



A NEW SAFE HAVEN FOR ANIMALS IN NEED

Our Current Facility

The FKSPCA operates out of a facility that is literally crumbling around us. What were already old buildings in disrepair have been made even worse by the saltwater intrusion from Hurricane Wilma in 2005. This has caused spalling in the concrete walls with whole columns ready to give way. Because our buildings are so unsafe, we evacuate every animal into foster homes when a hurricane threatens the Florida Keys. However, it doesn't take a hurricane to cause disruption. The buildings are subject to flooding during routine thunderstorms we see so often in the Keys.

In addition to what is visible on the surface, our facility systems are so outdated as to endanger the health of the animals in our care. For example, we have no means of quarantining sick animals because the air handling systems for each building service the entire building. That means that whenever an animal develops a contagious ailment (such as an upper respiratory infection –very common in shelter cats), that one case will often develop into an outbreak throughout the shelter as we have no way to isolate individual cases.

Our current facility is also restricted due to size limitations:

- ❃ The design of our kennels is outdated and contributes to stress in the animals. Modern shelter designs provide for an overall environment that reduces stress for both animals and staff.
- ❃ More space is needed to comfortably house the number of animals we typically have awaiting adoption, as well as for those waiting to be claimed by their owners.
- ❃ We have one, very small administration area. This means that someone visibly upset at having to surrender an animal, or request euthanasia for a beloved pet who is failing, must share the same small space with a family excited about adopting a new pet.
- ❃ We would like to provide classes and workshops for the public to promote training and humane animal care but currently have no space for such activities.
- ❃ Our spay/neuter clinic, which is very important to our community and our mission, is currently housed in a small, cramped trailer.

Facility Needed

In collaboration with advisors and our architect, we determined the minimum size shelter to fit our needs is approximately 15,000 square feet based on statistical information, including, but not limited to: the number of animals taken in, average length of stay, average inventory of animals at any one time, number of animals coming in for each spay/neuter clinic, space requirements for food, supplies, crate storage, number of employees, office space required, space required for activities such as dog training sessions, adoption consultation areas.

The FKSPCA's goal is to be able to house our animals safely at our shelter during all but the most severe hurricanes, at which time the animals will be evacuated out of the area. We would also like to have ample room to safely house the pets of first responders so that they can work to help our community knowing their pets are safe.

We envision a new shelter that will be a destination for local individuals and families, one in which people will want to visit when they are considering bringing a new animal into their home as well as functioning as a resource for people who need training or behavior assistance with their own animals, thereby helping to keep the animal in the home.

The Florida Keys is a pet-friendly community. We truly believe the community needs an animal-friendly facility.

Our Goal

The FKSPCA is launching a campaign to raise \$5 million so that we can build a new hurricane-resistant, energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly animal shelter. Our plans for this shelter include:

- ❧ A bright, inviting shelter that will encourage the community to visit and adopt shelter animals.
- ❧ A shelter designed to provide a comfortable temporary home for the animals that minimizes stress while they wait for their forever homes.
- ❧ Separate entrances for those individuals surrendering animals from those individuals adopting animals.
- ❧ Separate air-handling systems for well animals and sick animals.
- ❧ Quarantine areas for contagious animals.
- ❧ Enough room to house the pets of first-responder emergency personnel who stay behind to help our community in the event of a hurricane.
- ❧ A state-of-the-art clinic.
- ❧ A community service room for public education or public use.

Our Current Facility



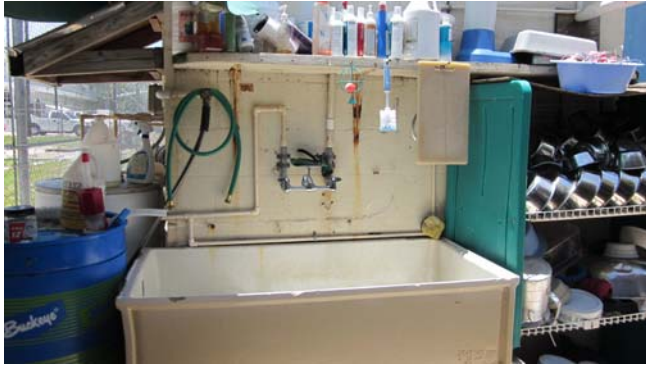
(FKSPCA staff daily find chunks of concrete on the floor from our crumbling walls)



(Our current kennels flood routinely during common thunderstorms)



(Daily operations are hindered by our cramped quarters)



(Staff must wash dishes and dogs outside)



(Kennel floors are badly pitted, hindering disease control)



(Ceiling and insulation had to be removed due to serious rat infestation. Note trail around beams from rat travels)



(Our ceilings and roofs are rotten and leak badly)



(Rusting chain link must be reinforced for the safety of the animals)



(Healthy animals share the same ventilation system as sick animals, compromising disease control)