

**Report to the 239th Diocesan Convention
Animal Welfare Ministry**

Our Mission

Mindful of our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation, and to open hearts and minds to heal the spiritual disconnection with God's creatures, the mission of the Animal Welfare Ministry is to

- spread awareness of animal welfare concerns related to our food supply, medical research, and treatment of domestic companion animals,
- open a dialogue to discern and encourage "animal-friendly" lifestyle changes,
- foster pastoral care support for the loss of a companion animal,
- provide liturgical resources for the celebration of animal life, and for times of bereavement and loss of companion animals.

The Animal Welfare Ministry carries out its mission through the production of an annual **Animal Welfare education and awareness forum** for the diocese, by engaging and **participating at public events**, and through the **diocesan web page** at <https://dioceseofnj.org/ministry/animal-welfare/>. The goal of our outreach activities is to promote lifestyle changes that contribute to long term systemic improvements in the treatment of and welfare of animals, and in the stewardship of God's creation in general.

From time-to-time other opportunities arise to assist with animal-related community events. In February 2023 we helped facilitate a free animal vaccination clinic at Trinity Cathedral organized by Elda Hubbard on behalf of [People for Animals](#).

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Christopher Cox, Deacon
Chair, Animal Welfare Ministry