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# **Animal Alliance of Camden County Senior Adoption Program**

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The Animal Alliance of Camden County will launch a new pet adoption program for senior residents and shelter animals on April 22. The "Seniors for Seniors" program will provide fee-waived adoptions for qualifying applicants.

"Senior citizens are able to enjoy the many benefits of pet ownership with the adoption fee waived," said Freeholder Michelle A. Gentek, liaison to the Camden County Animal Shelter. "In the process, we help save more shelter dogs and cats, currently living their lives within animal shelters."

The Seniors for Seniors program places senior cats and dogs (typically over 7 years of age) with senior citizens who are 60 years of age or older, allowing participants to discover the joys of having a cat or dog in their lives. Pet ownership is known to reduce depression, loneliness, and stress while improving the overall well-being of senior citizen populations.

Maya Richmond, Executive Director at the Animal Welfare Association says, "I am very proud to be working with my Alliance partners on this program. Several years ago my 62-year-old mother lost her beloved dog. While trying to adopt a new companion she was told that she was too old to care for a dog. Seniors for Seniors is about supporting and respecting what the pet/human relationship is ultimately about: unconditional love."

The Animal Alliance of Camden County is a partnership of Camden County Shared Services and local animal welfare agencies that include Animal Adoption Center, Animal Welfare Association, Camden County Animal Shelter, Voorhees Animal Orphanage, and Independent Animal Control. Alliance members share a common goal of finding homes for unwanted and neglected animals.

## **Seniors for Seniors Program Locations:**

## **Camden County Animal Shelter**

125 County House Road, Blackwood NJ 08012 www.ccasni.org

## **Animal Adoption Center**

501 Berlin Rd N, Lindenwold, NJ 08021 www.aacnj.org

#### **Animal Welfare Association**

509 Centennial Blvd, Voorhees Township, NJ 08043 www.awanj.org

### **Voorhees Animal Orphanage**

419 Cooper Rd, Voorhees Township, NJ 08043 www.theanimalorphanage.org

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For more information, please visit www.awanj.org

#### About AWA

The 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.