

Building More Than a Shelter

A Vision for the Future of Saugerties Animal Shelter



Serving Animals. Supporting Our Community.

Every day, the Saugerties Animal Shelter provides care, connection, and hope for both animals and people.



Last year

327 Animals cared for

323 Animals adopted

Behind every number is an animal - and a community member who chose to help.

Before we talk about the new building, I'd like to begin with what already happens every day at the shelter.

Many people think of a shelter simply as a place where homeless animals wait to be adopted.

It certainly *is* that - but it's also much more.

Every day, staff and volunteers provide medical care, enrichment, exercise, behavioral support, and adoption counseling. Volunteers donate thousands of hours walking dogs, socializing cats, cleaning, transporting animals, fostering, fundraising, and helping families find the right pet.

These numbers represent real lives being changed - not only for the animals, but for the people who become part of their journey.

More Than Animal Care.

A community resource that connects people, animals and opportunity.



Volunteers



Exercise



Community



Adoption

Every day, the shelter creates opportunities for people to make a difference.

When people think of an animal shelter, they often picture rows of kennels and animals waiting to be adopted, while the staff provide the necessary daily attention.

But what happens here every day goes far beyond that.

It's where volunteers discover they can make a *real* difference, where students complete service projects, where families meet a new companion, and where animals begin to trust people again.

These experiences strengthen our community just as much as they improve the lives of the animals in our care.

Looking to the future, it's clear that the building itself should support all of these activities - not just provide shelter.

Working Within the Limits of the Current Facility.

As the shelter's role has grown, the building has become the limiting factor - not the people



- 🏠 Limited space
- 🐾 Limited flexibility
- 👥 Few gathering spaces
- ☁️ Weather dependent

The commitment has grown. The building hasn't had the opportunity to grow with it.

The Saugerties Animal Shelter has served both the Town of Saugerties and the town of Woodstock, for many years. And its staff and volunteers have accomplished remarkable things.

The challenge isn't a lack of commitment or creativity. It's that the building itself was designed to house snow plows and not animals. It was an empty building that happened to be available at the time - a stop gap measure to hold strays - and now, 40 years later, it's being asked to do so much more.

For anyone who's never been inside the shelter, try to imagine it:

There are two rooms: one houses the dog cages, the washer and dryer, and sinks for washing all the animal food dishes, the litter pans, and the dogs themselves.

The other room is for the cat cages and the people: Two desks along the right hand wall, two rows of cages and another along the back wall with just enough room to walk between them, bedding and supplies in bins under the cages and wherever else they can be tucked in - doesn't leave much room for anything else. And yet so much goes on in the little open area between the desks and the cages...



... whose footprint is about the size of a minivan: greeting the public, accepting pet supply donations - sometimes bulky - volunteer orientation, educational activities, and the complicated logistics of meeting prospective *dog* adopters in the *cat* room and bringing the *dog* from the *dog* room, all amidst the ongoing daily operations of caring for the animals - you can imagine.

And then the UPS guy arrives.

Does this give you a sense of the space and what they're up against?

Meanwhile the cats are confined to quarters at all times - there's no room for any other option - and outdoor activities for the dogs - a break from their cages - are leashed walks or play in a very small fenced-in area (show video)



and very much affected when the weather is bad. (Show snow picture)



Rather than limiting our ambitions to fit the building, we've begun asking what a building designed for today's shelter could make possible.

A New Beginning

A shelter designed to better serve animals, volunteers, and the community.



Better animal care



Welcoming volunteers



Education



Community partnerships

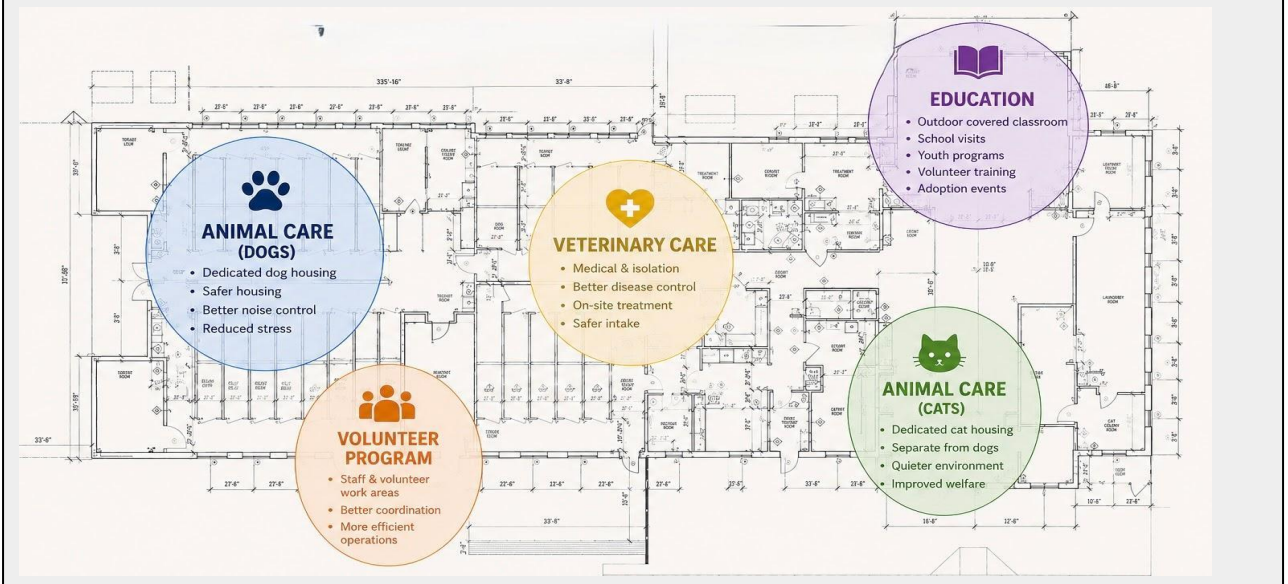


Room to grow

This rendering represents much more than a replacement building. It's a facility designed around the way the shelter operates today - and creates opportunities for tomorrow.

What The New Shelter Makes Possible

Purpose-built spaces that support animals, people, and our community



This building provides spaces that better support animal care, volunteer engagement, and community involvement.

It isn't just a *larger* building—it's a building designed around what an animal shelter needs to function well.

Separate housing reduces stress for both dogs and cats, and the increased space will allow more mobility for both species.

Dedicated medical space improves disease control and animal care.

And: The new shelter will provide a clearinghouse for injured and orphaned wildlife.

This is an important resource for the community. Because now, when people find an injured or orphaned animal, what do they do? [pause] Call the police? Call a vet? - Neither

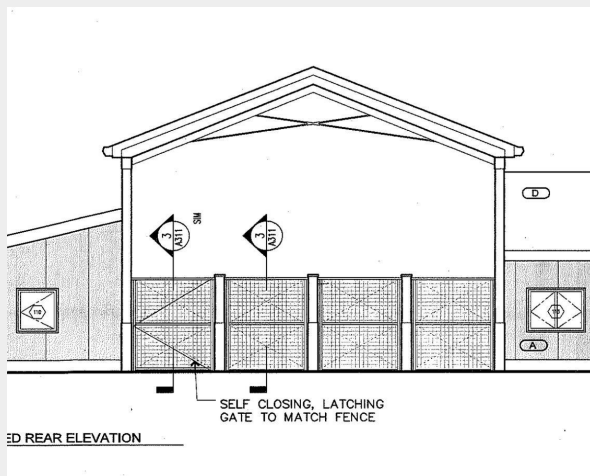
are equipped to deal with the issue. Or do they turn away because they don't know *what* to do?

The floor plan represents something much bigger than rooms. It represents opportunities that simply don't exist in the current shelter.

Volunteers can be trained in a more organized fashion. School groups and community programs have somewhere to meet. Opportunities arise to bring people together through their love of animals.

Beyond The Building

Spaces that bring people, animals, and the community together



School visits

Children learn about responsible pet ownership

Volunteer Training

A welcoming place to orient and support new volunteers

Dog Training & Enrichment

Demonstrations, workshops and behavior support

Community Events

Adoption days, educational talks and partnerships

A Space for Everyone

A flexible outdoor gathering place that extends the shelter beyond its walls

More than a covered space ... it's a place where relationships are built.

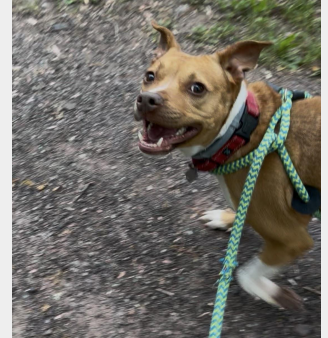
Buildings are important. But what really changes a community is what happens *inside* them - and sometimes just *outside* them. Something included on the floor plan but not scheduled for construction at the present time is an area labelled “outdoor classroom.”

This covered multi-use area gives the shelter something else it has never had before: a dedicated place where people can learn and connect, a welcoming setting for volunteers, school groups and community organizations. An accessible outdoor space for partnering with the shelter in new ways.

It's a relatively small addition, and not currently in the budget, but it has the potential to expand how the shelter serves everyone who relies on it - including the residents, families and schools of Woodstock



Thank you!
The future of Saugerties Animal Shelter
starts here.



Thank you for your time this evening and for everything the Town of Woodstock has done - and continues to do - for the animals and people in our community.

I'm excited about what this new shelter could make possible, and hope you will accept this as an invitation from the shelter to partner in its future.

Elly is here and happy to answer any questions.