



Executive Summary

New Dearborn Animal Shelter Facility

Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter (the Friends) have undertaken the completion of a new animal shelter and education facility in partnership with the City of Dearborn.

Current Facility

There are numerous compelling reasons to construct a new facility. The more major concerns are that the current facility is:

- Inadequate to provide a healthy environment for the animals (poor air exchange, poor sewage disposal, porous housing materials)
- Insufficient to provide a positive experience for visiting members of the community (unappealing location, crowded conditions, high noise and odor levels, no get-acquainted or counseling areas)
- Very difficult for the staff and volunteers to work in (constrained and difficult work areas and limited storage space)
- 24 years old and in need of major and most probably increasingly expensive repairs

New Facility Advantages, Location, and Design

Advantages of constructing a new facility include:

- Employ innovative and sustainable ecological design (“Green Building”) and state of the art animal care housing, equipment, and practices
- Provide the opportunity for robust community involvement, education, and enrichment
- Significantly improve the level of City service while including a innovative revenue generating front wing for owned animal services
- Be conveniently located to fully integrate with other public services

The planned new facility is being located and designed to alleviate these issues. The designated location is the property south of the Henry Ford Centennial Library. An initial design for this property has been developed by ARQ Architects (LEED certified) and was reviewed with City Officials (Mayor, City Council, Chief of Police), and groups of concerned citizens, volunteers, and Shelter staff. The design has been very positively received.

Proposed Funding

The Friends have undertaken a major capital fund raising campaign of private, corporate, and foundation funds in partnership with the City to obtain the estimated \$4 million needed for construction and a \$1 million endowment. Construction will begin when \$3 million has been raised.

Governance

A joint Governing Board made up of City officials and Friends members has been established to provide direction and oversight for this project. An Advisory Board of interested citizens provides insight, opinions, advocacy, and financial assistance.

Qualifications

The organization is 13 years old, has successfully operated the Shelter in partnership with and under contract to the City of Dearborn since 1996, manages a full staff with a Licensed Veterinary Technician as Executive Director. The Friends have made numerous improvements including full adoption screening and adoption contracts, vaccinations and medical treatment programs, mandatory sterilization in partnership with area veterinarians, and identification with microchips. Facility improvements include cat room with cages, isolation ward, and puppy and kitten rooms. Community involvement includes over 150 events annually. There are over 9,500 supporters on the database including nearly 600 volunteers. Of all the supporters approximately 50% are from outside Dearborn. The Friends have one of the highest adoption rates in the country and for 5 years have saved 100% of adoptable animals in their care. Of every dollar donated, \$0.91 goes directly to the animals.



Friends For The
Dearborn Animal Shelter

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"Our Friends' New Home"

Animals are the Heart of Our Mission

New Greater-Dearborn Animal Adoption and Education Center

- Friends For the Dearborn Animal Shelter (the Friends) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that was organized and incorporated in 1993 to provide assistance to the animals of the Dearborn Animal Shelter and to the surrounding communities.
- The Dearborn Animal Shelter is owned by the city of Dearborn and has been operated under contract by the Friends since 1996. The 27-year-old shelter is 4,000 square feet, is in need of extensive repairs, and is inadequate to serve the needs of the community's animal population. Over 3,000 animals were taken in by the Friends at the Shelter in 2004.
- The new shelter will be approximately 25,000 square feet and will be located near Dearborn's Henry Ford Centennial Library. The city of Dearborn is making land available, but the facility construction and furnishings will be funded entirely by the Friends and its contributors. Estimated cost is \$4 million for the building plus \$1 million for an endowment fund. Interested donors should contact the Shelter.
- The new shelter will be an environmentally friendly or "green building." A green building makes a minimal draw on non-renewable resources and gives high priority to respecting the physical environment. This extraordinary facility will apply innovative planning and strategies, which will result in state-of-the-art animal care and housing.
- The new shelter will be more than just a temporary home for animals waiting to be adopted. It is being designed to encourage visitors and to serve as a resource for the community. Some of the planned features include: innovative animal housing, a dog-walking trail, outdoor play areas, pet bonding and get acquainted areas, and space for the planned community education programs. There also will be revenue-generating features such as pet grooming, doggie day care, and dog/puppy obedience training classes.
- In 2005, the Friends held or participated in more than 100 events including:
 - 40 community education events including low-cost sterilization and microchip clinics, a 3rd grade Wags & Whiskers education program, Reading with Rover program for challenged children, and a dog therapy visitation program at Henry Ford Village.
 - 29 offsite adoptions at supporting area businesses; 100 percent of the shelter's adoptable animals were placed for the fifth consecutive year.
 - 25 fund-raising events; the fifth annual Black Tie & Tails Benefit in October raised more than \$100,000 (\$30,000 for the new shelter from the auction of a Ford Motor donated vehicle); the 12th annual 2005 Critter Invitational Golf Outing was held at Dearborn Country Club.
- This new shelter is a community project that extends beyond the Dearborn boundaries and is being done as a community partnership that already includes the City of Dearborn, Ford Motor Company, Walbridge Aldinger, and Lawrence Technological University.
- New Shelter Goals
 - Raise the required \$5 million in funding (25% of all capital donations go into an endowment