

Almost Home Animal Shelter in Pennsauken to close

Statement:

The Almost Home Animal Shelter opened in a warehouse in Pennsauken, NJ ten years ago to serve as a temporary facility. In 2013, Camden County began plans to expand Camden County Animal Shelter in Blackwood, New Jersey to house more of the county's stray animals. This December, the Camden County Animal Shelter completed its modern shelter and adoption center. Over the course of the past several months, four of the six towns that contracted to send stray animals to Almost Home Animal Shelter began sending their animals to Camden County Animal Shelter. The remaining two towns will no longer send their stray animals to Almost Home Animal Shelter starting January 1, 2016.

Camden County Animal Shelter has ample space in their new center to house the extra animals. Over the past two years, Camden County Animal Shelter's adoption rates have soared, over 86% of dogs and 76% of cats find new loving homes. This is above national averages, and makes Camden County Animal Shelter a model municipal animal shelter and adoption center in New Jersey.

While it is sad to see a place close and know staff are faced with layoffs Almost Home Animal Shelter, director Nancy Walsh has been aware of the plans to close the shelter for over two years. This past October, there were several planning meetings between Almost Home's director, Camden County Animal Shelter's director and town and county officials to facilitate the closing of the shelter and discuss placement options for the animals. By no means was Nancy Walsh surprised that this was going to take place.

The animals and community will be better served by this change.

Facts:

Almost Home Animal Shelter was intended to be a temporary facility and was never properly designed or set up to care for animals long term needs.

They will not euthanize the animals that need placement

They will stop taking in animals on December 31 and will have until March to place the remaining animals with rescue partners, other animal welfare agencies or into new homes.

They are not a privately funded shelter

They are funded by municipal contracts for stray holding and receive additional financial support from the township of Pennsauken, from Camden County and from donations.

Many local animal welfare agencies have offered support and help to them during this transition.

AHAS does not handle or intake 6000 animals a year.

Approximately 600 total dogs and cats were adopted last year

Official Alliance Statement:

Camden County Animal Shelter and the Voorhees Animal Orphanage will be taking all cats and dogs from the towns that work with Almost Home. Furthermore, the Animal Alliance Camden County has instituted progressive policies to ensure that we continue to improve the environment for cats and dogs throughout the county. Also, we will and have offered professional assistance to ensure a safe and healthy transition for all animals at Almost Home as it stands down its operation.