



Animal Welfare Association
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$55,000 Grant from PetSmart Charities Funds AWA's New Clinic

VOORHEES, NJ, August, 2013— The Animal Welfare Association (AWA) announces the award of a \$55,000 grant from PetSmart Charities in support of AWA's new 4,300 sq. ft. spay/neuter and pet wellness center. The culmination of AWA's 65th anniversary will be the opening of the new center, the first of a two-part expansion plan that will enable AWA to continue and expand upon its innovative programs that help community pets.

"Undertaking a project of this size during this flat economy would make anyone nervous," states Maya Richmond, the executive director of AWA, "yet AWA's long history as the region's leader in spaying/neutering pets and providing lifesaving services has driven both local and national recognition and support for our organization."

AWA's Phase One will cost well over \$1.2 million. "Despite the costs involved, the project needed to happen," says Richmond, "Our 1966 building has become antiquated by all measures. It became evident that if we don't prepare for the future by investing in our brick and mortar, our operations would end by failure to meet building codes and standards."

AWA's Board of Directors decided to allocate recent bequests to fund 85 percent of the project and solicited help from local and national foundations and major donors for the rest.

"Every dollar AWA raises goes directly toward its daily operations: rescuing, feeding, pets as well as their medical care, keeping the lights on, and so on," says Jonathan Furlow, AWA's board president, "therefore, for so-called extras like equipment or renovations, AWA depends on bequest funds and foundation support. "

"PetSmart Charities' support of AWA programs totaled more than \$300,000 in 2013," says Richmond. "Their support of our organization and the work we do is so gratifying and we can't thank them enough for their belief in our vision."

Last year, AWA found homes for nearly 2,000 homeless pets, provided affordable wellness services to the pets of 4,500 area residents, and spayed/neutered another 11,000 community pets. These numbers have been growing over the past several years and it is expected that after the new clinic is built, AWA will be able to provide wellness care and surgery to 23,000 pets annually.

AWA will celebrate the opening of the new clinic in November, 2013 with a series of open houses that will allow members of the community to tour the property and visit with the staff, volunteers and, of course, the adoptable animals.

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, more than 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.

Summary:

The Animal Welfare Association embarks on its first major site development and expansion in more than 30 years with a new spay/neuter and pet wellness clinic, including an education center, located behind its current pet adoption shelter. In support of the new clinic, PetSmart Charities awarded AWA a \$55,000 grant. The new clinic will open November, 2013.

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