

**Report to the 236<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention  
Animal Welfare Ministry**

**Our Mission**

Mindful of our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation, 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.

During 2019 the mission goals were progressed through

- being a presence at the 235<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention;
- exhibiting material at public events such as the Mercer Green Fest held at Ryder University, and the 2019 Rutgers Day, New Brunswick campus, (formerly "Ag and Field" Day);
- continuing a close partnership with the Humane Society Faith Outreach program, utilizing and distributing HSUS materials and assisting HSUS with local programs when able;
- introducing Animal Welfare awareness topics into the Sunday morning Christian formation program at Trinity Cathedral.

In 2019 the diocesan Animal Welfare Ministry maintained the policies of reaching out to the local community by exhibiting at public events, while seeking every opportunity to provide Animal Welfare educational and awareness materials for use within the diocese. In addition, our relationship with The Humane Society Faith Outreach program provided valuable tools for engaging difficult topics such as the treatment of animals in our food supply, and the use of animals for medical research and consumer-products testing.

With God's help, we will continue our mission in 2020 to raise awareness and promote lifestyle changes that contribute to long term systemic improvements in the treatment and welfare of animals, and in the stewardship of all of God's creation.

Please visit our website at [www.dioceseofnj.org/animalwelfare](http://www.dioceseofnj.org/animalwelfare) for more information.

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