



The new Animal Care Center will provide shelter and care for Charles County's stray, sick, injured, and unwanted domestic animals. The center will offer a safe haven until they are reclaimed by their owners, find a forever home through adoption, transfer to a rescue partner, or humanely euthanized when necessary.

Why is the center leaving the old facility?

Our current animal shelter has served the community for over 60 years, but its age and remote location present limitations. The new facility will house both divisions of Animal Control Services; the Animal Control Division, and the Animal Sheltering Division. The new center will enhance animal care, improve accessibility, and foster greater community engagement.

How is this new facility being paid for?

The County has funded the center 100% by financing the project with 15 year tax exempt bonds as well as using general fund PayGo funding. For details, see the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Quarterly Monitoring Report (pg 81) at: www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/16538/638593996092670000.

What is the impact on the community?

The new center enhances our community by improving animal welfare with modern facilities and equipment, enhancing animal care, and adoption rates. In addition, it boosts community engagement by providing greater opportunities for volunteerism, fostering, education, and outreach.

What are some features of the new center?

The center combines innovative design with community-focused features, while creating a healthier, safer environment for animals, staff, and the community. See side 2 for a list of features.

What kind of animals does the center support?

We provide care and refuge for a diverse range of animals, including dogs, cats, livestock, as well as small animals, such as mice, guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters, and birds. Our primary goal is to find forever homes for as many animals as possible through adoption or rescue.

While our policies may evolve, some remain steadfast, such as our commitment to partnering with rescue groups for the placement of bully breeds. We firmly believe that collaborating with specialized rescue organizations ensures the best possible outcomes for these dogs and our community. By working together, we can guarantee that only the most suitable and well-socialized bully breeds are placed in loving homes that meet the highest standards. This careful approach reflects our unwavering responsibility to both the community and the animals in our care.

How can I support the Animal Care Center?

Adopt, foster, volunteer, donate, or help spread the word about the center. Follow us online for updates, events, and adorable adoptables.

- www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center
- www.facebook.com/CharlesCountyAnimalCareCenter

Learn more, and follow along as this project moves forward.

[Charles-County-MD.civicspace.io/en/projects/
new-charles-county-animal-care-center](http://Charles-County-MD.civicspace.io/en/projects/new-charles-county-animal-care-center)



The new **CHARLES COUNTY ANIMAL CARE CENTER** will combine innovative design with community-focused features, while creating a healthier, safer environment for animals, staff, and the community.



- About 22,000 square feet with approximately 60 dog kennels, 95 cat cages, and small animal holding cages
- Education room for meetings, trainings, and vaccination clinics. This education room will be available for use by other county departments and the community
- Natural light incorporated into the design to create a warm and welcoming feeling
- Soundproofing to buffer any outside sounds for the animals and to buffer any barking for our neighbors
- State-of-the-art climate control system that maintains optimal temperatures, reduces disease transmission, and minimizes unpleasant odors, creating a healthier and more comfortable space
- Medical clinic with a surgery suite for spay and neuter
- Multiple community cat rooms, some including a "catio"
- Inside meet and greet areas for both cats and dogs
- Multiple exercise areas for the dogs
- Walking trail
- Livestock barn with paddock
- Pavilion
- Equipment shed

