



CAPE ANN ANIMAL AID, ASSOCIATION, INC.

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WING OF HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why does CAAA need updates and the Wing of Hope addition?

1) Renovations and updates for the existing facility.

Our current facility is serving us well but is now more than ten years old and needs a little renovation. Animal care is a beautiful thing, but it is not gentle on the building and equipment! Think dogs and cats....think of your couch, linoleum or woodwork and curtains at home. The cute and furry can be a tough rental crowd!

Our current cat rooms need updated housing quarters. We will be installing new housing that both gives our cats the space they need to feel comfortable and stay healthy while being made of materials that ensure ease of cleaning for our staff and volunteer team. We will also be adding improved storage solutions and adoption meeting space. We will be changing the layout of the Cat Adoption Room and combining it with the Cat Holding area to open the space and better utilize the layout of the cat housing along with the storage, preparation, and cleaning space.

Installation of better supply storage and a laundry facility on the second floor will allow our team to not spend extra time and effort dragging supplies from the first to second floor and back up again.

Our current isolation space consists of 3 isolation rooms and 2 storage spaces all in need of a facelift. The floors need to have a fresh epoxy coat, the plumbing needs some adjusting (new sinks and hose hook ups to improve ease of cleaning), the walls need fresh covering and improved sound proofing and added storage. One of the storage spaces will be turned into a small isolation room and the animal enclosures need updating.

2) Wing of Hope, a planned 2,500 square foot two story addition will provide additional isolation rooms and more space for adoption and dogs in our care.

First Floor - 3 rooms for isolation/holding purposes.

- These rooms meet the Department of Agriculture and Animal Health regulations for shelter transport and quarantine of cats and dogs.
- These rooms can serve as a holding area for animals brought in from Gloucester Animal Control.

- These rooms can serve as sick rooms when animals have health conditions requiring them to be kept separate from the rest of the animal population so we can effectively prevent disease spread while providing supportive and sick care for the animal/s in need.
- These rooms are used to provide privacy and separation for mothers and their nursing young until foster homes can be arranged.
- These rooms can provide privacy, separation, and a low traffic area for animals with behavioral challenges for whom the second floor public areas of the shelter can be overwhelming and very high stress.

Examples of how 3 isolation rooms limited our lifesaving work in June 2023:

1. A family was unable to keep their dog. After arriving at the shelter the stress of this new environment and the loss of her family and home affected her in a not uncommon way and she became reactive to the other dogs in the shelter, started repetitive barking, lunging towards kennels with other dogs in them when she was being taken out for her walks and play time and when in her own kennel lunging towards the kennel door when dogs or people walked by her spot. All of these, not adoptable behavior.

- Giving her a private space in isolation allowed her to settle and destress. Her all day barking and lunging towards the kennel stopped, she is more comfortable and confident meeting new people and does less barking at other dogs when she sees them out on a walk. She is an affectionate, mellow, and lovable dog when she doesn't have to be housed with barking dogs around her or in a space where multiple strangers are walking by her all day. One isolation room occupied.

2. A puppy in our care had a skin lesion discovered on his back paw. He needed to be kept separate while a fungal culture was run to see if it was ringworm which while not a big health risk is still a condition that needs to be treated to prevent discomfort to the animal and spread to other animals and people.

- The fungal culture takes 7 days to run, and he needs to be isolated from the other animals during this time.
- If his culture comes back positive, then he needs to be isolated from the other shelter animals for at least 3 weeks while getting treatment.
- His culture was positive. Two isolation rooms occupied.

3. A transport was scheduled to help our overburdened rescue partners in Georgia.

- This trip was to be dogs and cats all with hopes of finding their second chance and a loving family.
- We only have one small isolation room available, a room that is best suited for cats. The 6 dogs who were waiting for their turn to come had to be cancelled.
- All three isolation rooms were occupied. Dogs left behind.

The calls from our rescue partners, both local and beyond, had to be answered with, I'm sorry we don't have space. We can try again next week.

These are the types of scenarios we encounter on a regular basis. It can be animals with behavioral challenges needing space, treating a sick animal, a pregnant or nursing mom who needs a room to herself to properly raise her family, a local hoarding case, any of these can mean not having the space or resources to help other pets in need.

Having a recovery room right across from our veterinary procedure room means our Shelter Medicine team can closely monitor animals without having to keep them in the procedure room where a critically ill animal may be recovering.

Take for example a cat recovering from a surgery to relieve a urinary blockage having to share space with some dogs waiting for their anesthesia to take effect before their spay/neuter surgery. Think of some experiences where you didn't feel well, maybe in the hospital yourself, in pain, confused and now add to that having noisy neighbors howling and creating a ruckus is not conducive to calm healing!

Having a recovery/observation room right across the hall means animals waiting for surgery and those recovering from surgery don't have to share the same space but still are right under the watchful eye of our shelter medicine team.

Adding the 3 additional isolation rooms and one veterinary recovery room to our first floor will allow for normal rescue and lifesaving activities to continue even when we have unexpected stray intake, a nursing mom and babies, contagious disease or behavioral challenges requiring separate housing.

For some animals trying again next week isn't an option. Extra rooms will not allow us to take in all the animals that need us or to answer all the calls for help, with yes we can. But it will allow us to say yes more often. It will allow us to give that, over stressed in the kennel dog, their chance at a loving home while not meaning we have to say no to the other 6 that were hoping for a spot.

Second floor – more room for dogs and people:

One of the biggest excitements on the planned second floor is the indoor Community & Playroom. This room will provide indoor space for both our current programs and allow for future program development.

1. training of shelter dogs in a controlled environment
2. training for post adoption dogs and community owned pets
3. behavior modification work and evaluations of shelter dogs
4. indoor play area for shelter dogs when weather is poor
5. indoor meeting area for introducing prospective new dogs to the existing dogs in the family
6. community education series
7. meeting & event space
8. group volunteering activities

Adding additional adoption and behavior space on the second floor will allow our team directly responsible for adoptions and behavior to work more directly with the animals and team members. This space will give more privacy to address pre and post adoption concerns and counselling. This addition will also provide more potential meeting space for prospective families to interact with a new family dog.

Today in our dog adoption area, we have two wonderful Meet & Greet rooms where many first fall in love meetings between people and pooches take place. When both M&G rooms are occupied the overall spills into the lobby, where you may step off the elevator and find yourself in the middle of a conversation with an adoption counselor and a prospective adopter and maybe have a dog greet you as well. Not a bad thing, but also not the most conducive space for folks having important conversations and interactions with a potential new family member. The Wing of Hope will help give extra options to provide separation for those in the process of adopting a pet and those walking through to visit.

What about energy use?

We will be installing solar panels on the roof of the existing shelter as part of this renovation project. The solar array will help keep our organization working for green solutions to our energy usage.

Where is the funding coming from?

Yvonne Wood's generosity, matching donation gifts from supporters like you and grants as applicable.

How can I support the Wing of Hope project?

- outright gifts
- gifts or stock
- a pledge payable over 3 years
- hosting private fundraiser specifically for the [project

Will you be taking in more animals for adoption?

The goal is to be able to provide the animals in our care with the best environments to suit their individual needs and to increase our ability to provide services and support to our community. Yes, we do anticipate that our animal intake and adoption numbers will increase overall because we won't regularly have to refuse or reschedule animal intake due to a sick animal, a behavioral challenge or mom and babies needing separate space.

What will happen to the animals and shelter operations while renovations and construction is taking place?

Shelter operations will continue during construction. The project will be staged so that we have access to at least 3 isolation rooms during all the projects. When construction impacts some of our adoption and animal areas we are prepared to utilize other areas of our facility along with our incredible team of foster providers to continue caring for and finding homes for animals during this process.

Who is doing the work for this project?

Our Physical Plant Committee working on and overseeing this project is composed of volunteers: Steven Howard, Carolyn Benson, Robert Gulla, Cris Peterson, and Deborah Eliason.

Our Capital Campaign Committee volunteers: Cindy Dunn Chairperson, Deborah Eliason, Kate Glidden, and Lindsay Owens.

Architect: Robert Gulla is the architect for this project who has generously donated all his time and professional services for this project.

Engineer: McBrie, LLC.

Construction Company: Joset Corporation.

Will we need more staff and how will we pay for this increase?

Yes, we will need to hire more staff.

We are expanding and increasing our fundraising efforts through a variety of sources including growing our individual and business membership and donor base through mail appeals, foundation requests, community services and a bequest society.