

CATAWBA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER INFORMATION SHEET



Catawba County's new Animal Shelter was officially dedicated at a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 26, 2014.

The new shelter more than doubles the capacity of the old shelter, providing a safer, healthier environment for the animals housed in the shelter and for staff, in a building built with the most current LEED energy efficient design.

It also marks the beginning of an important new public/private partnership between the County and the Humane Society of Catawba County, which will oversee all animal adoptions and the care of all animals other than those in quarantine.

Here are some facts about the new shelter:

Why was a new shelter needed? The previous animal shelter was built in 1985 and had a capacity of 78 animals. Renovations in 2005 and 2011 increased the capacity to 102 animals, but the old shelter consistently exceeded that number of animals per day since 2010.

This overcrowding made it more challenging to control the spread of disease and did not provide a secure place for animal control officers to unload animals from their vehicles, which presented a potential safety hazard for staff, citizens and animals. The single lobby entrance and exit left no room for the public to get acquainted with animals they wish to adopt. Cleaning of the areas where animals were housed was also difficult because animals had to be moved to portable cages each time cleaning was conducted.

How have those issues been resolved in the new shelter? The new facility has the space and features needed to safely house more animals. There are separate areas for animal intakes and animal adoptions. The new shelter has an acquaintance room where potential adopters can spend time getting to know an animal prior to adopting it.



How is the Humane Society of Catawba County now involved in the operation of the Animal Shelter?

While Catawba County will continue to provide all animal control functions as required by North Carolina law, the Humane Society of Catawba County (HSCC) will oversee all animal adoptions, the care of all animals other than those in quarantine, and the education of visitors to the Shelter and the public. The County and the HSCC have developed a collaborative set of Standard Operating Procedures establishing the criteria

for adoptability and non-adoptability of animals. HSCC will manage all adoptions and the spaying or neutering of all adopted animals. The County will contract with the Humane Society for its services for \$207,000 per year, with those funds coming from the existing Animal Services budget, and with no increase in that budget.

What are the major features of the new shelter?



Separate intake and adoption lobbies that will allow staff to intake animals that have not been evaluated for adoptability and safely keep them segregated from animals that have already been deemed adoptable. The adoption lobby will also provide a more comfortable place for citizens who are considering adopting an animal to meet and become acquainted with those animals.

Indoor and outdoor runs will reduce the need for staff to physically move each animal multiple times each day. Animals will now be easily moved to outdoor runs so indoor areas may be properly cleaned. Outdoor runs will also provide a healthier atmosphere for the animals.



Drive through "sally port" for animal intakes that will make it safer to bring animals into the shelter in vehicles, reducing the potential for animals to escape and reducing potential safety hazards for staff and animals.

Designated quarantine area that will allow staff to separate sick or injured animals, dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs, and animals that have been brought to the shelter due to a biting incident.

LEED Silver Certification- To save on long-term operating costs, reduce energy usage and make the building more environmentally "friendly", the County is pursuing LEED Silver certification for the building. As a result, the County anticipates energy usage to be the same in the much larger new shelter as it was in the old shelter built in 1985.

What is the cost of the new shelter? The 17,500 square foot shelter was designed by Daggett & Grigg Architects. Edison Foard Inc. of Charlotte, selected for its past experience in building animal shelters, was the general contractor for the project. Edison Foard was awarded a bid in the amount of \$3,323,410 for the construction, funds which the County set aside over several years before construction began in early 2013.

For more information on the new County Animal Shelter, you may call the shelter at 828-464-7686 or visit <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/animal/> for information on shelter operations.