



# Transparency, Sustainability & Partnership

Understanding the Realities of Operating Durham County's Open-Admission Shelter

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## Who APS Is

- APS has operated Durham County's only open-admission shelter since 1990
- Partners closely with Sheriff's Office, Animal Services, and Durham County
- Provides intake, sheltering, adoption, reunification, medical, and behavioral services
- Provides low-cost community spay/neuter support and pet food assistance programs
- Supports foster care, volunteer engagement, and community outreach and engagement

**APS serves as both an animal welfare organization and a critical public-facing service.**

## APS by the Numbers 2025



**5,025**  
ANIMALS  
CARED FOR

**456**  
RE-UNITED WITH OWNER



**2,095**  
MICROCHIPS  
DISTRIBUTED



**21,914**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**1,045**  
COMMUNITY PETS  
SPAYED/NEUTERED



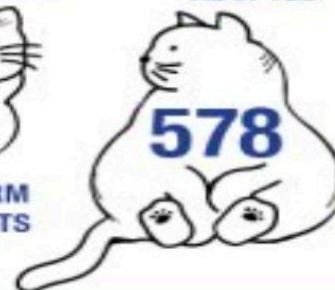
**2,080**  
SPAY/NEUTER  
SURGERIES  
IN SHELTER



**581**  
KITTENS  
FOSTERED

**1,895**  
ANIMALS  
ADOPTED

**2,148**  
ANIMALS  
FOSTERED



**27** HEARTWORM  
TREATMENTS

**578**

TRANSFERRED TO  
OUTSIDE RESCUE

# Why We Are Having This Conversation

- APS has subsidized shelter operations for many years through fundraising and donor support
- Historically, budget increases often addressed immediate operational pressures rather than long-term sustainability
- Rising costs and increasing community demand have made this model increasingly difficult to sustain
- Our goal is greater transparency around the true cost of operating an open-admission shelter

**The goal is transparency and long-term sustainability — not crisis management.**

# APS Is Making Significant Progress

- Operational and compliance improvements underway
- Improved intake and biosecurity processes
- Enhanced cross-department coordination and accountability
- Improved communication and community engagement
- Strong staff and volunteer participation

**APS is actively strengthening systems, operations, and accountability.**

## Community Demand Continues to Grow

- Animal intake increased approximately 8% last year
- Veterinary and medical supply costs continue to rise
- Higher medical and behavioral complexity in shelter animals
- Growing operational and staffing pressures across animal welfare
- Public expectations for services continue to increase

**Modern sheltering is increasingly resource-intensive.**

# The Cost of Modern Sheltering Has Changed

- Higher staffing and benefit costs
- Increased sanitation and biosecurity standards
- Growing medical, spay/neuter, and supply expenses
- Aging infrastructure requires ongoing maintenance and modernization
- Current funding levels no longer fully reflect operational realities

**The current operational model is increasingly difficult to sustain long-term.**

## APS Continues to Invest Beyond the Contract

- APS contributes direct financial support to shelter operations
- APS funds key leadership, medical, volunteer, and behavior infrastructure
- Fundraising helps bridge operational gaps
- Philanthropy should supplement public services — not replace sustainable operational funding

**APS remains deeply invested in supporting Durham County shelter operations.**

# What Sustainability Means

- This conversation is not about expansion spending
- It is about building a sustainable operational model
- Without sustainable long-term funding strategies, difficult operational decisions eventually may need to be made.
- Those decisions could impact staffing, flexibility, access, and community service levels

**The community deserves transparency around these operational realities.**

# Questions & Discussion

- APS remains committed to partnership, transparency, and long-term sustainability.
- Thank you for the opportunity to continue this conversation.
- We invite you to visit us at the shelter and learn more about the work we do.

