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Contacts:

Scott Agnoli, Investors Bank
973.924.5175, SAgnoli@myinvestorsbank.com

Laura Bishop, LBC
609.405.0129, Laura@Laura-Bishop.com

**Investors Bank Feeds Shelter Animals
\$1,000 Grant to Animal Welfare Association**

ROBBINSVILLE, New Jersey – Linus, a seven-month old Yorkshire terrier mix – and other animals at the Animal Welfare Association in **Voorhees** – will be able to chow down on special dog food to help them gain their strength and flourish as they wait for their forever homes, thanks in part to a grant from the Investors Bank Foundation.

“We don’t know much about Linus,” said AWA Executive Director Maya Richmond. “He came to us from one of our open-intake shelter partners. We are grateful to Investors Bank, on behalf of Linus and the other dogs, cats and bunnies, for the grant that will help us purchase the necessary food to help him and the others grow strong as they wait for a new family.”

AWA accepted 2,879 dogs, cats and bunnies in 2015 alone; slightly more than 1500 were from local families, while 1,264 were from over-crowded shelters. The AWA operates the oldest and largest low-cost spay/neuter clinic, adoption center and no-kill animal shelter in South Jersey. All adoptable pets are vaccinated, vetted, and spayed or neutered before going to homes. More than 2,600 pets found homes through the AWA last year. Also in 2015, AWA spayed or neutered more than 10,150 pets, and provided basic wellness and vaccines to more than 8,000 pets and shelter animals.

AWA applied for the grant from the Investors Bank Foundation. The Foundation supports non-profit organizations that enrich diverse communities served by Investors Bank.

“Dogs, cats and other small animals such as rabbits and gerbils add so much to our lives,” explained Carol-Anne Peacock, Assistant Vice President, Branch Manager – Maple Shade, “Investors Bank understands that by helping these animals, we are in part, strengthening the fabric of families and the community.”

Hector Melendez, Investors Bank Voorhees Branch Manager, agreed with Peacock, “AWA provides a service to the community that is invaluable – not just in terms of providing food and shelter for dogs, cats, etc. – but in helping families, seniors, veterans, etc. enrich, and in some cases, revitalized their lives.”

AWA partners with Pets for Patriots, Inc., a not-for-profit that connects shelter pets with service men and women. Similarly, AWA is a participating shelter in the Camden County adoption program, Pets for Vets. This program is open to active military, reservists or veterans who are residents of Camden County and waives adoption fees on certain pets to share the joy of the human-animal bond between shelter pets and veterans. The Seniors for Seniors adoption program brings together senior pets and senior citizens. Seniors who are at least 60 years old, and who are residents of Camden County are eligible for a fee-waived adoption of certain older pets.

(more)



AWA
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Photo Caption: Investors Bank Branch Managers Hector Melendez, Voorhees, (left) and Carol-Anne Peacock, Maple Shade, (right) present Animal Welfare Association Executive Director Maya Richmond and seven-month-old Linus, a Yorkshire terrier mix, with a check from the Investors Bank Foundation for \$1,000. The donation will be used to buy food for the animals at the AWA's no-kill shelter.

About Investors Bank

Investors Bank is a full-service community bank that has been serving customers since 1926. With more than \$20 billion in assets and over 135 retail branches in New Jersey, New York City and Long Island, Investors Bank delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors' consumer banking services include complete deposit products, online banking, home equity loans and lines of credit and a full array of mortgage loans. Serving the business community, Investors provides deposit accounts, cash management services, business loans and lines of credit, and commercial real estate financing solutions to small and middle market companies, professional services firms, municipalities and other businesses. Investors Bank. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

About Animal Welfare Association

The Animal Welfare Association (AWA), a private, non-profit, 501(c) 3 animal welfare organization, serves the people and animals of southern New Jersey. 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 2015, through a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, more than 23,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care. More information about AWA can be found at www.awanj.org.

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