

**Joint Meeting
Alamance County Board of Commissioners & Burlington City
Council
May 11, 2015**

ANIMAL SERVICES



Jessica Arias, Animal Services Director
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Historical Shelter Practices and Emerging Trends in Animal Sheltering

“.....Shelters are no longer designed to simply warehouse animals. Expectations now are the environment must be safe, clean, healthy and enriching to be a humane care setting.

An animal control facility is now viewed as a community resource center where citizens can turn to adopt a pet and for help to learn how to properly care for and train their pets. The animal control shelter is a partner with other not-for-profit humane care and rescue groups to educate others about the dangers of and how to prevent pet overpopulation and the need to reduce distressingly high euthanasia rates.”

- *The Bacon Group, Inc.*



History of Animal Control Services in Alamance County

~ **1965/70:** Burlington Animal Shelter was built in Haw River

Up to ~1990: The City of Burlington also operated the Alamance County Animal Shelter, which was located in Graham.

~ **1991:** Burlington Animal Shelter in Haw River was renovated and expanded. Sheltering operations at the Graham facility were discontinued.

2004: The Pet Adoption Center was constructed to house adoptable animals and reduce euthanasia



Purpose of Animal Services

- **Rabies prevention and control**
- **Enforcement of animal laws**
- **Provide sheltering of animals from Alamance County that are stray, lost, abandoned, surrendered, involved in criminal cases, have bitten a human, or have been exposed to rabies.**
- **Promote responsible pet ownership and address pet overpopulation**
- **Provide humane care to animals**

Community Partnerships

Collaborative relationships with many community partners are central to Animal Services' organizational mission and goals.

Working together, we are more effective, efficient and can accomplish more for people and pets in our community.

Citizens

- Helping advance in our mission through volunteerism, responsible pet ownership, spay/neuter and support for animal services

Pet Animal Welfare Society

- Continued support of programs for spay/neuter, adoption and special events, Facility improvements

Sparkle Cat Rescue

- Partner specializing in helping cats in our community

Spay/Neuter Partners

- Independent Animal Rescue (IAR), Caswell Pet Lifeline, Humane Society of Alamance County (HSAC) & Pet Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) programs for low-income pet owners.

Happy Chances Animal Friends

- Local based partner specializing in helping shelter pets

Veterinary Partners

- Providing animal health services to community pets

The Biscuit Foundation

- Working together to assist special needs pets that need placement from the shelter

60+ Placement Partners

- Formal relationships under a specific set of guidelines with non-profit animal rescue groups aka "Placement Partners" to assist with the placement of adoptable pets into permanent homes, thereby decreasing the number of surplus pets that are euthanized each year.

Friends of Mebane's Animals (FOMA)

- Working together to assist needy pet owners in our community with basic needs & spay/neuter

Alamance County, Local Municipalities

- Coordination with agencies related to animal intake, sheltering, animal control services and promoting spay/neuter

Humane Society of Alamance County

- Working together cooperatively to promote pet adoption, spay/neuter and assisting members of our community with animal issues

Animal Shelter Replacement Needs



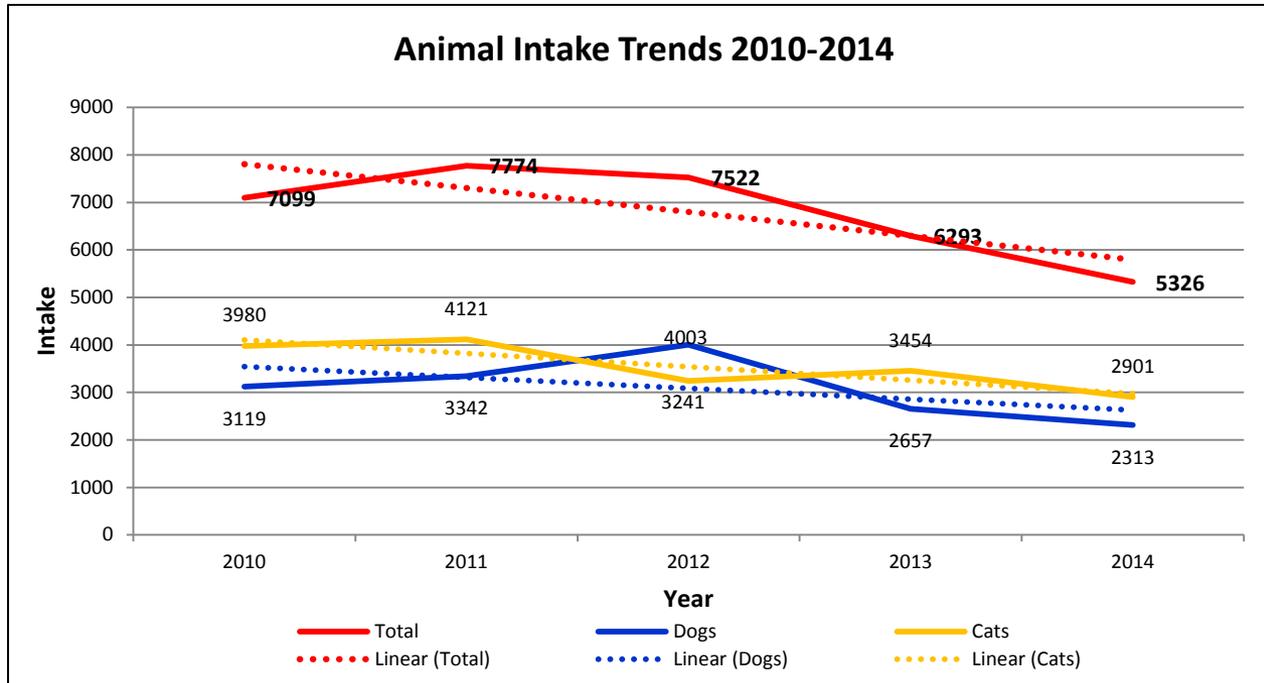
- Aged facility beyond usable life span.
- Multiple functional issues
- Negative impacts to animal health, staff morale and safety, public perception and safety

- Limited capacity for animal holding
 - adoptable animals euthanized due to lack of holding space
 - no separate, secure area to house dangerous/ aggressive animals away from public access areas.
 - critical housing issues arise during cases involving court ordered seizures and impoundment of animals

Approximately 1/5 of the shelter facility that was not originally designed for animals has been converted to accommodate animal enclosures due to the lack of adequate kennel space for the number of animals received.



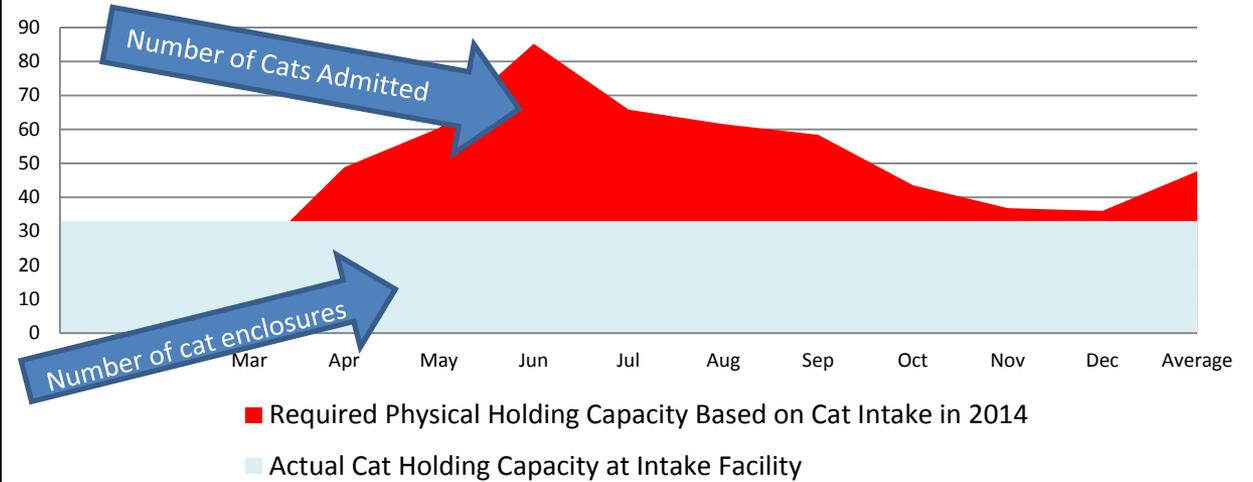
Over 5,300 animals served annually.



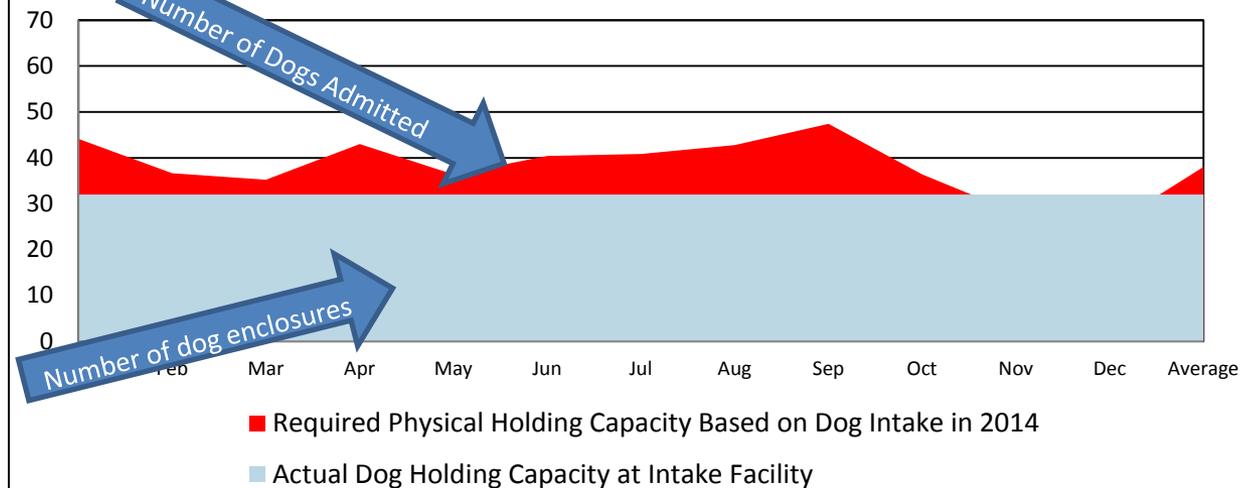
- *Intakes are declining since inception of spay/neuter clinic in 2010*
- *Expect trend to continue as long as we continue to support and promote spay neuter services that are affordable and accessible to citizens, especially for demographics from which most intakes originate.*

The amount of animal holding space remains critically inadequate at the shelter for both dogs and cats, despite declining intake numbers.

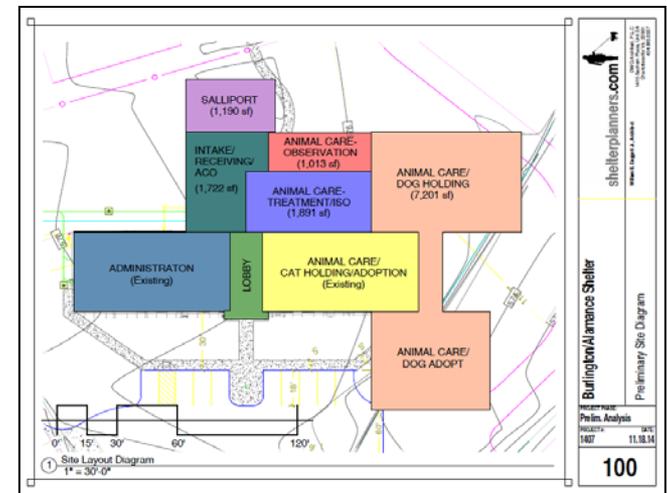
Cat Holding Capacity vs. Actual Cat Intake



Dog Holding Capacity vs. Actual Dog Intake

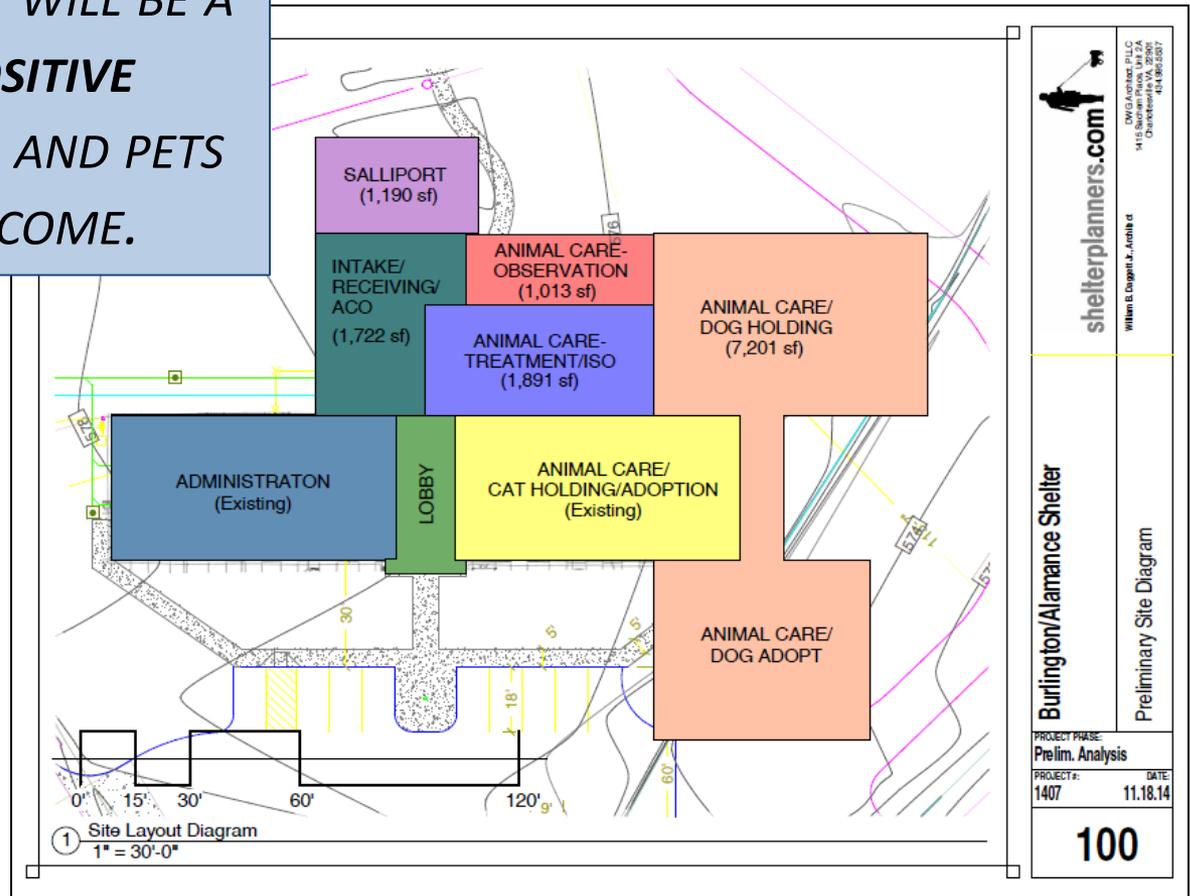


- Renovation and expansion of existing 10 year old adoption center vs. all new construction is more fiscally responsible and affordable.
- Consolidating operations into one facility will increase quality and efficiency of operations, expect reduced maintenance/ utility costs
- Ensures adequate and appropriate spaces for animals as well as staff for next 20+ years.
- Facilitates customer oriented approach to service delivery



Projected Total Cost : \$4.9 million

*A DESTINATION FOR PET ADOPTION
AND ANIMAL SERVICES FOR
ALAMANCE COUNTY THAT WILL BE A
WELCOMING AND POSITIVE
EXPERIENCE FOR CITIZENS AND PETS
FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.*



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Burlington/Alamance Shelter
Preliminary Site Diagram

PROJECT PHASE:
Prelim. Analysis
PROJECT #: 1407 DATE: 11.18.14

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Comparison of Other Area Animal Shelter Renovation/ Expansion Projections

Chatham County NC: “...a major expansion and renovation of the Animal Shelter at an estimated cost of **\$4.7 million...**” - *The Chapel Hill News*

- *Note: Chatham County domestic animal intakes for CY 2014 were < 2,000 (CY 2014 Intakes at Burlington Animal Services= 5,326)*

Guilford County NC: “....Commissioners estimate a renovation or move would cost anywhere between **three and six million** dollars....” -*WFMY News*

Vance County NC: **\$1.6 million** for a new shelter that is 7,000 ft² – *WRAL.com*

- *Note: Vance County domestic animal intakes for CY 2014 were < 3,000*

Questions



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