

UNLEASH THE POSSIBILITIES!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What is the current relationship between Greenwood County and the HSOG?

The HSOG is contracted by Greenwood County to operate the County's Animal Shelter. The Animal Shelter is County-owned and the HSOG performs the following: 1) manage intake of all animals from Greenwood County; 2) provide care for the animals, including medical and veterinary; 3) rehome the unwanted, stray and abused; 4) reunite lost pets with their owners; 5) work with City and County Animal Control; 6) and carry out other shelter services provided to the community.

2) How is the current shelter funded?

Greenwood County is responsible for the funding of the shelter and its operations. The HSOG contributes free pet food, cleaning supplies, and other items necessary for operating the shelter through in-kind donations they receive from the community and other sources. Over the past ten-plus years, the HSOG has also contributed monetarily towards the operation of the facility.

3) How will funding for the new animal shelter be appropriated?

The new shelter will be funded by both public (60%) and private (40%) dollars. Greenwood County will be funding the construction and operation of the Impound Center, with the HSOG continuing to provide contracted management services. The HSOG will be funding the construction and operations of the Adoption Center, Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, and the Community/Education Room.

4) How is the HSOG funding their portion of the facility?

The HSOG is funding their portion of the new facility through a major gifts campaign, grant opportunities, and in-kind donations to reduce the construction costs and equipment.

5) How will the HSOG fund their operations?

The HSOG is raising money for an endowment to help cover operational costs, as well as utilizing general contributions, and revenue from spay/neuter and adoption services.

6) Who owns the land where the new shelter will be built?

The Burton Center is leasing eight (8) acres of property adjacent to the Equestrian Center on Hwy 72/221 to the HSOG for \$1/year for 50 years. When the lease expires, it may be renewed for another 50 years.

7) What comprises the costs of a new animal shelter facility?

Designed to withstand the rigors of housing thousands of animals a year, the new facility will provide for a minimum total of 150 animals at a time, maintaining the current capacity of the County's Animal Shelter and Adoption Center. It will be a well-designed refuge where animals will enjoy natural light, where cat cages will be comfortable, and dog runs large enough to encourage movement and play. It will be a safe haven where air exchanges will meet industry standards and surfaces can be easily cleaned and disinfected.

The costs to build an animal shelter are higher than a comparable commercial or residential building in part because most animals that come into shelters were never vaccinated or cared for properly by their former owners. This means they are either infected with communicable diseases or more susceptible to catching them. Many of these diseases, such as parvo (dogs) and panleukopenia (cats), are deadly and cannot be cured.

If a shelter is not built to resist these diseases, they can infect the shelter's entire animal population and force the mass euthanization of hundreds of animals.

To prevent this, an animal shelter must be built with highly specialized features. These include the following:

- Separate HVAC systems to prevent the spread of airborne diseases;
- Plumbing that can handle the waste of 150-plus animals;
- Seamless, disease-resistant flooring and walls that will not harbor deadly disease;
- Individual, sanitary kennels and cages;
- Properly equipped veterinary facilities for shelter animals and spay/neuter surgeries;
- Sealed-off isolation rooms for the treatment and healing of sick animals.

The HSOG also wants the Community Room to be a venue for social events, so the appearance, ventilation and noise control are critical. The center is intended to be a gathering place for humans of all ages: the young who will come to learn why it is important to be a responsible pet owner; adult taxpayers who will see the importance of investing in real solutions that will save lives and tax money; and seniors who will spend time with pets that are being socialized for adoption.

8) What will your Spay/Neuter program offer?

From 1998 to 2011, the HSOG operated a high-quality, high volume, low-cost spay/neuter facility. On average 2,000 dogs and cats were sterilized each year, but the facility closed due to funding shortages. We will be resuming a successful spay/neuter program in the new facility, looking to double and triple the number of animals sterilized, thus preventing thousands of unwanted puppies and kittens from entering the shelter or being left abandoned. For those pet owners who cannot afford low-cost pricing, we will be offering a program using community sponsorships and grant opportunities to subsidize the costs. For

those pet owners who are unable to transport their pets to the clinic, we will be implementing a transport program.

9) Will the new shelter be “no-kill?”

Most in the no-kill movement define a no-kill shelter, a no-kill city, a no-kill community or a no-kill nation as a place where all healthy and treatable animals are saved and where only unhealthy & untreatable animals are euthanized.

The HSOG’s business plan for the Greenwood County Animal Shelter and HSOG Adoption Center toward being “no-kill” is to reduce pet overpopulation in Greenwood. We are implementing the same programs and strategies that other successful agencies have used throughout the country -- cities, large and small. Continuing the decades’ old practice of euthanizing animals is not stopping pet overpopulation.

The HSOG plans to implement a no-kill policy for the animals moved from the Animal Shelter to the Adoption Center. By utilizing our growing foster program and implementing new, innovative methods for promoting adoptable pets, the number of local adoptions will increase. Additionally the new inviting facility will attract more visitors who want to adopt.

Through building proactive spay/neuter campaigns, growing the network of out-of-state rescue organizations, creating a well-developed Trap-Neuter-Return program, encouraging pet identification, and instituting legislation, like pet licensing, we will see a continued reduction in euthanasia, an increase in positive live outcomes, and the achievement of our vision of a “no-kill” shelter and community.