

Case for Support

The Winchester Area SPCA (WASPCA) is excited to announce a charitable initiative to build a new Admission Center. Built in 1974, the current Admission Center has housed over 71,000 pets, but no longer meets best practices for animal welfare. The center is the first stop for pets entering the WASPCA campus. A new, sterile center focused on animal wellness and safety is needed. As a trusted community partner and the only brick-and-mortar animal sheltering facility in the city, we must ensure the pets have the best possible outcomes as they prepare to be adopted.

First, the Issues

- Constant repairs have put a heavy burden on the budget
- With no indoor/outdoor runs, dogs eat and defecate in the same 4-foot wide space
- Small, noisy, stainless-steel cat cages cause stress and limit movement
- Inadequate water and ventilation systems increase the risk of viral outbreaks
- The current setting causes medical and behavioral issues
- Both people and pets are at risk in the current environment

If your pet was lost, you wouldn't want them to stay in a place like this.

Now, the Solutions!

- Indoor/outdoor runs and updated drainage systems
- Cat condos and updated ventilation systems and portals allow for happier cats
- Generous water sources eliminate cross-contamination and decrease viruses
- Pets are less stressed, healthier, happier, and more adoptable
- There is no risk of harm or euthanasia to any animal

It's time for a change!

Total Cost
\$5 Million

We Need You as a Partner!

Animal welfare has been and will continue to be our top priority. Each year, over 1,200 animals enter the facility scared and vulnerable.

With your help, the new Admission Center can meet the demand.

Your gift will ensure animals that enter the WASPCA have the best positive transition from homeless to a loving home!

Frequently Asked Questions

<p>Q: Has the WASPCA created a long-range plan?</p>	<p>A: We did in 2019! Our Board of Directors worked with a pro bono consultant over several months to identify the new WASPCA goals and put them into a workable timetable. We are proud to say that we accomplished all of our goals, except one: building a new admission center.</p>
<p>Q: How much research has been done for the new Admission Center?</p>	<p>A: A lot! In 2022, the WASPCA Campus Committee decided to do several things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We surveyed our own admissions staff to find out what their ideal work space would look like. 2) We created a questionnaire for animal care associates, which was shared through the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies 3) We toured 4 shelter admission centers in Virginia that recently renovated or built new buildings. We spoke to staff and took photographs. We reviewed the information, and consulted with an architect who put together a concept plan.
<p>Q: Is the WASPCA a public or private shelter?</p>	<p>A: Great question! It's both. Every municipality in Virginia is required by law to have an animal shelter, either through their own department, or an agreement with a local animal shelter. The WASPCA has had a contract with the City of Winchester since the 1980's. Our Admission Center is our public shelter, where Animal Control Officers and citizens bring stray or seized animals, and where pet owners can surrender their animals. Our Adoption Center is our private shelter.</p>
<p>Q: Why do you need to replace the current Admissions Center?</p>	<p>A: Valid question! The current building is 50 years old. It has only approximately 1,500 square feet to house animals. It has been a temporary home for over 71,000 animals over the years. It is simply no longer functional, healthy or safe. It has served its purpose. The new building will have double the square footage, appropriate ventilation and water systems.</p>
<p>Q: Is the WASPCA a no-kill shelter?</p>	<p>A: Yes! The WASPCA does not euthanize healthy or treatable animals due to space.</p>