



2023 Campaign for a New Shelter

# Introduction: The Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter



The Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter has been in operation since 1987.

The shelter follows no-kill principles, aiming to find a loving home for cats and dogs.

Located at 798 Smith Road, the shelter provides an essential service to residents of the Town of Amherst and other communities in Cumberland County.

# The Purpose of this Meeting



After many years of successful operation from its current location, we are in need of a new facility to ensure the LA Animal Shelter continues to serve the communities of Cumberland County into the future.

We are aiming to begin construction of a new building in April of 2024. This capital campaign will be a testament to the generosity of our community, and the leadership of our municipal partners.

The construction of the new shelter will cost approximately \$1.1 million. The LA Animal Shelter has committed \$200,000 of its own reserves to this project. We are seeking a contribution of \$150,000 from the Town of Amherst as well as the Municipality of Cumberland.

# The LA Animal Shelter: Quick Facts



- The LA Animal Shelter relies on donations from the public, fundraising efforts, government partnerships, and adoption fees;
- In 2022 we adopted out 454 cats and dogs;
- The LA Animal Shelter is on sound financial footing, with healthy operating and capital reserves. The Shelter has allocated \$200,000 to this capital campaign;
- We currently employ two full time staff;
- Our team is supported by dozens of volunteers from our community.

# The LA Animal Shelter: Operational Success



The shelter has been operating independently since 1987, with annual surpluses most years. We expect operating and maintenance costs to decrease in the new building.



# Benefits to the Community



Beyond the important work we do for animals, the LA Animal Shelter impacts residents of Amherst and area in many ways.

- Supports Canine Control in Cumberland County, providing value to taxpayers;
- Volunteer opportunities for seniors, as well as all community members;
- Volunteer opportunities for local students requiring credits for volunteerism;
- Helping families in situations such as relocating to a home that doesn't allow pets, a death in the family, families that fall on hard times, medical issues, and the list can go on.

# Benefits to the Community: Canine Control



The LA Animal Shelter supports Canine Control in Cumberland County. Some of our services to the community include:

- Taking in dangerous animals;
- Sheltering pets during emergency situations, such as a house or apartment fire;
- Quarantining dogs for the mandatory period of time for rabies testing;
- Holding dogs that were at large until their owners can pick them up;

# Our Programs – The SafePet Program



The SafePet Program is a partnership between Autumn House, Amherst Veterinary Hospital, and the Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter. The program assists women who may be delaying their decision to leave an abusive partner because they cannot take their pets with them to Autumn House. Pet foster parents provide the life changing service of temporary care and shelter for the pets so the women and families at risk of abuse can stay in safety at Autumn House.

*Nearly 50% of women will delay leaving an abusive partner out of concern for their pets. Almost two-thirds said their partner had abused or even killed a pet.*

*–OSPCA 1998*



# Our Programs – Mama’s Last Litter Program



Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter  
MAMAS LAST LITTER PROGRAM



Over the last decade the LA Animal Shelter has been operating our “Mama's Last Litter Program” as part of our ethical approach to reducing the number of homeless dogs and cats in our region.

Through our program, we have been committed to help reduce pet overpopulation, prevent unplanned litters, and ensure every animal has a home in our local and surrounding communities.

This program has been particularly beneficial to Cumberland County families who encounter financial challenges, and are unable to spay their pets.

# The Condition of our Existing Shelter



The LA Animal Shelter has operated successfully from its current location for many years, despite the limitations of our old building. We are now facing the reality that the building will require substantial and ongoing upgrades in order to meet the standards required of us.

**To ensure the viability of the shelter for the next generation, we have no choice but to undertake this ambitious project to construct a new building.**

# The Condition of our Existing Shelter



When our current location was opened, it was not purpose-built to be an animal shelter. Key issues we face in the existing facility are:

- The building is not efficient, and we face rising costs of heating and cooling the facility.
- The facility does not meet accessibility standards for a community based organization.
- The site's low elevation will result in flooding issues in the future.
- Poor ventilation has resulted in airborne illnesses spreading among the dozens of animals in our care. This results in thousands of dollars of avoidable veterinary expenses.
- Patchwork drier ventilation and plumbing has resulted in increasingly frequent maintenance issues.
- Moisture and mould issues are now pervasive in the building.
- Unfinished concrete thresholds in the dog kennels have rendered the pass-through doors to the outside areas too dangerous for larger dogs to use.

# The Condition of our Existing Shelter



Main Entrance to the Shelter is exposed to the elements and not accessible.



Furnace room is the central area for laundry, veterinary care and animal washing stations.

# The Condition of our Existing Shelter



Interior walls showing degraded, exposed insulation and exposed wiring.



Crumbling interior walls and foundation

# The Condition of our Existing Shelter



Many of our kennels have pass-through doors which allow dogs to access the outdoors. Four out of the fifteen are unusable due to sharp metal and unfinished concrete.

- Safety of dogs
- Only one kennel has a door large enough with finished concrete to allow a large breed dog to pass through safely.
- In the winter these doors allow cold air into the kennels and into the building. These issues contribute to our operating costs.

# The Condition of our Existing Shelter



Exposed plumbing is evident throughout the building, as additional facilities have been added or repaired over the years.

# Our Vision for the New Shelter



**The Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter is planning to build a new building in April of 2024!**

The new shelter facility has been carefully designed to serve the needs of our organization for decades to come. With a focus on simplicity and efficiency, we have designed the building and grounds to provide a safe, clean and efficient space for our staff as well as the animals in our care.

The footprint of the new building is about 4,000 square feet, with about 500 square feet of outdoor kennel space .

This one storey building will be large enough to meet the needs of our shelter, without any excess that would increase the cost of the project.



# Our Vision for a New Shelter



The footprint of the building will be approximately 4,000 square feet, constructed on the existing property.

# Our Vision for a New Shelter: Key Improvements



Major improvements include upgrades that will enhance the quality of life for the animals in our care, as well as increase the efficiency of our operations. Highlights of these upgrades include:

- Specialized ventilation to improve air quality and reduce the transmission of airborne disease;
- Rooms to properly quarantine sick animals, which will prevent the spread of disease and reduce veterinary costs substantially;
- Hybrid indoor/outdoor living areas for the cats and dogs;
- Space for families to better interact with animals before adoption;
- Rooms for intake, veterinary care, pregnant animals, laundry facilities, and grooming;
- Kennels and stalls made with easy-to-clean materials, with proper drainage in each unit;
- Necessary staff space for lunch, breaks and meetings;
- An outdoor space which provides the community an opportunity to engage with our animals, volunteer, while spending time outdoors;
- The facility will be accessible and safe for all volunteers and visitors.

# Our Vision for a New Shelter

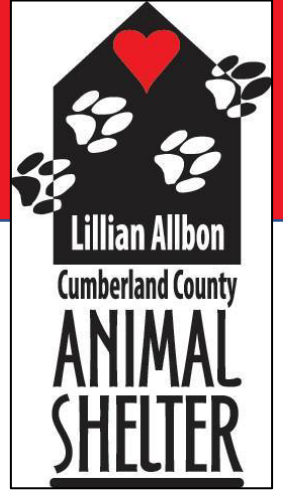


The new building and grounds will welcome volunteers, families, and children to interact with animals and learn about the important work of the animal shelter.

The grounds will be a gathering place for the community, allowing members of the community to walk the trails with the animals, and children can spend time outdoors on our beautiful grounds.

We envision a space where schools can organize class trips to our new shelter, providing kids with the opportunity to interact with animals and learn the responsibility of caring for others and volunteering in their community.

# Timeline and Fundraising Objectives



- Our plan is to commence construction in April 2024. This will allow enough time to reach critical mass in our capital campaign.
- Our goal is raise a total of \$900,000 in addition to the \$200,000 allotted from the LA Animal Shelter's reserves.
- Our three phased plan includes:
  - A leadership contribution from the Town of Amherst and the Municipality of Cumberland;
  - A major gift campaign focused on large donors and Foundations;
  - Community fundraising.

# The Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter



# QUESTIONS?