

Happy 150th Anniversary Women's Animal Center!



April 14, 2019

Celebrating 150 Years of Lifesaving Work at America's First Animal Shelter™

April 14, 2019 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Animal Sheltering and Adoptions movement in America. It began in Philadelphia in 1869. And it began with women – thirty of them to be exact, who formally joined forces to establish the Women's Pennsylvania SPCA now known as Women's Animal Center. Outraged by the cruel manner in which strays on Philadelphia streets were captured and killed, they successfully petitioned City Council to take over the municipal pound as their initial order of business, repurposing it as the first facility in the U.S. for sheltering and rehoming animals.

Fifty years before they had the right to vote, Caroline Earle White and her friends used what little voice they had to speak on behalf of the voiceless. The power of their message continues to be told today through the lifesaving work of more than 3,500 animal shelters currently in operation across the country. The extent of their influence is written on the heart of American culture itself, reflected in an estimated 85 million American households now shared with pets. Where once cats and dogs roamed the streets destined for a cruel fate, America is today one of the most impassioned nations of pet lovers on the planet, and where an estimated 3.2 million cats and dogs will be adopted from shelters in 2019.



THANK YOU

**AS WE CELEBRATE THIS EXTRAORDINARY ANNIVERSARY
WE THANK ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, STAFF, AND BOARD MEMBERS, PAST AND PRESENT,
WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE LIFESAVING LEGACY OF OUR FOUNDERS.**



Remarkably and in addition to standing as the first Animal Shelter and Adoptions Program, Women's Animal Center is also responsible for countless advancements in animal welfare. Here are some highlights:

Creating the nation's first humane educational programs for children, distributing literature in Philadelphia schools and establishing the Band of Mercy, an educational program designed to teach young people about the kind and humane treatment of animals. (1882)

Denying medical experiments on animals homed at the City Pound and Shelter, leading to the formation of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, the nation's first such organization, which remains active to this day. (1883)

Creating Horse Watering Stations and Building Fountains throughout the City of Philadelphia to provide fresh water for horses and small animals; at peak they operated over 50. (early 1900's)

Opening the Caroline Earle White Dispensary, the nation's first free veterinary clinic. (1909)

Founding other shelters, not only in the Philadelphia region but nationally and internationally, as an outgrowth of the animal welfare movement. (1873)

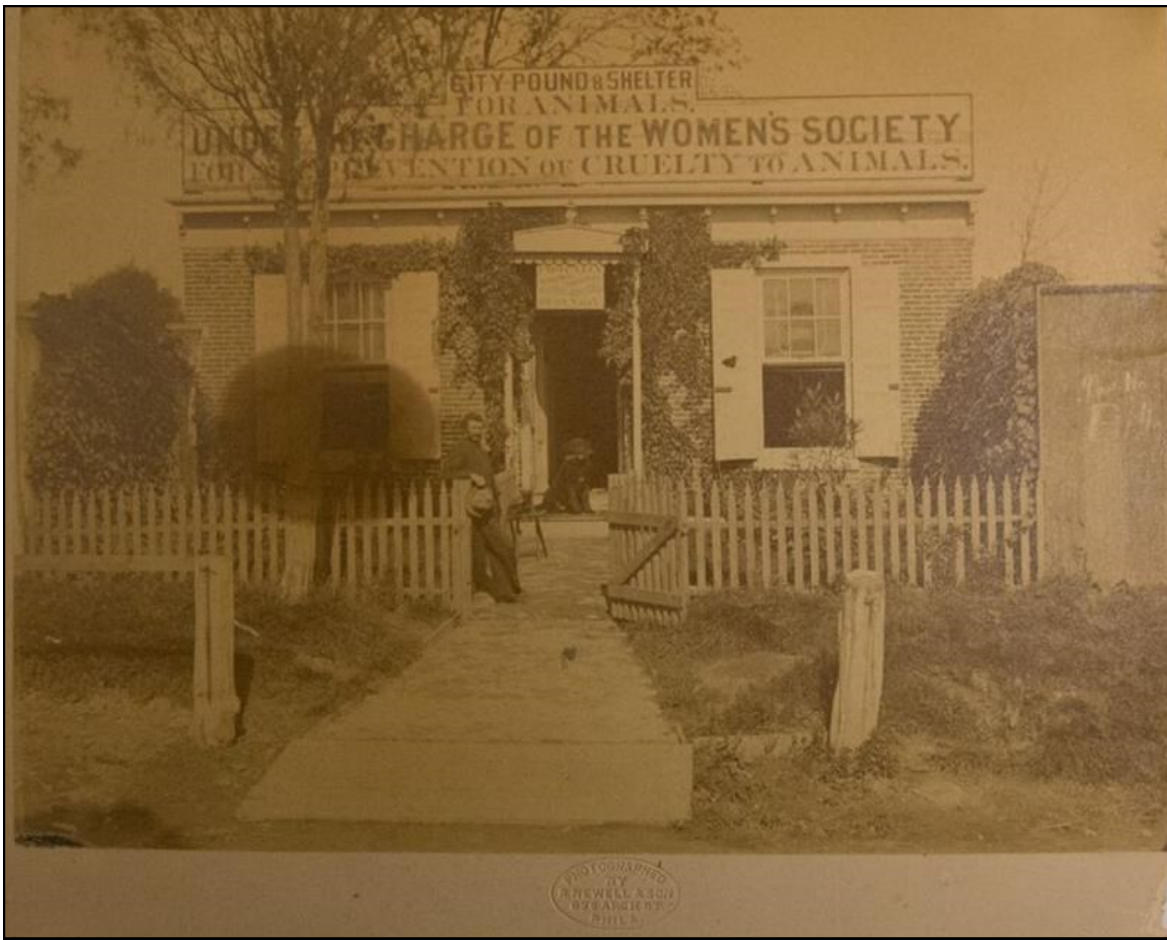
Aiding in the passing of a revised Pennsylvania Dog Law, which forces commercial breeders to abide by specific housing, temperature and health care standards for their industry. (2008)

Receiving national accreditation for their Veterinary Hospital through the American Animal Hospital Association – one of just 5% non-profit animal shelter/veterinary hospitals to attain accreditation. (2016)

Today Women's Animal Center provides a variety of vital services including dog training, physical rehabilitation, behavioral and veterinary resources, youth programming, and humane education.

The shelter is an open admission facility committed to saving all healthy and treatable animals and has a save rate/live release rate of 91.26% as of 12/31/18. As part of its mission, Women's Animal Center's Veterinary Hospital provides low-cost, high-quality veterinary care to families in need, making pet ownership affordable and thus keeping more animals in their homes and out of shelters.

America's First Animal Shelter™.....Through the Years



In 1869 the Nation's First Animal Shelter™ was located on Lamb Tavern Road in North Philadelphia (now 21st and Lehigh Ave.)

In 1907 we moved to 31st and Clearfield Streets. In the early 1990's, after 125 years in Philadelphia, we purchased property and built a new facility in Bensalem.

On June 15, 2019 we will celebrate 25 years at our current location.



150th Anniversary Highlights

