabled AWA to create a very successful targeted spay/neuter program to reach out to those communities that have been identified as the source of some of the highest owner surrender and stray cat intake rates at Camden County shelters,” said Christie Rogero, Targeted Spay/Neuter Manager at AWA.

“The best way to save the lives of cats at our area shelters is to make sure that fewer cats enter the system to begin with,” said Maya Richmond, Executive Director of AWA, “By intensely focusing our spay/neuter efforts on locations with the most at-risk cats, we can stop the cycle of unwanted litters and homeless cats, save lives, and even save money for the County because there will be fewer cats in their shelter.”

“This project has had enormous benefits for our shelter,” said Lisa Ross, the Executive Director of Camden County Animal Shelter, “Every cat and every litter that stays out of the shelter represents lives saved and money saved to help other animals in need.”

To make an appointment for a cat (owned, stray or feral) from one of the target communities, call 856-424-2288, ext. 105 or send an e-mail to clinic@awanj.org. Visit www.awanj.org for more information on this program and on low-price spay/neuter for dogs and cats from any area.

About Animal Welfare Association: *The Animal Welfare Association (www.awanj.org), a private, non-profit, 501(c) 3 animal welfare organization celebrates its 65th anniversary 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.

About PetSmart Charities: *PetSmart Charities, Inc. is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that saves the lives of homeless pets. More than 400,000 dogs and cats find homes each year through its adoption program in all PetSmart stores and their signature adoption events. PetSmart Charities grants more money to directly help pets in need than any other animal welfare group in North America, with a focus on funding spay/neuter programs that help communities solve pet overpopulation. PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization, legally independent from PetSmart, Inc.*

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