



Kind Keeper Animal Rescue

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June 19, 23

The Honorable William H. Bailey
4487 Lake Circle
Little River, SC 29566

Dear Mr. Bailey,

Kind Keeper Animal Rescue (Kind Keeper, Inc) became operational as a small, community-based No-Kill, non-profit in 2016. We are often "over" capacity with animals living in overflow crates and office areas. Since 2016 Kind Keeper has rescued over 4,500 dogs and cats! We doubled animal intakes and adoptions in 2020 coinciding with the pandemic. Since 2020 our numbers have continued to increase to over 1200 intakes annually which is amazing given that our space has not increased since 2016.

We serve not only the Grand Strand area but also surrounding counties. We accept transfers from Horry and other county shelters, owner surrenders, and found strays. What makes Kind Keeper unique is that we accept a high number of "at risk" animals that includes pregnant, newborn, senior, sick, and injured animals.

Kind Keeper Animal Rescue is not affiliated with any city, county, or state entities. We rely totally on donations and grants to fund operations and capital improvements. We are sincerely grateful for the kind and generous support of our community, including your daughter Anne Marie, that enables us to continue our mission of rescuing homeless animals.

Kind Keeper serves our community in other ways:

- We regularly donate dog and cat food to local food bank and feral cat colony caregivers.
- Our volunteers take puppies and kittens to visit local nursing home residents monthly. This provides socialization for the animals and enriches the day for the residents.
- Our staff and volunteers provide public education related to the importance of spay/neuter surgery, regular veterinary care, heart worm prevention, and other animal related topics. Educational events are in-person or via radio, TV, web, and social media platforms.

We deeply appreciate your assistance in helping Kind Keeper apply for a state grant to support our operations. Below are some of our 2022 operational expenses to care for the animals:

- \$56,382 for veterinary vaccines, medications, and medical supplies
- \$45,700 for spay/neuter surgeries
- \$20,859 for local veterinary care including emergency care
- \$936 for animal supplies

- \$1496 for building repairs and maintenance
- \$23,322 for rent, utilities, insurance, equipment
- \$262,017 for payroll (Kennel attendants, Vet Tech, Adoption Counselors, Director, Receptionist, Event Coordinators, Marketing/Social Media Coordinator, Book Keeper)

Our "wish list" for 2023 includes the purchase of diagnostic equipment to detect physiologic issues and arrange for appropriate veterinary care for the animals in our custody.

- ultrasound machine (\$19,922)
- blood chemistry analysis machine (\$8,500)
- 40X - 2000X trinocular microscope (\$1,588)

We currently lease space in a building that used to be a military barracks in the 1950's. Suffice it to say that the building is old, cramped, and not ideal in terms of animal shelter operational needs but we make it work the best we can until we can build a new shelter! However, as a result of a generous donation, we purchased 10 acres of land in 2021. Fundraising is ongoing to build a new shelter with increased capacity to care for homeless animals in our community and ultimately add a low-cost spay/neuter veterinary clinic to better serve our community.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We are happy to provide any additional information you may need for grant consideration. We'd love to have you come visit and see first-hand what we do to serve the homeless animals in our community.

Sincerely yours,

Belinda Mairowicz, Director

Kind Keeper Animal Rescue

Enclosure: Letter of 501c3 determination