

**ANNUAL REPORT OF ANIMAL WELFARE MINISTRY FOR THE YEAR 2023
SUBMITTED TO THE 240TH CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY**

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 Animal Welfare **Education and Awareness forums**, 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 and welfare of animals, and in the stewardship of God's creation in general.

In 2023 we were pleased to support two free **Vaccination and Microchip clinics** organized by [People for Animals](#) and hosted by Trinity Cathedral with volunteer help from members of the Animal Welfare Team. At these events several hundred cats and dogs received free vaccinations and microchips from a team of veterinarians, providing a valuable service to the pet owners in the local Trenton and Mercer County communities.

Later in the year the Team conducted an Animal Welfare Education and Awareness forum at Grace Church, Haddonfield, thanks to a gracious invitation from Mother Kimberly Reinholz.

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