GRENVILLE COUNTY
ANIMAL CARE
We are the largest open admission animal shelter in South Carolina, caring for up to 20,000 animals each year.

- 50-75 animals enter our doors every day.
- Our facility houses @ 200 dogs and 200 cats daily.
- We are NOT a humane society. We are a county agency.
WHAT IS OUR ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

- Intake, house, and care for stray and unwanted pets

- Decrease shelter intake of homeless pets
  - Spay/Neuter
  - Surrender Prevention
  - Education

- Increase live outcomes of shelter pets
  - Adoption
  - Transfer to Rescue Groups
  - Fostering
Animal control impounding feral/community cats.

- **Unadoptable**- the only option once in a shelter is euthanasia.
- “Feral” / “community cat” are not clearly defined in state law.
- Cats are 7-10X more likely to find their way home if left alone.
- 4,000+ kittens enter our shelter annually
  - 85% originate from feral / community cats
  - 75% are underage / unadoptable
Pet owners in South Carolina are not required to ID their pets.

- <1% of stray cats come into the shelter with ID
- <1% of stray cats are reunited with their owners

- 3% of stray dogs come into the shelter with ID
- 3% of stray dogs are reunited with their owners
OUR CHALLENGES (PAST & PRESENT)

- Required stray hold of 5 days overcrowds our shelter and is unnecessary for most animals.
  - Very low reunification rates despite holding for 5 days
  - Most lost pets are reclaimed within 3 days
  - Litters of puppies and kittens
    - On “stray hold”- why?
800+ dogs entering our shelter annually are positive for heartworm disease.
- Average cost to treat = $550
- Time to treat = 3-4 months

Expectation for shelters to find positive, live outcomes for every friendly dog and cat that enters our shelter.
- This requires staff, funding, and resources.
- Funding limited to cost of care for a 5-day stray hold period
- Average length of stay to a live outcome is 10-15 days
Community Cat Diversion / Trap-Neuter-Return
  - The most life-saving and population reduction program we offer

All adoptable pets have a low $35 adoption fee.
  - We adopt nearly 6,000 pets each year

Fee-waived adoption specials when the shelter is crowded.
  - “Free” does not change the quality of the adopter

*These programs are primarily supported by fundraising and grants*
PROGRAMS THAT WORK FOR US

- Low cost and no-cost spaying and neutering.
  - Cost is the primary barrier to spaying and neutering

- Transferring animals to rescue groups in other states.
  - Greenville County has the largest transfer program in South Carolina

- Marketing, community relations, and media engagement.
  - Public image and support from the public is vital to our success
In 2006, the number of shelter animals euthanized in Greenville County was more than 70%.

In 2016, the number of shelter animals saved in Greenville County is 70% and climbing.

In 10 years, the programs and services Animal Care has put in place have paved the way for Greenville County to become the largest No-Kill animal community in South Carolina.

Animal Care works with many outlets in the State.
- Key Resource Center for No Kill South Carolina
- Assisted with pets during flooding 2015 and hurricane 2016
- Visits & hosts other shelters that need guidance on best practices
QUESTIONS?