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Media Contact:  
Maya Richmond, Executive Director  
856-424-2288 ext. 109  
director@awanj.org

### **AWA Earns Coveted 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator**

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Voorhees, NJ: Animal Welfare Association (AWA)'s sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the third consecutive time that AWA has received this status.

Since 2002, using objective, data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These "Accountability & Transparency" metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities have "best practices" that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

"AWA's coveted 4-star rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities," according to Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator. "Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars -- a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. AWA's supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

"It's important our donors trust that we're using our funding wisely to accomplish AWA's mission," said Maya Richmond, Executive Director of AWA. "Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously."

AWA's rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). More detailed information about AWA's rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

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### **About Charity Navigator**

Charity Navigator, [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org), is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of more than 8,000 charities. Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a 501 (c) (3) public charity itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America's charitable givers. Charity Navigator, can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 101, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.

### **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 2015 over 23,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey's leader in progressive companion animal care.