



Making It Better, Together.

PRESS RELEASE

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Affordable care for Camden City pets

(Camden, NJ) – The Camden County Freeholder Board has partnered with the Animal Welfare Association (AWA) to bring affordable veterinary care to pets in the City of Camden. The Board and AWA will provide affordable or free vaccinations and spay/neuter services to hundreds of Camden City Pets through their Vets on Wheels services.

“This service will provide Camden’s residents with the support they need to keep their pets healthy and in their homes,” said Freeholder Michelle Gentek. “By making it possible for pet owners to obtain affordable veterinary care, it will reduce the number of stray animals and pets surrendered to area animal shelters.”

AWA’s mobile medical vehicle travels to North Camden and Fairview monthly. Pet owners can get vaccinations, examinations, and help with minor medical conditions. To build awareness about the program, AWA staff is out in the neighborhoods each week talking to residents and giving away pet food.

“The success of this entire program hinges on not only funding but on building trusting relationships with the City residents,” said AWA Director of Operations Stacie DaBolt. “It is because of the staff’s weekly outings and their Vets on Wheels days that AWA is able to meet pet owners whose pets may need to be fixed.”

AWA, which operates a Pet Clinic specializing in pet spay/neuter surgeries, is able to provide limited number of free pet spay/neuters through the Board of Freeholder’s sponsorship.

“We know that an important part of keeping pets out of area shelters is to provide basic services to these pets so they stay healthy. The Vets on Wheels program offers access to

vaccinations to many pet owners who do not have transportation or the financial ability to go to a veterinarian,” said AWA Executive Director Maya Richmond. “AWA also offers spay or neuter surgeries for these pets to stop pets from accidentally breeding.”

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.

“In 2012, we secured a grant and began offering a similar program in North Camden. In just over two years we fixed over 1100 dogs and cats and gave away thousands of vaccinations in just a 17 block neighborhood,” Richmond said. “The results were profound, as the surrender or impoundment of dogs from this exact neighborhood went down.”

Through a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy, and humane education, in 2014 over 20,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey’s leader in progressive companion animal care.

“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 get involved and help AWA help the City of Camden’s animals this year, please contact AWA at 856-424-2288, email info@awanj.org or visit www.awanj.org for details.

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