



April 25th, 2018  
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Charlottesville, VA  
Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CASPCA KENNEL RENOVATION PROJECT**

#### **Background Information:**

The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA (CASPCA), founded in 1914, is a nonprofit, open admission animal shelter whose purpose is finding permanent adoptive homes for animals. In addition to functioning as a nonprofit organization, the CASPCA performs an important community function by providing pound services to the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County for seized, stray, homeless, abandoned, or unwanted animals. The organization also serves our community by offering lost & found services, low-cost spay and neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and microchipping, as well as educational opportunities, youth camps, pet therapy and dog obedience classes. The CASPCA provides employment for an average of 70 people, and serves over 2,500 shelter animals a year. More than 4,500 spay/neuter surgeries were performed in 2017, nearly 1,800 of which were for owned pets within our community. The CASPCA continues to serve at the forefront of No Kill communities in this country, helping thousands of animals each year receive the care they need to find homes or remain with their families.

#### **Need for Improvements:**

The CASPCA's current facility was designed and built over a decade ago for a population of animals who were either adopted quickly or euthanized. The organization became No Kill in 2006 and committed to saving all healthy and treatable animals brought to the shelter. With this policy shift, however, the length of stay and number of animals with serious health and behavioral problems has increased, and the facility is consistently overcrowded. The kennel enclosures were not designed to hold dogs long-term and it becomes increasingly difficult on them the longer they remain in the shelter. Additionally, veterinary services have substantially expanded to address the comprehensive health care of shelter animals, yet function from a space originally designed for limited, short-term care. Despite dramatically increased needs and demands, there is little that can be done with the existing shelter design to accommodate these changes.

## **Highlights of Expansion/Renovation Plans:**

Kennel renovations will address several immediate needs:

- **Improved housing for dogs**
  - As our services have expanded, we have been able to save more lives of those animals requiring extensive medical and behavioral rehabilitation. Subsequently, these animals have a longer length of stay in the shelter. The proposed kennel renovations will allow for enhanced housing options for the dogs, providing stimulation, increased social interaction, and promoting expression of natural behaviors.
- **Saving more lives through collaboration with other organizations**
  - Kennel renovations will strengthen our established relationship with the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County Animal Control. New space will be designated as intake and isolation for animals brought in by Animal Control, as well as a private office for Animal Control Officers. In addition, the renovation project will give us the ability to widen our area of support for shelters in neighboring and outlying communities, providing aid for animals residing in kill facilities.

## **Funding:**

It is because of one very generous bequest that the CASPCA is able to initiate a kennel renovation project scheduled to begin on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The project will be carried out in three separate stages lasting approximately nine months total. A CASPCA donor/volunteer with an endless love for animals helped make this all possible. The CASPCA continues to raise funds to improve our services to the community and facility with the purpose of ensuring that animals in our care receive the best possible treatment.

## **How to help:**

Space at the shelter will be very limited during the kennel renovations and the CASPCA is in need of adopters and temporary foster homes for their dogs. Beginning Wednesday, April 25th through Sunday, April 29th, the CASPCA is reducing adoption fees to just \$30 for those dogs that have been at the shelter for over thirty days. These dogs will have received services normally costing hundreds of dollars, including spay/neuter, age-appropriate vaccinations, deworming, a microchip with lifetime registration, plus a free medical exam from participating vets, and a lifetime of priceless companionship and fun. If you are interested in adopting or fostering a shelter dog, please call 434.973.5959. During construction, the CASPCA's operations will continue as normal and the shelter will be open every day from noon to 6pm. Visit [caspca.org](http://caspca.org) to see the animals currently available for adoption.

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*About the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA: The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is proud to have maintained the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County as a No Kill community, providing life-saving care to thousands of animals in the region. The mission of the CASPCA is to advance the compassionate treatment of animals by providing sheltering, medical care and behavioral services for dogs and cats; promoting permanent, caring homes; and furthering education and outreach to place healthy animals in caring homes.*

*For more information about the CASPCA, call 434-973-5959, or visit our website at [caszca.org](http://caszca.org). The CASPCA's main adoption center is located at 3355 Berkmar Drive in Charlottesville and is open seven days a week from 12PM– 6PM.*