



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Maya Richmond, Executive Director

856-424-2288 ext. 109

director@awanj.org

AWA Awarded Bissell Pet Foundation Grant

Supports pet owners in underserved communities with veterinary services and free spay/neuter surgeries

May 29, 2015

Voorhees, NJ: Animal Welfare Association (AWA) has been awarded a generous grant from the Bissell Pet Foundation to support our Vets on Wheels program. This program provides pet owners in low income communities with veterinary care to help keep pets healthy and in their homes. Vets on Wheels extends the work that AWA began in 2012 focusing on underserved areas in the City of Camden.

“Our program is life-saving because it decreases unwanted litters and keeps pets healthy”, says Maya Richmond, Executive Director of AWA. “In addition, we provide support to pet owners so their pets are fixed and better behaved, thus less at risk of surrender. We work not just to care for homeless animals, but to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place.” To build awareness about the program, AWA staff is out in the neighborhoods each week talking to residents and giving away pet food. With support from the Bissell Pet Foundation, AWA can continue to offer vaccinations, examinations, and help with minor medical conditions as well as low cost or free spay/neuter surgeries. It also allows AWA to provide monthly transportation to our clinic for surgeries for those clients who don’t have available transportation.

“We believe in helping people be the best pet parents they can be,” Richmond said. “If we can keep pets healthy and in their homes the community is better off. No one wants pets impounded and potentially euthanized on taxpayers’ expense when there are positive ways to address pet overpopulation, neglect and abandonment issues.”

To learn more about AWA’s Pet Clinic and the Vets on Wheels program visit <http://awanj.org/vets-on-wheels>

About AWA

Animal Welfare Association, 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. Through a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, in 2014 over 23,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey’s leader in progressive companion animal care.