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May 23, 2023

The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina 1100 Gervais Street Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

Charleston Animal Society is South Carolina's first animal organization and one of the oldest in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in March 2024. Every year, the Animal Society cares for 20,000 animals across South Carolina through its statewide initiative No Kill South Carolina. This recordbreaking organization has become a national model for lifesaving success. As importantly, of the more than 22,000 charitable nonprofits in the state, the Animal Society has earned the top ranking for 10 years in a row!

There is not a single animal shelter in our state that is adequate for the community it serves and approximately 80% of our state's animal shelters have no veterinarians on staff. Charleston Animal Society has been providing an array of lifesaving services to animal shelters across the entire state for years, but especially with the growth of South Carolina, the Animal Society is planning an expansion to alleviate the pressure placed on statewide animal shelters. In fact, the Animal Society has saved tens of millions of taxpayer/municipal/county dollars over the past 10 years. This is a statewide project.

The Animal Society is proposing a one-time public/private capital partnership to the Legislature. The Animal Society will assume the operational cost of the project to make it sustainable. Statewide animal shelters, law enforcement agencies, emergency management, veterinary field, teachers, youth development, and others will benefit from the \$500,000 investment in this unprecedented project to build a statewide emergency overcapacity animal shelter, training center, and high-volume veterinary spay/neuter clinic.

- 1. Emergency Management Support re: coastal animal shelter evacuations
- 2. Law Enforcement and Judicial Training and Support re: cruelty operations and training
- Animal Shelters Spay/Neuter Support re: backlogs due to veterinary shortage crisis 3.
- 4. Animal Shelters Overcapacity Support re: widespread overcrowded shelters
- 5. Veterinary Training and Placement Support re: veterinary externships in shelter medicine
- 6. Violence Impact through Teacher Training re: compassion education in schools
- 7. Youth (and under-employable adults) Employment Impact through Job Training

Governor McMaster, as you can see, the benefits to our entire state are tremendous through this public/private partnership. Let's make history and, more importantly, improve the lives of South Carolinians and the animals they love.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Laurel Green Laurer Greer

Chair, Board of Directors

DocuSigned by: Hank Greer 7DBC1BF56334A0.. Hank Greer

Chair, Finance

loe Elmore Joe Elmore, CAWA, CFRE President and CEO

Attachments

South Carolina's Top-Rated Nonprofit and Oldest Animal Organization!





















