



Fact Sheet

Orange County Animal Services (OCAS)

Pending Capital Projects

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Background: Orange County Animal Services (OCAS) is the only open admission shelter in Orange County, which means that it does not turn away any animal and accepts all animals, regardless of their temperament or health. The health and well-being of the animals in the care of OCAS is of the utmost importance to Orange County and its community. Most animals are ideal candidates for adoption, yet some come to the shelter suffering from long-term and profound health problems, as a result of being homeless, stray or abused. During the FY 15-16, OCAS surpassed its own adoption records, celebrating more than 8,300 homes for homeless pets. On average, the shelter receives approximately 50 animals each day, but these numbers can double during peak summer months. The original shelter was built in the 1980's as an animal control facility, yet in recent years, services at the shelter have significantly expanded to include a full adoption center, veterinary clinic and outreach efforts to reunify lost pets with families.

In 2016, Orange County Mayor Jacobs requested Orange County's Capital Projects Team to explore the idea of building a new animal shelter after determining that the existing shelter could not be retrofit with necessary expansions and upgrades – including an HVAC (heating ventilation and air conditioning) system. The team also reported that the facility was not designed to support the current and future operational needs of OCAS. While the original 1980's building was constructed similar to many other shelters of that era, it was designed to house stray animals and offer rabies management services. Today, OCAS has grown to become a full adoption center and veterinary clinic for shelter animals. OCAS hosts more than 100,000 guests per year, hundreds of volunteers and works with more than 100 rescue partners. The Feb. 21 decision was one to move forward and continue to explore the design and cost of a new shelter, one that could better meet the community and County's expectations.

The Capital Projects team will take the lead on new shelter conversations, but will work seamlessly with OCAS. In terms of next steps, Capital Projects must now complete the assessment portion and further refine budget numbers, so that staff are prepared to request funding for design next fiscal year. To watch a video broadcast of the Feb. 21 shelter presentation click [here](#). The presentation can be found to the right of the broadcast, item III A.1.

OCAS Current Numbers (Fiscal Year 2015-2016)

- Impounds – 18,896
- Adoptions – 8,348
- Pet Reclaims – 2,004
- Sterilizations – 9,195
- Shelter Visitors – 109,700
- Approximately 100 total employees, including 3 full-time veterinarians

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Additional ongoing OCAS capital projects of interest:

Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Study:

- In July 2016, OCAS requested a feasibility study to assess the total financial impact, challenges and benefits relevant to the installation of an HVAC system within its shelter. The original building, constructed in 1987, featured national design-standard open air circulation. The building was not constructed to serve as an adoption center, rather a temporary emergency holding location for dogs in the custody of animal control.
- The building is currently equipped with a ventilation system that moves air and helps curtail the spread of disease but does not produce cool air.
- Sick or infirmed animals can be cared for in an area that has conditioned air.
- The cost of the study was \$15,000.
- The proposed options ranged from \$350,000 - \$2.8 million, with monthly expenses in the thousands.
- Portable air conditioning units were considered in the study; however with the design of the building would likely offer little relief.
- OCAS staff monitor the interior temperatures during summer months several times a day, with the average temperature in the mid 90s.
- No animal has died as a result of summer temperatures while in OCAS custody; however, some animals are admitted with extreme health conditions or have experienced profound neglect. These conditions result in their passing.
- Orange County's Capital Project division brought the study results to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, who opted to upgrade the ventilation of the current facility and explore the idea of a new shelter and asked for a later presentation on that subject, scheduled for Tuesday, February 21

Ventilation Project:

- Upgraded ventilation in the dog building, also known as building 300, will improve air flow for the benefit of pets and shelter guests
- The ventilation project is underway.
- The anticipated cost is \$450,000 and completion date is expected by summer 2017.

Cat Building Project:

- Cat building, also known as building 500, will be renovated to be fully enclosed, have an HVAC system and commercial doors
- This project was approved at the Feb. 7 Board of County Commissioners Meeting.
- Anticipated cost is \$475,000, anticipated completion date by fall 2017.

Interaction Yards Project:

- Construction of two additional play yards on side of building 300
- Anticipated cost is \$175,000 anticipated completion date by late fall 2017.

Satellite Spay/Neuter Clinics:

- Creation of two off-site spay/neuter clinics, one on the east side and one on the west side of the county
- Will offer large volume of low-cost sterilization surgeries to residents
- East side clinic will be located near the intersection of Alafaya and Woodbury, anticipated cost is \$650,000, project currently out to bid with the expectation the clinic will be fully operational prior to year end.
- West side clinic will be located near the intersection of Silver Star and Apopka Vineland, anticipated cost of \$750,000, project has been assessed and plans will be underway soon.
- Anticipate that project will be out to bid by summer, 2017

