



PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-TERM ADOPTION CENTER FOR CATS AND DOGS WITH A WILDLIFE TRIAGE STATION IN PITTSBORO, NC

Guardians of Angels is a 501(c)(3) non-profit in Chatham County. The mission of Guardians of Angels is to build a Chatham County Adoption Center to place homeless dogs and cats with life-long guardians, to provide resources for affordable spay/neuter and medical care for adoption center animals, and to assist law enforcement with identifying neglect, abuse and mistreatment of animals in Chatham County.

Benefits of an Adoption Center:

- *Attracts visitors and consumers from surrounding counties*
- *Provides long term sheltering for adoptable animals*
- *Enhances the adoption process, matching dogs and cats with life- long homes*
- *Promotes community education and improves the care of all animals in the county*
- *Animal control is assisted in addressing cruelty, neglect and adoptions*
- *Allows for more rescued and fewer euthanized animals*
- *Builds community relations and provides learning opportunities for all ages*

Proposal Summary:

The Guardians of Angels (GOA) board of directors proposes to build and staff an adoption center in Pittsboro that would serve as a visible, accessible adoption facility where Chatham County shelter animals could be housed for long periods of time while they are matched with life long homes . Currently, space restrictions in the county shelter make it difficult to house healthy animals for long periods of time until they can be adopted. An adoption center located in a high-traffic area would facilitate placement of healthy cats and dogs, freeing up space in the shelter, would be a more comfortable and low-stress environment for longer-term animal care, making animals more adoptable.

Proposed Size: 5,700 square feet on 5 acres

Estimated Cost: \$1.2 million

Funding Sources: Town of Pittsboro (Donation of 5 acre site and 10%), Chatham County (20%), Community Campaign (40%), grants and corporate gifts (20%)

Timetable: 4 years – for completion in 2015

Basic Design

The Guardians of Angels Adoption Center would include areas for the long term housing of dogs and puppies, cats and kittens, food preparation, laundry, storage, pet viewing, and outdoor exercise. The heating, ventilating and air conditioning system should focus on odor control and disease mitigation. Plumbing systems should be designed to handle the large amount of water consumption that shelters require for cleaning, and drain lines should be oversized with convenient clean out points. The center would strive to be as efficient as possible in energy

usage.

Housing

Canine

Dogs 23 kennels

Puppies: 5 kennels

Quarantine: 2 kennels

1 acre outdoor play and exercise area

Properly designed holding kennels will have 10 to 12 air changes per hour, 100% exhaust, air flow at dog level, acoustical materials in the room, sloped floors for quick drainage, oversized drain lines, durable floor and wall finishes, good lighting over the dog kennels, natural light from outdoors, gates with quick latches, and a means of removing the dog from the kennel on a daily basis for cleaning. Ideally, puppies should be housed independently from adult dogs for better disease control and less stress. Puppy pens should be easy to maintain and clean, and they should contain drain inlets, waterproof floors and walls. Large stainless steel cages can also be used, and they should be placed so that the animals are never directly across from each other. Acoustical control should be a high priority.

Feline

Cats: 18 rooms

Kittens: 12 rooms

1 Indoor playroom

1 Enclosed outdoor play and exercise area

There are many excellent cage manufacturers on the market that are designed specifically for cats and kittens. Features include fully rounded corners for easy cleaning, hidden litter box compartments with individual exhaust, transfer doors allowing free roam to adjacent cages, perch shelves and many color selections in high density laminates, engineered stone or stainless steel. Cat cages should never be placed across from each other where germs can spread through sneezing. Additionally, airflow in cat rooms should be carefully designed to prevent return air crossing other cat cages.

2 Get Acquainted/Adoption Matching Areas

These rooms should be provided for a potential adopter to visit with a pet they are considering for adoption with separate rooms for cats and dogs. Vision glass should be located around the room letting staff keep an eye on the visitation session and monitor activity. Furniture should be easy to clean and a sink in the room will help prevent disease spread. An outdoor play area provides exercise for the animals and a way for adopters to play and become acquainted with them.

Administration

An office for staff and volunteers provides space for administration, communication and files. Staff/volunteer restrooms with a shower will be separate from the public restrooms with an adjacent break room.

Food Preparation/Work Areas

A large food preparation and work area will be adjacent to the animal housing areas which will reduce volunteer travel time in the center and prevent the spread of disease.

Storage

Ample storage is key to the efficient function of an adoption center. Because of the diversity of items stored, the food storage room will be conditioned and sealed against the outside preventing rodents, mold, mildew. Litter, cages, bedding, cleaning and medical supplies require their own needs and space.

Laundry

The GOA Adoption Center will require two commercial washers and dryers that can handle the daily laundry needs. The laundry room will have counter space for folding, shelf space for storing and two deep utility sinks for special cleaning as well as floor space for rolling carts.

Future Medical and Wildlife Triage Clinic

As the spay and neutering of animals is key to controlling the pet overpopulation problem and the rehabilitation for those animals who might have otherwise been deemed unadoptable, it will be important to provide the space for a future medical clinic. Additionally, as Chatham County grows, so will the number of injured wildlife who will need assistance. Many shelters have active injury rescue programs and cruelty investigations that require the necessary veterinary back-up care.

Guardians of Angels Board of Directors

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An example of an adoption center layout.

