

# Our Need for a New Facility

The current animal shelter and adoption center was built in the early 1950's. Because it was originally a garage and was not designed to be an animal facility, it is totally inadequate for this purpose. Without any structural design to support the needs of animal care it is an extremely stressful environment for animals and people alike. It is dramatically insufficient in its capacity to:

- house animals humanely;
- ensure sanitary conditions;
- control the spread of diseases; and
- provide a low-stress environment for optimal animal health and welfare.

Other issues related to conditions at the current Center include:

- inadequate public space to conduct business and adoptions;
- inadequate office space for staff; we currently operate out of 3 separate and distant locations;
- dangerously exposed electrical lights and wiring;
- a badly leaking roof; broken and exposed concrete;
- termite damage that is so severe that some doors are not functional; and
- animal services separated into in three locations due to space limitations.

Animal shelters in the state of North Carolina are inspected and licensed by the Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Division. The Buncombe County Shelter is currently deficient in the following areas: structure, size, and condition of housing facilities for dogs and cats; the ability to sanitize the materials used for construction; and proper storage of animal food and bedding. The shelter also does not have the capacity to meet the demand for sheltering the stray and unwanted pets that arrive at its doors each day.

The 78 cats and 101 dogs that the shelter is able to house must be kept in cages that are limited in size and lack the added features that can reduce stress in animals. For instance, many larger dogs go 'cage crazy' in metal cages that are only big enough to stand in. Aggressive animals are separated from public adoption areas by only a yellow tape. Our current facility is so filled with animal stressors that our cats and dogs are highly susceptible to disease and infection and become symptomatic of behavioral stress after even a short stay. This puts them at great disadvantage for being able to relate to potential adopters. Because of the complex demands on the limited facilities, we cannot ensure that adoptive animals will not be euthanized if available space must be used for municipal purposes. Although staff work diligently to ensure the best possible care for the animals, there is only so much they can do to cope with the gross structural deficiencies at the current shelter.



# The Solution...

## *A New Animal Adoption and Education Center and Municipal Shelter*

Asheville Humane Society is working in partnership with Buncombe County to provide the best possible animal sheltering facility for our community. This involves both a private and a municipal component. The goal of the Asheville Humane Society and Buncombe County partnership is to create a healthy, humane, and comfortable environment for animals in a facility that welcomes the public, enhances adoptions, ensures animal welfare, accommodates staff, and consolidates services in one location.

40, 240, and 26. This property has been generously donated by a supporter of the Asheville Humane Society.



This partnership facility will entail building two buildings immediately adjacent to each other and connected by walkways. The Asheville Humane Society will build the new adoption and education center, while the County will build a shelter to provide municipal services, such as animal control, stray animal holding, and other required services. This two building design will provide for optimal animal services for our community. The Asheville Humane Society will manage both facilities under contract with Buncombe County.

The new adoption/education and shelter facilities will be located on Pond Road, off of Brevard Road just south of the Farmer's Market. This location is central to all of Buncombe County and provides easy access from major roads and interstate highways

### **1) Asheville Humane Society ADOPTION AND EDUCATION CENTER**

Asheville Humane Society will build a new 9,500 square foot non-profit animal adoption and humane education center. This facility will provide a healthy, low-stress, family-friendly environment to house cats, dogs, and other animals that are ready for adoption to their new 'forever' home. This center will also provide space and facilities for much needed education services that support the humane treatment of animals, including classes for new pet adopters, training for regional animal welfare workers, animal behavior testing and courses, school tours and specific education-based programs. The center will be available for use by other community groups.

The design of the new adoption and education center will provide ample space, state-of-the-art noise and disease control, and stress-reducing animal housing. These improvements will enable us to greatly increase our adoption placements and reduce our euthanasia. This center will ensure that animals placed in the adoption facility will have the opportunity to find a new home and not be euthanized to accommodate municipal requirements.

Animal adoption areas will be friendly, inviting, and welcoming to both animals and community residents looking for a new pet. Special consideration is being given to designing the facility so that it supports good pet behavior so that more animals will find successful, happy, and long lasting adoptions. Looking for the new family pet will be a fun-filled adventure!

## 2) BUNCOMBE COUNTY MUNICIPAL SHELTER

In partnership with Buncombe County, Asheville Humane Society brought in a national animal sheltering design specialist to help determine our Buncombe County facility needs and projected budget. We concluded that Buncombe County needs an animal adoption, education, and shelter facility that would cost approximately \$4.5 million. This amount exceeds the County budget by almost \$2 million. In order to ensure the appropriate facility for the animals of our community, Asheville Humane Society has accepted the challenge of raising \$2.5 million for our own non-profit adoption

and education facility. This contribution by Asheville Humane Society ensures that the County can use its dollars to build the appropriate municipal facility that is essential to the overall well-being of animals in our community.

Buncombe County will build a municipal shelter of approximately 15,000 square feet. Animal control offices, dispatch, and vehicles will be based here. All animals will be received at this facility, either by individual surrender or through animal control. Animals in this building will then be dealt with according to municipal requirements; stray animals will be held for the required time to allow owner reclamation, cruelty case animals will be held for legal evidence, bite animals will be held for quarantine, etc. Animals that require medical treatment or isolation will be held in this facility and, when necessary, euthanasia will be performed here. All shelter animals are tested for appropriate adoption temperaments and those who are deemed adoptable will be spayed or neutered here before being transferred to the adoption building. The two building design allows required municipal functions to be carried out responsibly while offering the adopting public a more people-friendly space in the new adoption/education center.



# Campaign Objective

To raise \$2,500,000 for the Asheville Humane Society Adoption and Education Center