

Summary of Yolo County Animal Shelter Efforts

Our community's efforts to improve the Animal Shelter have been ongoing for well over 10 years. The UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine program has found the current facility, built in 1970, to be inadequate, outdated and unable to support modern shelter best practices. For this reason, collaborative task forces including city and county representatives have repeatedly examined solutions to modernize operations, and relocate the animal shelter to a new facility capable of supporting current industry standards. Research indicates that the programmatic improvements alone could reduce animal intakes in the future, thus lowering overall costs.

On November 5th and 15th, 2018 elected officials from each jurisdiction will gather to examine this information and identify next steps. The enclosed document includes the following information to support this process:

2010: YC PAWS, Community Workshop (November 19th)

The Yolo County Pet Animal Welfare Society, a steering committee comprised of key county and city participants, held a community workshop in West Sacramento to gather ideas and decide on priorities for improving and streamlining animal services countywide. An analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the Animal Shelter were identified for animal control/field services, spay/neuter programs, data, financing, and overall shelter performance. Several points were made regarding the insufficient amount of staff, lack of a spay/neuter educational program and cohesive plan. These findings were incorporated into a draft action plan.

2012: Animal Protection League, Yolo County Animal Services Study

The Animal Protection League was commissioned by LAFCo in 2012, to study the animal shelter using national industry standards. The main recommendations from this report were to staff the animal shelter through the formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) or contract with a private, non-profit agency, as these options exhibited the potential for cost savings. Additionally, this report recommended creating a licensing unit, expanding the spay/neuter program, hiring a volunteer coordinator, and building a new animal shelter.

2013: LAFCo/UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine, Yolo County Animal Services Governance Study

Following the Animal Protection League's 2012 report, UC Davis' Koret Shelter Medicine Program provided a more detailed analysis of the operational needs and opportunities particular to the Yolo County Animal Shelter and surrounding cities. This report provided recommendations on staffing, kennel service schedules, leadership etc. using the current facility. Using this analysis, LAFCo then developed several budget projections to demonstrate the potential cost of alternative governance models, including: a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), a JPA which contracts with a non-profit for services, and a hybrid model, where shelter services are provided by a JPA contracting with a non-profit, and field services are provided by the JPA contracting with a public agency, such as the Yolo County Sheriff's Department.

2016: Indigo Architects, Yolo County Animal Shelter Further Studies

Indigo Architects, hired by the County in 2016, prepared cost estimates for five shelter options: a new shelter operated by a non-profit, a modular shelter design, fixed cost shelter, repurposed Woodland Fire Station #3, as well as a cost estimate for the repurposed fire station to be operated by a JPA. Conceptual designs were prepared for the new shelter and the repurposed Woodland Fire Station #3 as an animal shelter. Both the new shelter and repurposed fire station options meet the requirements identified in the 2013 UC Davis KSMP shelter needs report, incorporating best practices for shelter design and operations.