

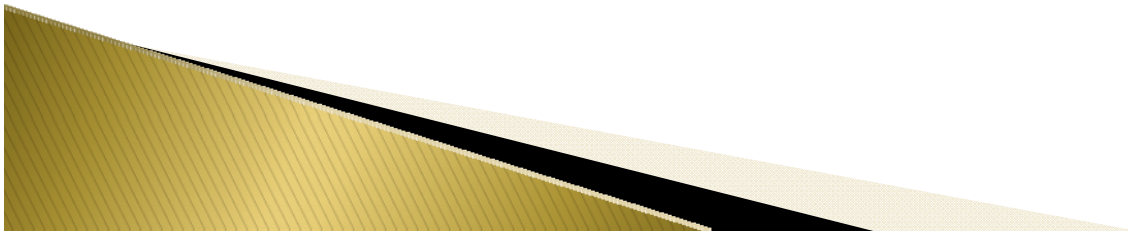


Bowie Animal Control Holding Shelter

A proposal submitted to the
Bowie City Council
by
The Bowie Citizens for Local Animal Welfare (CLAW)
February 9th, 2009

Background

- ▶ Currently, if a family's pet gets loose and does not have a tag or microchip with contact information, he or she will be taken to the County facility.
- ▶ To retrieve a pet, the owner must travel to the county facility, attempt to identify the pet and, hopefully, retrieve him or her. For most, this is an unnecessary added burden to a busy schedule; for many Bowie residents, this trip is difficult or even impossible.



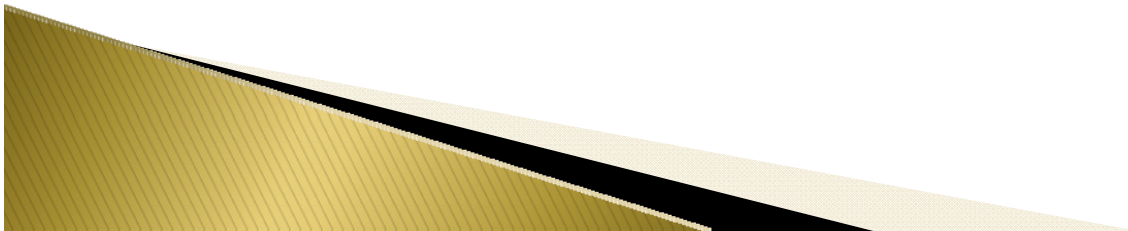
Background

- ▶ Once an animal has been accepted into the custody of the county facility, a clock on the animal's life begins to run. If the dog or cat is not claimed or adopted within 3 to 5 working days, it may be euthanized.
- ▶ This is not a criticism; it is a fact arising from the unfortunate imbalance between the number of homeless or lost animals and the resources available to public organizations to care for them.



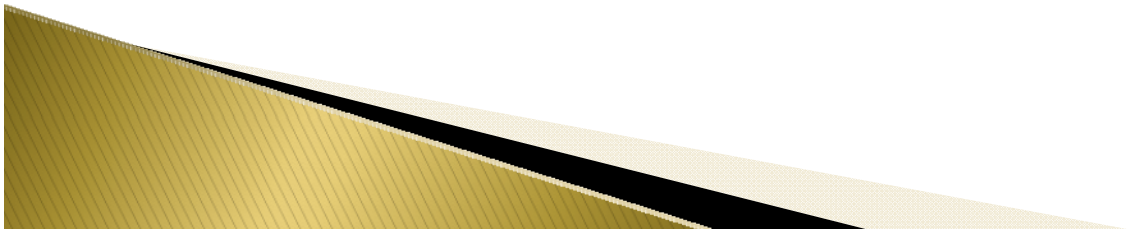
Proposal

- ▶ That the City of Bowie establish and operate a small, short-term holding shelter to house cats and dogs captured by the Bowie Animal Control office.



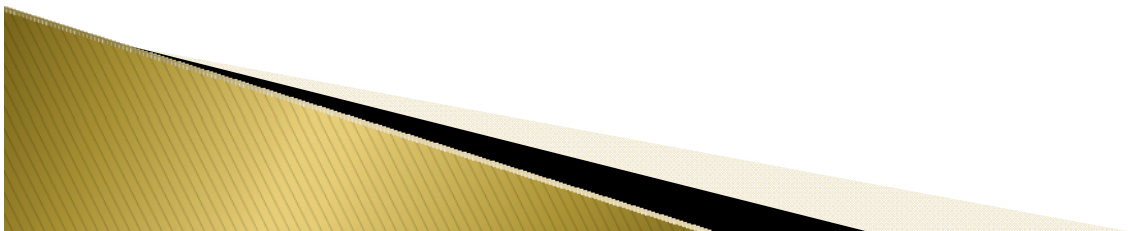
Proposal Details – Size

- ▶ It is estimated that such a shelter would encompass 1500 sq/ft.
- ▶ The short-term holding shelter would have the capacity to house (approximately):
 - Six dogs
 - Two cat colonies (open room)
 - Twelve cats in isolation



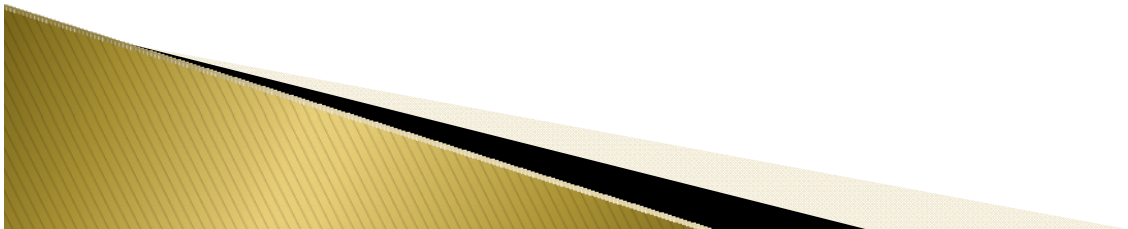
Proposal Details – Operations

- ▶ Dogs and cats captured would be held for a limited number of days.
 - If unclaimed, transferred to County Animal Management Facility.
- ▶ Limited service shelter.
 - Licensing, potentially microchipping, etc.
 - Emergency veterinarian services (currently Bowie Animal Control already does provide if needed).
- ▶ Further services dependent on city funds, donations, and volunteers.



Proposal – Management

- ▶ Several options for how the shelter could be established and operated:
 - City Shelter
 - Site, structure, operation – City funded and operated
 - Joint City and Bowie CLAW Shelter
 - Site – City provide and fund land improvements
 - Structure – CLAW funded
 - Operation – City w/ support from CLAW
 - City operated or
 - Contract operation to CLAW



What we need from the City

- ▶ Site/Land –
 - ▶ Ideally a site that already has water, sewer, electricity, etc.
 - ▶ Provide funds for any leveling or ground work that may need to be done
- ▶ Permits –
 - ▶ City
 - ▶ County
- ▶ Agreement –
 - ▶ with Bowie CLAW to assist in the shelter's operation.



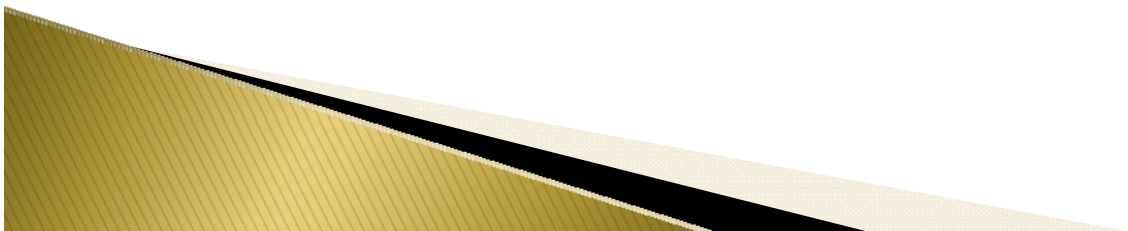
Bowie CLAW's Commitment

- ▶ Bowie CLAW would work with Bowie Animal Control to:
 - Secure funds to construct the facility
 - \$100,000 has been secured contingent on the City agreeing to provide the site and operate the shelter.
 - Assist in the operation of the shelter
 - Operate various animal welfare education programs
 - Support efforts to identify homes for adoptable dogs and cats
 - Continue to raise funds to support the shelter
 - Bowie CLAW has applied for nonprofit status and is currently filing incorporation papers in efforts to do fundraising



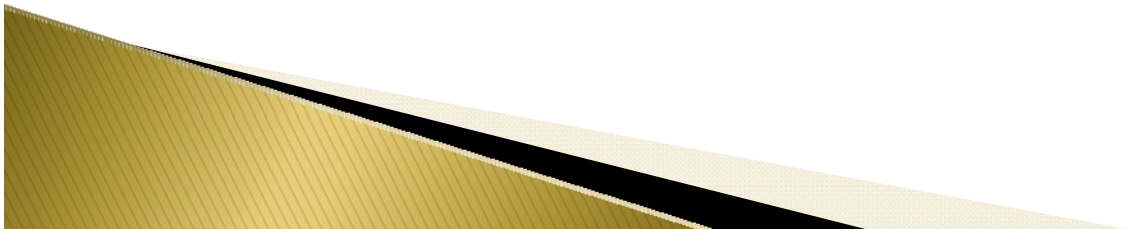
Suggested Locations

- ▶ We have investigated four sites. Top two choices include:
 - Choice 1 – Old Chapel at Race Track Rd.
 - Available for public use
 - Plenty of space
 - Does not appear to have any restrictions
 - Not near a residential community (little impact on residents)
 - Choice 2 – Fladung/Mullikin property
 - Plenty of space (20 acres)
 - Adjacent to the golf course (little impact on residents)



Budget Projections

- ▶ Shelter Construction
 - Site plan, trailer, cages, equipment, etc.
- ▶ Shelter Operation Expenses
 - Salary and benefits for employee
 - Utilities, supplies, maintenance, etc.
- ▶ Potential Income
 - Licensing and microchipping fees
 - Retrieval and adoption fees
 - Donations/Fundraising (CLAW organized)



Proposal Benefits – for the Bowie Residents

- ▶ A small short-term holding shelter in Bowie is more accessible to residents than a county facility in Forestville or Upper Marlboro.
 - This is especially true for residents who do not own an automobile and rely on public transportation, or for elderly and disabled.
- ▶ If Bowie Animal Control retains custody of an animal found in Bowie for even a few days, there is a better chance of reuniting a family with its lost pet or consummating an adoption.



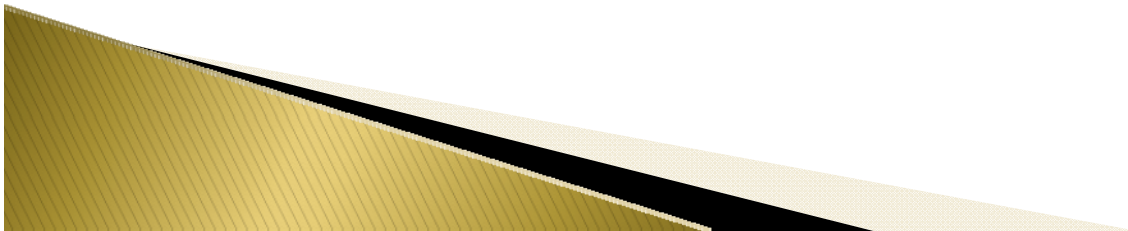
Proposal Benefits– for Bowie Animal Control Office

- ▶ Bowie Animal Control currently travels to Forestville, 15–20 miles away. Frequently, BAC officers have to make this trip twice a day, every day of the week.
- ▶ The time currently spent by Bowie Animal Control officers (2–4 hours a day on average) transporting animals to the county facility and completing paper work could be devoted to other tasks.



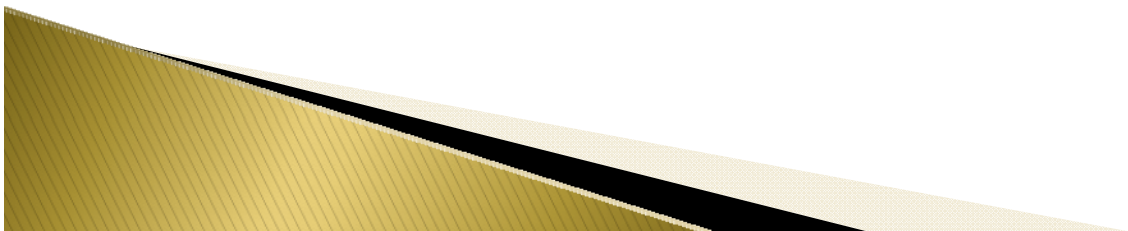
Proposal Benefits– for Bowie Animal Control Office (continued)

- ▶ The fees collected by the county facility for reuniting families with lost pets and effecting adoptions would instead be collected by Bowie.
 - Based on the 190 animals sent to County by Bowie Animal Control in 2007 and assuming all the pets were retrieved – this equates to \$39,000.
 - Potentially more; 120 additional Bowie dogs and cats were picked up by County themselves.



Proposal Benefits – for the animals

- ▶ Having a small short-term holding facility will allow more time for pets to be reunited with their owners.
- ▶ If an owner is not identified, it provides more time for a group, such as Bowie CLAW, to find a rescue group or foster family to care for the animal.



Justification

- ▶ A new county animal shelter will open in Upper Marlboro in May of 2009. It is anticipated that this facility will allow the Prince George's County Animal Management Group to provide even better service to the animals in its custody and to Prince George's County residents than it already does.
- ▶ The opening of this facility does not negate, however, the drawbacks outlined earlier, nor the merits of the proposal that we have humbly submitted . The new shelter will be on Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro Maryland and will still be at least 15 miles away from Bowie.



Justification

- ▶ There are nearly 830,000 residents of the County. At the national per capita ratio of one cat or dog (pet) to every two people, then there are more than 400,000 cats and dogs living within the County.
- ▶ With 27 municipalities, there are multiple animal control units that feed into Forestville. The population strains on the new facility will likely be seen in just a few years.
- ▶ Relying on the County to maintain its new animal shelter in Upper Marlboro while the County's population grows is doing a disservice to the animals and citizens of the County.



Conclusion

- ▶ Bowie is a mature, prosperous, independent city. It is the largest city in Prince George's County and the fifth largest in the State of Maryland. It is fitting that the Bowie Animal Control office have access to a facility to temporarily house, and expedite the reunion with the families of, lost pets.

