

The Humane Society of Davie County (HSDC) will sell its adoption center building at 291 Eaton Road to Davie County to be used as the new Davie County Animal Shelter. The County received a mandate from the State to immediately submit a plan to improve the current County Animal Shelter facility. HSDC recognized that it cannot financially sustain the building into the future. So, by transferring ownership of the building, both parties win. Better yet, abandoned pets in Davie County will benefit from a larger and better building and a closer working partnership between Davie County Animal Services and Humane Society of Davie County to (1) increase spay/neuter; (2) increase local adoptions; and, (3) establish an out-of-state pet transport program. HSDC will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00 PM in the Eaton Road adoption center for anyone who wishes to ask questions or get additional information. You may also go to the Humane Society's website to view the link to "Frequently Asked Questions" at www.davienchumane.org.

County commissioners are scheduled to vote on the purchase in the February 6 meeting.

"This is not a decision arrived at casually or suddenly," says Jane McAllister, President of the Humane Society. "Out of on-going financial necessity, we have considered this option several times over the past two years, and believe we can better serve our mission and pets in need in our community by changing *how* we operate in order to be even more effective *and cost effective*."

"While transferring HSDC's sole ownership of the adoption center building has been a difficult decision, says Gloria Wommack, Managing Director, "doing so allows HSDC to focus on life-saving programs for the long term. This step is meant to free us up to work toward a goal of becoming a no-kill community within the next decade, and that is worthy indeed."

"We can be very proud of our accomplishments since the adoption center opened in November, 2007," says McAllister. In that time, over 1,700 abandoned cats and dogs have been adopted to new families and some 4,200 spay/neuter surgeries performed. In addition, intake at the County shelter during that same period of time has declined by 47% and the number of pets euthanized has declined by 60%. HSDC's adoption and spay/neuter programs have contributed to that positive trend, but much work remains to be done to reduce both intake and euthanasia of unwanted and abandoned dogs and cats.

Local adoptions also currently happen through other local and area rescue groups and directly from Davie County Animal Services. All of those options will continue. HSDC will continue to work with Davie County Animal Services to select and place dogs and cats

"A top priority after the sale will be a greater emphasis on spay/neuter," says Gloria Wommack, Managing Director. "We would like to double the number of pets spayed or neutered each year going forward, both by working with our local veterinarians and with spay/neuter clinics." Humane Society of Davie County has benefitted from grants and private donations specifically for spay/neuter, and the organization intends to do more to attack the root cause of pet

overpopulation locally. “Sadly, we can never adopt our way out of overpopulation; we, ***as a community***, must alter more pets so that unwanted litters become a thing of the past.”

HSDC intends to establish an out-of-state transport program after the sale. In such a program, pets are relocated into states and rescue groups in need of pets to make available for adoption. In those places, local mandatory spay/neuter ordinances have all but eliminated an overpopulation of pets and they must seek pets from outside their local area. “The Humane Society participated in one such transport program early on with the North Shore Animal League out of New York. Since then, many more transport programs have grown up and we are researching those possibilities now,” says McAllister.

HSDC asks that our supporters continue to assist our efforts in the years to come, as new and better initiatives are explored. The sale of the adoption center and a closer working partnership with Davie County Animal Services offers a significant opportunity to move forward on the animal welfare front in our community.

Our community can step up in several ways to serve the organization and contribute time and energy to Humane Society programs to save the lives of abandoned pets through rescue, adoption and spay/neuter. HSDC would like to ask Davie residents to consider volunteering to be a dog walker or an event volunteer, or foster a dog or cat. “The work of the organization can continue and grow only with help from interested people willing to give of themselves; we invite you to do just that,” says Wommack.