

January 16, 2018

Dear Durham County Distinguished Officials:

Animal Protection Society of Durham has been honored to partner with Durham County and the Durham County Sheriff's Department to manage the Durham County Animal Shelter since 1990. Thank you for taking the time to review our budget proposal.

Our partnership with the County has allowed us to help thousands of animals and people in our community over the past 27 years. Much of our work is accomplished through our management of the Durham County Animal Shelter since 1990, where we provide food, shelter, enrichment activities, and medical attention to nearly 5,000 stray, surrendered, neglected or abused animals each year. Below are examples of some of our work in the community.

During the last calendar year, we took in 4,743 Durham animals. This number includes:

- 235 Animals quarantined for biting humans.
- 142 Humane euthanasia's for the public, performed free of charge to Durham Residents.
- 110 confiscated animals which were seized due to cruelty, evictions and other extreme circumstances. The Animal Protection Society of Durham provides medical care and evidence for prosecution for these animals.

During the last calendar year, we:

- Rehomed, vaccinated and spayed or neutered 1,950 animals, with 312 spay/neuter surgeries performed on the pets of Durham residents.
- Returned 685 pets to their owners.
- Provided extra level of care through temporary foster placement of 278 animals.
- Engaged the assistance of 275 volunteers who logged 19,929 hours, which is the equivalent of \$481,086 according to the Independent Sector website.

Animal Protection Society of Durham (APS) is a nonprofit organization that has been helping animals in our community since October 1970. Our mission is to educate the public about humane care, treatment and well-being of all animals; to help stop pet overpopulation through the promotion of spay/neuter programs; and to find adoptive homes for animals in our care. Our vision is that there are no displaced or unwanted pets, all animals are treated with compassion and respect, and community services are available to all pet owners.

APS of Durham employs 26 people, including a full-time veterinarian and three medical technicians, and has a healthy pool of 247 active volunteers. Together, we perform the day-to-day activities associated with the care, shelter, feeding and socialization of approximately 250 animals on any given day. We are currently governed by a seven-member Board of Directors. We are an open admission shelter – the only one in Durham County – and are charged with following the laws, ordinances, and regulations of Durham County and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. We are also an active member of the North Carolina Animal Federation.

We offer low cost spay/neuter surgeries and medical assistance to the public. The APS pays for these programs without county funds. Additionally, a key tenant of our operations is to do our best to ensure that every animal that we adopt out of the shelter leave for their new home medically and behaviorally healthy, fully vaccinated, spayed/neutered, and microchipped. Because we have a full-time veterinarian and three medical technicians on staff at APS, we are able to perform the spay/neuter surgeries onsite at a lower cost than if we had to contract with a local veterinary clinic. Our veterinarian has been on staff full time since 2012. These services are possible through our contracting partnership with the County of Durham as well as donations from generous contributors, local business sponsorship, grant-makers.

Additionally, we recently added a full-time behavior manager to our team, streamlining our processes and increasing the efficiency of behavior evaluations and the coordination of medical evaluations. Our foster program is also a key component to the health of certain animals in our care, specifically puppies and kittens that are too young to safely be kept in the shelter, those recovering from complex medical procedures, and those with behaviors that can benefit from the individual attention of a foster home.

All our services are focused on improving the lives for pets and their owners in Durham County. We work hard to keep pets in their homes by assisting with medical bills, providing free or reduced spay/neuter surgeries through contracted services, food assistance, animal ID tags, microchips, behavior assistance through our behavior hotline, and training supplies. Through the 'Hands and Paws' fund created in memory of Becky Heron, we will sometimes pay the redemption fees required for pet owners to reclaim their stray animals. Last year, through our Spay/Neuter Fund, we were able to give 312 public animals spay/neuter surgeries. Additionally, APS of Durham provided spay/neuter surgeries to 1,332 animals in the shelter. In total, we facilitated 1,644 spay/neuter surgeries last year.

Our newly established Kitten Foster Program last year enabled us to place over 278 animals in trained and qualified foster homes, with 259 of the animals being newborn kittens – some with moms, but most without. This program allowed us to save more kittens than ever before, and we hope to save even more kittens in the upcoming year.

In order to continue the vital services we are providing to Durham County, it's residents and animals, we are proposing an approximate 7% increase in funding for the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year. This would bring our contract rate to \$701,284.69.

Significant increases to the budget this year include the request by Durham Sheriff's Finance Department to conduct an annual external audit (\$9,000), increase in the cost of medical and surgery expenses (\$10,000), and increasing insurance costs (nearly \$20,000). APS will contribute \$ 176,826.99 to the shelter budget. This is a 4% increase over last year. This will be paid in monthly installments of \$14,735.59. Shelter programs are projected to raise \$ 187,725.00. This is an 5% increase from FY 17/18.

The APS employs and pays for salary and benefits for 9 APS employees on a separate non-county funded budget. These APS employees directly serve the animals and people at the Durham County Animal Shelter.

- **Executive Director-** This employee oversees the operation of the shelter and all APS departments.
- **Shelter Veterinarian-** Our shelter veterinarian provides care to all animals in the shelter. She treats all strays and surrendered animals and offers support to the Durham's Sheriff's Animal Services for cruelty investigations and prosecutions.
- **Medical Assistant-** Assists the veterinary staff in caring for the animals in the shelter.
- **Volunteer Coordinator/ Manager-** Recruits and manages volunteers who donate approximately 25,000 free labor hours per year.
- **Adoption/ Outreach Counselor-** Helps with adoptions, redemptions and keeping pets in homes.
- **Development Director-** Raises funds to support the shelter, assist citizens with redemption costs, pay for low cost spay/neuter for the community and more.
- **Development Associate-** Assists with solicitation for donated goods and funds and arranges many outreach events throughout the year.
- **Communication/ Events Manager-** This position was added to make sure that the shelter animals and programs get promoted. They also handle media.
- **Behavior Manager -** The Animal Behavior Manager is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring all APS of Durham programs intended to identify, correct and prevent problem behavior in animals, and reducing the number of surrendered animals from the public.

The Animal Protection Society of Durham will continue to pay the full expenses for the employees listed above.

In addition to our contracted financial support request, we would like the following much-needed repairs and improvements to the County-owned shelter structure:

- Thorough repair of the kennel floors as cited in our North Carolina Department of Agriculture inspection from 2016 and 2017 as being deemed inadequate. This is required to remain in compliance with current North Carolina shelter licensing laws. Please see the attached inspection.
- Updated phone system. Our current phone system is completely outdated and we have been told by Frontier that it cannot be repaired and no additional phone lines can be added. This request was included in the last two budget cycles, but the system has not yet been replaced.

With your help, we will continue being a valuable resource for our community and an organization that brings pride to Durham County. Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing our budget. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Shafonda Davis
Executive Director