

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## Why is this needed?

The current shelter lacks space for several key components of optimum animal care. This expansion will address those issues. For instance, there are times when a dog or cat comes to us with an infectious disease such as kennel cough or upper respiratory infections. By providing isolation areas for animal intake, we can prevent the spread of contagions throughout the general shelter population. The expansion also will provide space for neo-natal and post-natal care for cats and dogs, as well as dedicated clinic space for spay/neuter surgeries and pet wellness care.

## Won't operating a clinic distract focus from adoptions, which is the League's primary mission?

Adoptions are and will remain the primary focus of the League, and this planned expansion will actually facilitate increased adoptions by providing dedicated pet-intake areas that we currently do not have. So instead of having a dog run stand empty for a day or more following an adoption, we will be able to bring a new dog into that space from the intake holding area almost immediately. This gives that animal the chance to be seen and adopted more quickly. The same will be true for cats in our cat and kitten rooms.

## How will building a clinic increase adoptions?

In addition to the benefits already mentioned, a permanent clinic gives us the ability to treat our shelter animals more efficiently, as well as to provide a level of basic pet wellness care for animals adopted from us. This enables us to establish ongoing relationships with our adopters so that adopting an animal from the League is not a one-off experience. Importantly, a permanent on-site clinic means our Mobile Vet Clinic can then be out in the community more regularly, serving more isolated rural areas where access to veterinary care for companion animals is more limited.

## It's not going to pay for itself, so how are you going to afford to maintain this going forward?

The League's board of directors has developed a financial plan for the expansion that includes clinic fees, savings from operational efficiencies and new revenue-generating programs. More space provides more opportunities for additional services and programming, which we will be implementing. All of these opportunities are consistent with our goal of providing better care for the animals at the League and in our community.

### **What new revenue-generating plans do you have to help fund this expansion?**

We are in the process of developing a number of ideas for new fee-based services and programs. These range from retail sales of basic pet care products at reduced prices, to animal training classes and pet grooming services. There's a long list of potential opportunities, and we will be testing various ideas with our current database of donors and adopters over the next year to see which make the most sense for us ultimately to pursue.

### **Is current management and staff capable of handling this expansion?**

Yes. Our staff is driven by the desire to help care for homeless animals and they are committed to ensuring that this expansion of space and services is a sustainable success. To that end, management has been integrally involved in the design and planning to ensure maximum operational efficiency, and staff at every level has been consulted about work flow and specific area needs every step of the way.

### **Will additional staffing be required?**

We anticipate hiring additional staff for the clinic expansion. As adoptions increase, we potentially may need an additional adoption counselor.

### **What's going to happen with the Mobile Vet unit?**

Once a permanent clinic is established on site, our mobile unit will be able to hit the road more frequently, providing essential services to shelters and pet owners in outlying rural areas of our community where access to vet care is limited. That we can do this at a reduced cost through grants and donations is meaningful to many families that otherwise could not afford to take their companion animals to a private vet. Critically important are the spay/neuter services offered by the MVC which will directly impact the number of homeless animals entering overcrowded rural shelters

### **When will the expansion be completed?**

We expect to break ground this fall and to be able to open the new facility by mid-2019.