



CASE STATEMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN

Our Mission:

The mission of the Humane Society of Catawba County (HSCC) is to make our community a better place by advocating spay/neuter of pets, adoption of rescued animals and the humane treatment of animals. HSCC strives to achieve this mission by:

- Providing shelter for animals and adopting them into loving, responsible homes
- Promoting spay/neuter programs and education in the community
- Advocating for animals and promoting humane treatment of our furry friends
- Enhancing the bond and relationships between people and our animals

Our History:

For over 25 years, the Humane Society of Catawba County (HSCC) has been an integral part of our community, a leader in animal welfare. HSCC began as a foster/volunteer organization, dedicated to helping cats and dogs find their “forever homes.” In 2000, through the generosity of a local foundation, HSCC was able to hire an Executive Director and establish a temporary no-kill shelter.

In 2003, new state government regulations for shelters were passed. HSCC’s site did not meet the standards set by North Carolina so the organization faced a crossroads. The HSCC Board of Directors embarked on a \$3,000,000 Capital Campaign to fund a state of the art, no-kill animal shelter – complete with a low cost, spay/neuter clinic and an education center. Despite raising the majority of funds for the project, the campaign did not meet its goal. Faced with the tough decision of going forward without full funding for the new building or closing the temporary shelter, the Board made the decision to proceed with the project.

In December 2007, the Pat Anderson Center for Animal Adoption and Humane Education opened. Since opening in 2007, over 6,000 rescued animals have been adopted into their forever homes. Every animal that has been adopted has been sterilized, vaccinated and tested for disease. The Foothills Spay/Neuter clinic, located inside HSCC, has performed over 30,000 low cost spay/neuter surgeries on animals owned by community members. These surgeries have prevented many litters of unwanted pups or kittens from being surrendered to local animal control facilities. HSCC took a new step in June 2014 when it was asked to enter a collaborative partnership with Catawba County Animal Shelter (CCAS). The goal of joining

forces is to save more homeless animals and reduce euthanasia in Catawba County. At a new county facility in Newton, HSCC is responsible for facilitating all adoptions. HSCC also provides medical care to these animals, including spay and neuter surgeries. In a short period of time, this partnership has proved to be a tremendous success.

HSCC will continue to work towards its mission to provide education to our community about the importance of humane treatment of animals, vaccines and animal population control.

Our Need:

What could you do if you didn't have a mortgage? How would that change your day to day life? Many of you may know how it feels to own your home. Others may dream of the day when they pay off their loan. For HSCC, the large monthly mortgage payment is something that is always at the front of our minds. The goal was to complete the shelter in 2007 without the need for a mortgage. However, this was not the reality. If HSCC could pay off the mortgage on our building, funds would free up to further our mission for the animals. HSCC needs your help.

In addition, our building was built in 2007 and it is starting to show some wear and tear. Having thousands of animals pass through our kennels is a challenge for maintenance. Shelter regulations require special HVAC units, flooring, and air filters – just to name a few things that are unique to our facility. Currently, HSCC does not have funds available to help with these types of repairs and knows that a major expense could happen any day. HSCC needs to ensure it can continue to provide the standard of care for our animals that they deserve. A maintenance fund is needed to provide security for the future.

Foothills Spay/Neuter Clinic continues to provide more surgeries each year than the previous year. There continues to be a need for low cost spay/neuter surgeries for the public, not only in our community, but in many surrounding counties also. Currently HSCC transports animals from 4 different counties our site for surgery every month. The current operating room is something that HSCC has outgrown and there is a tremendous need for additional space. More spay/neuter surgeries would help HSCC continue to reduce the unwanted pet population in our area.

In addition, the medical services HSCC provides for the shelter animals increases each year. In 2014 alone, many shelter animals received lifesaving surgeries including limb removals, internal reconstruction and cherry eye surgeries, just to name a few. These surgeries would not have been available to shelter animals in the past. In addition, heartworm treatment has become a major challenge to HSCC. Although the treatment is relatively easy to administer, the medicine and outsourced blood work associated with the treatment is extremely expensive. In 2013 / 2014, over 25 % of the dogs in at our shelter tested Heartworm positive.

HSCC has an area that can be transformed into an additional medical lab. This laboratory could then facilitate a blood machine, microscopes, blood pressure machine, as well as a much needed X-Ray machine. Outsourcing X-Rays are a big expense to our clinic and the ability to handle this need in house would add a new dimension to our clinic. HSCC needs to develop this area to better serve the medical needs of our animals.

HSCC staff currently travels throughout the area to set up vaccine clinics a demand that far exceeds our currently capabilities. Our vision is to expand on this service with a Mobile

Vet/Outreach Unit. This mobile unit would provide more low cost medical services to our community, along with education that supports our mission. We see this as a unique tool to reach the community with our spay/neuter messages and provide care to animals that would not receive it otherwise.

As a no-kill shelter, HSCC is dedicated to finding forever homes quickly for the animals that we rescue. However, this does not always happen as soon as we would like for some of the pets that cross our doors. Currently, HSCC lacks a large area outside where our dogs can work on socialization skills that they need to be adopted. The addition of this type of area to our facility would help better equip our furry friends to find their forever homes sooner, allowing HSCC to rescue more pets each year.

Our Challenge:

Please find below an outline of the cost HSCC believes it will take to make our vision a reality:

Elimination of Mortgage	\$1,000,000
Maintenance Fund	\$ 225,000
Staffing Needs – Outreach Director (salary for 3 years)	\$ 120,000
Staffing Needs- Relief Vet (salary for 3 years)	\$ 120,000
Mobile Vet & Outreach Unit	\$ 120,000
Renovations – Medical Lab and additional equipment	\$ 110,000
Pet Socialization Area	<u>\$ 55,000</u>
Total cost estimate:	\$1,750,000

Our Next Step:

The Executive Director, the Board of Directors and many community leaders are committed to making this vision come to life. However, before we can go further, we need to know whether we have the resources and willingness of our compassionate donors to help us achieve our vision.

HSCC has engaged Hewett Consulting, a national research and fundraising firm, to conduct a confidential feasibility study to assess the advisability of proceeding with this comprehensive campaign. HSCC would like you to take part in this study by participating in a confidential personal interview in August with our consultant, John Hewett, or completing a confidential questionnaire and returning it to their offices in Charlotte.

Hewett Consulting will gather this information over the next few weeks. Thank you for contributing your insights and information as part of this important process. Your responses will help HSCC decide how to best move forward during this pivotal moment in our history. In closing, thank you for your support of HSCC and for your commitment to the animals.