

Statement on Gloucester County Animal Shelter

Recently Gloucester County Animal Shelter was in the news for euthanizing Moe, a cat that was taken into their shelter and euthanized before the mandatory New Jersey stray/owner surrender 7 day hold period. To make matter worse, Moe was euthanized moments before his owner arrived to reclaim him despite staff at the shelter knowing the owner had been notified and was on the way. This case triggered a five hour inspection of the shelter by New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH). During the inspection, Gloucester County Animal Shelter was cited for numerous violations. Some of the most shocking citing involved the euthanasia of animals before the legal hold-time were up, not having staff performing euthanasia humanely, improper sanitation, and more.

Last week Gloucester County Animal Shelter took in over 120 cats from a hoarding case. This hoarding case comes right after the release of the NJ DOH inspection results and on the heels of any significant corrections. To help in this horrible hoarding case, AWA has offered: to accept cats into our adoption program, provide cat food and temporary cat cages.

Over the years, AWA has offered Gloucester County Animal Shelter assistance: to transport animals to our facility for adoption and access to low-cost spay/neuter and vaccines for their residence however, they declined to accept AWA's help. Gloucester County Animal Shelter management criticized AWA's operations and staff on social media. Despite this, AWA remains committed to helping the Gloucester County Animal Shelter and their animals. As professionals, our work centers on caring for animals, creating a human community, working with people to save animals, following best practices, and looking ahead to further our mission. Animal sheltering is not easy work. No shelter is perfect however, the seriousness of the claims demonstrate a significant breakdown in operations that must be fixed so that other animals are not faced with the same fate.

Gloucester County Animal Shelter recently opened a public spay/neuter clinic in partnership with People for Animals. We trust the leadership of People for Animals and hope to work with them to help Gloucester County Animal Shelter's animals.

We encourage Gloucester County residents to contact their county officials and encourage them to take action and make their community shelter one that helps people and animals.