



Wanderers' Rest Humane Association 2019 Annual Report

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Wanderers' Rest Humane Association



Mission and Purpose

Wanderers' Rest Humane Association is the sole open admissions dog and cat shelter in Madison County serving between 600 and 1,000 cats and dogs each year. Having a contract with Madison County ensures that all unwanted or stray dogs picked up by dog control in Madison County will have a safe place to stay while waiting to be redeemed by their owner or to get adopted into a new family. Our doors are always open to individuals from all over who wish to adopt a dog or cat. We accept owner surrendered animals from Madison County, as well as individuals who reside out of county, if possible.

Our Mission

WRHA is dedicated to providing the highest quality care and compassion for the animals entrusted to us, striving to enhance adoptability, and re-homing adoptable animals at the highest rate possible, while educating and leading our community in creating a more humane society. Through our public education programs, the shelter promotes responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of animals everywhere.

Wanderers' Rest is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that welcomes any and all contributions, as well as volunteers and fosters, in order to continue to accomplish our daily goals and achieve our overall mission.

EIN: 16-1191312

Comments from the Executive Shelter Manager

Animals have a way of filling an emptiness inside us that we may not have known was there. They fill this void with unconditional love and we, as humans, are obligated to provide them with that love in return; provide them the proper care and treatment that they cannot provide themselves. Being an employee at an animal shelter is in no way an easy job. Being responsible for 100 animals at a time requires a lot of observations, communication, decisions, and emotions. I am so proud of the team of staff, volunteers, and fosters we have that are so beyond dedicated to every cat and dog that walks through our doors. They look out for the best interest of each individual animal in a way that truly amazes me.

However, none of this would even be possible without our supporters and donors. We are constantly pushing to get our name out to the public and have started sending our e-blasts to all of our supporters that have signed up for our newsletters. This is a great way to keep the public informed on what is happening at the shelter and to keep them involved. Even though we only had one big event (with smaller ones mixed in) we were still able to promote WRHA in a huge way. We have been getting the media more involved and even announced some big news at our Woofstock event. I couldn't be more pleased with where the shelter stands at this point in time and can only look forward to our bright future.

This past year, 2019, has been a great year but did not go without struggle. We had a few months time period dealing with sick kittens that took a while to get under control. The most upsetting part was taking in a feral mom that was in labor, as none of the babies survived. Things like this hit you hard and staff/volunteers end up taking it personally, even though there isn't anything they could have done. This shows how much the WRHA team cares for each individual animal and will do everything in their power to help those in need.



As we continue to improve our image in the eyes of the public, we have increased our support and now our donor database is built back up to where we needed it. However, our work is never done and we will continue to need your support in the years to come to ensure we provide the proper care and treatment to every animal that comes through our doors.

The key to our success is YOU. Without you, we wouldn't exist. We might do the work, but you keep us going. So...thank you for your support of Wanderers' Rest. We hope we can continue to make you proud to have us serving your community.

Sabrina Wilcox
Executive Shelter Manager

WHO ARE WE?

BOARD MEMBERS

Lewis Carinci—President

Gerald Taylor, Esq—Vice President

Kevin Coursen—Treasurer

Rachelle Keator—Secretary

Julie Koelsch

Kerry Brown—DVM

Rachel Elder, MD

STAFF MEMBERS

Sabrina Wilcox, Executive Shelter Manager

Brandy Jeffris, Animal Care Coordinator

Mason Groesbeck, Foster Coordinator

Vicky Arnold, Adoption Coordinator

Danielle Schermerhorn, Kennel Attendant
and Office Manager

Kyle Buda, Animal Care Specialist

Kasey Dunn, Animal Care Specialist

Lance Dolan, Kennel Attendant

Kim Muehlenbein, Receptionist

Elise Spitzer, Kennel Attendant

Jenna Dombroski, Animal Care Specialist

Employee Comments

Mason --- Foster Coordinator

Every year our foster program improves with gaining new fosters, being able to provide more information, and helping more animals each year. This past year Wanderers' Rest was able to foster out over 150 cats/kittens, along with two heartworm positive dogs that were undergoing treatment. Fostering is very beneficial for pregnant cats and dogs, animals that are stressed in their cages, and those that are receiving medical treatment. As soon as we receive a call that we are getting in a pregnant cat, we will immediately reach out to our fosters in hope that the cat can go right into a home, instead of a cage. This decreases their stress and gives the kittens a better chance at survival. By having fosters, we are able to help more animals every year, opening kennels for other others in need. Fostering is a crucial aspect of Wanderers' Rest, and in 2020 it is our hope to improve our foster program even more. If we did not have a foster program, we would not be able to help as many animals we do each year.



Employee Comments Continued...

Vicky --- Adoption Coordinator

This past year as Adoption Coordinator has once again been an exciting, rewarding and fulfilling one. If you compare 2019's numbers to our report for 2018 you can see that our numbers for dog adoptions at the shelter only differ by 4. At the same time our numbers for dogs leaving as a whole is only different by 2. While our numbers for cats leaving is quite a bit different, that is due to the fact that we had far less cats surrendered or brought in as strays.

As much as I love my job and enjoy what I get to do five days a week, I always wish I could do more. I track the numbers all year long hoping to improve across the board and send more animals into their forever homes. There really is nothing more satisfying than seeing not only children, but grown adults grinning from ear to ear while adopting their new family members. Being the first and last seen at the shelter, I also get to have amazing conversations with our customers about past and present pets. We talk, laugh, and sometimes even cry, but it is all a part of the experience of being an Adoption Coordinator.

Once again I have to say that there is no way for me to do the number of adoptions, redemptions or surrenders without the amazing people I work with. There have been so many times that we have done unscheduled, spur of the moment adoptions, and that means they are the ones who have to hustle doing pre-adoption exams and anything that may go with it. They are absolutely the backbone of the shelter.

I ended last years report by saying that they say it "takes a village," and I have to once again say that at Wanderers' Rest Humane Association we have one spectacular village.



Humane Education

Our humane education program continues to grow each year. In 2019, we had three staff members taking part in our humane education program, as well as a wonderful volunteer. We have been attending nursing homes on a regular basis, and visiting schools to talk about the humane treatment of animals. We have a lot to offer and are super excited to see what 2020 brings.



Employee Comments Continued...

"One of my favorite things about 2019 was being part of such an amazing and diverse group of people consisting of shelter staff, volunteers, and general supporters who always go above and beyond with the care of the cats and dogs at Wanderers' Rest. What I am looking forward to in 2020 is continuing to improve on what we accomplished in 2019." Vicky

"WRHA has been a wonderful place to work. I learned from everyone there (especially the animals!) how I can make a difference every day. I look forward to see what 2020 has in store for this amazing organization that continues to inspire me." Elise

"2019 was definitely a turning point for the animals, staff and the shelter. In 2020, I look forward to all the exciting changes that will further our success. Working at WRHA has made me feel like part of a team and I'm proud of all we've accomplished so far." Danielle

"After 5 years of working at WRHA, I am still constantly learning new things. Whether it is from the amazing staff/volunteers I work with, or the animals, there is never a dull moment. This is by far, the most heartbreaking, yet heartwarming job I could ever imagine. I cannot wait to see what new ideas and changes come in 2020." Sabrina

"Having the opportunity to go offsite to conferences helps me learn more about how to be the best at my job, which benefits the team, the animals, and myself." Kyle

"Wanderers' Rest has opened many doors for me and from that I have gained a variety of new skills. I am grateful for this job and hope to continue to better my person as well as the shelter as a whole." Kasey

"The shelter is slowly becoming better everyday. I look forward to a bright future ahead." Kim

"The best part of 2019 was seeing Deuce get adopted!" Lance

"I am very proud of how many tough long-term animals we have found homes for. I am also very happy with the medical care we have been able to provide. Beyond this, I am incredibly grateful for all the help we have gotten from our foster care program and the awesome fosters we are lucky enough to have." Brandy

"In 2019, I personally feel that we have definitely found so many new resources, working with other shelters, rescues, or programs to help more animals, whether it was putting them in a foster home, finding a rescue, or even sending dogs to training. We have been able to work with so many other people that have the love for animals as the staff at WRHA does. In 2020, my goal is to be able to help even more animals in need. I would like to be able to work with more shelters and rescues. One of the most amazing things WRHA personally has helped me with is being able to make a difference in the animals' lives. I have been able to have the pleasure of doing television and radio segments to help find animals their new homes, and it is something I never thought I would have been able to do. The past 5 years at the shelter has helped me find who I truly am." Mason

"I was able to watch animals spend their last night in the shelter and their first night in a home all in a 48 hour span numerous times so far, and knowing I've been a part of something that monumental is life fulfilling. Shelter work must truly be the most rewarding job there is." Jenna

Adoption Events—2019

In 2019 we did 90 offsite adoption events. Out of these 90 events, 33 were with multiple vendors/rescues. These offsite adoption events resulted in helping elicit at least 71 pet adoptions and raised over \$4,300 for the shelter.

Participating in events that include other shelters/rescues helps to build relationships vital to sharing adoptable animals with other groups and creates partnerships to help more animals in need.

We also did 3 closed events at: AXA in Syracuse, Spectrum in Syracuse, and Mid-State Correctional facility in Marcy. These events not only resulted in donations and pet adoptions, but also helped build a relationship with the shelter.

As a result of participating in an adoption event at the Key in Cazenovia, they would like us to do more adoption events in the future. The Director of the Key asked if we could do one in the spring and one in the fall. They raised donations for the Shelter and helped spread the word about Wanderers' Rest. This is a good way for the shelter to get connections in Cazenovia. The Director of the Key said that she would like their facility to be our "Cazenovia connection". We are so appreciative of this.

These offsite adoption events would not be possible without the help of dedicated volunteers. Wanderers' Rest is always looking for volunteers willing to help with running these events.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make these adoption events in 2019 a success.

Butch Hall – Volunteer Adoption Event Coordinator



Adopt

Our goal is to get every animal out of the shelter and into a new home as quickly as possible. Adoptions are the key to this success. Through our adoption application process, we try to find a perfect match for each animal, ensuring each are going into a home that matches their lifestyle and will be the best environment. In 2019, WRHA facilitated 340 adoptions. We know this number has been decreasing yearly as the number of animals coming into the shelter decreases. However, we plan on raising this number in 2020 due to a change in our adoption process to help more animals get out quicker, which in turn will create space to help more animals.



Foster

WRHA's Foster Program was in full force this year, helping to save more lives. Kittens are very prone to illness in the shelter environment, which is why it is our goal to get kittens out into foster care as soon as possible to help prevent this. Fosters are an important asset to the shelter, giving animals a chance to get out of the shelter environment while waiting for a forever home. In 2019, WRHA sent over 150 animals into foster care, whether for a night/week/month, until the animal was healthy, or until that animal was adopted.

Volunteer

Volunteers are the backbone that holds our shelter together. Without them, we cannot do what we do. We usually only honor one volunteer each year whose dedication and effort at Wanderers' Rest stands out. However, this year we honored two. Our volunteer of the year award was presented to Keith Maniacek who has so much love and compassion for animals and helping out at the shelter. The animals can sense his positive attitude and good vibe he brings to the shelter each week. Our second award was our new Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, presented to Kendra Niles. Kendra, who is too young to work directly with the animals (handling and cleaning), still finds a way to make the lives of the animals in the shelter better. This young girl comes in often to read to the cats, where you can see how much they enjoy her company. We are continuously looking for new volunteers willing to help out on a regular basis, just like Keith and Kendra.



Animal Care: Intakes and Outcomes

2019

INTAKES

OUTCOMES

	Dogs	Cats	TOTAL		Dogs	Cats	Total
Stray	249	145	394	Adoption	126	214	340
Owner Surrender	21	73	94	Euthanized	3	12	15
Seized	4	0	4	Returned to Owner	168	4	172
Return	21	8	29	Transfer Out	1	8	9
Transfer In	5	0	5	Died in Care	0	9	9
TOTAL	300	226	526	TOTAL	298	247	545

PAST YEARS

INTAKES

OUTCOMES

	2018	2017	2016		2018	2017	2016
Stray	407	503	554	Adoption	411	439	457
Owner Surrender	164	163	283	Euthanized	13	30	168
Seized	6	7	26	Returned to Owner	171	209	186
Return	26	32	28	Transfer Out	14	9	21
Transfer In	5	3	1	Died in Care	11	7	52
				Missing	0	0	1
TOTAL	608	892	961	TOTAL	620	885	1020

Animal Care Continued...

The ASPCA states that the Live Release Rate is calculated using the following formula:

(Live Outcomes) divided by (All Outcomes)

Therefore, our Live Release Rates are as followed:

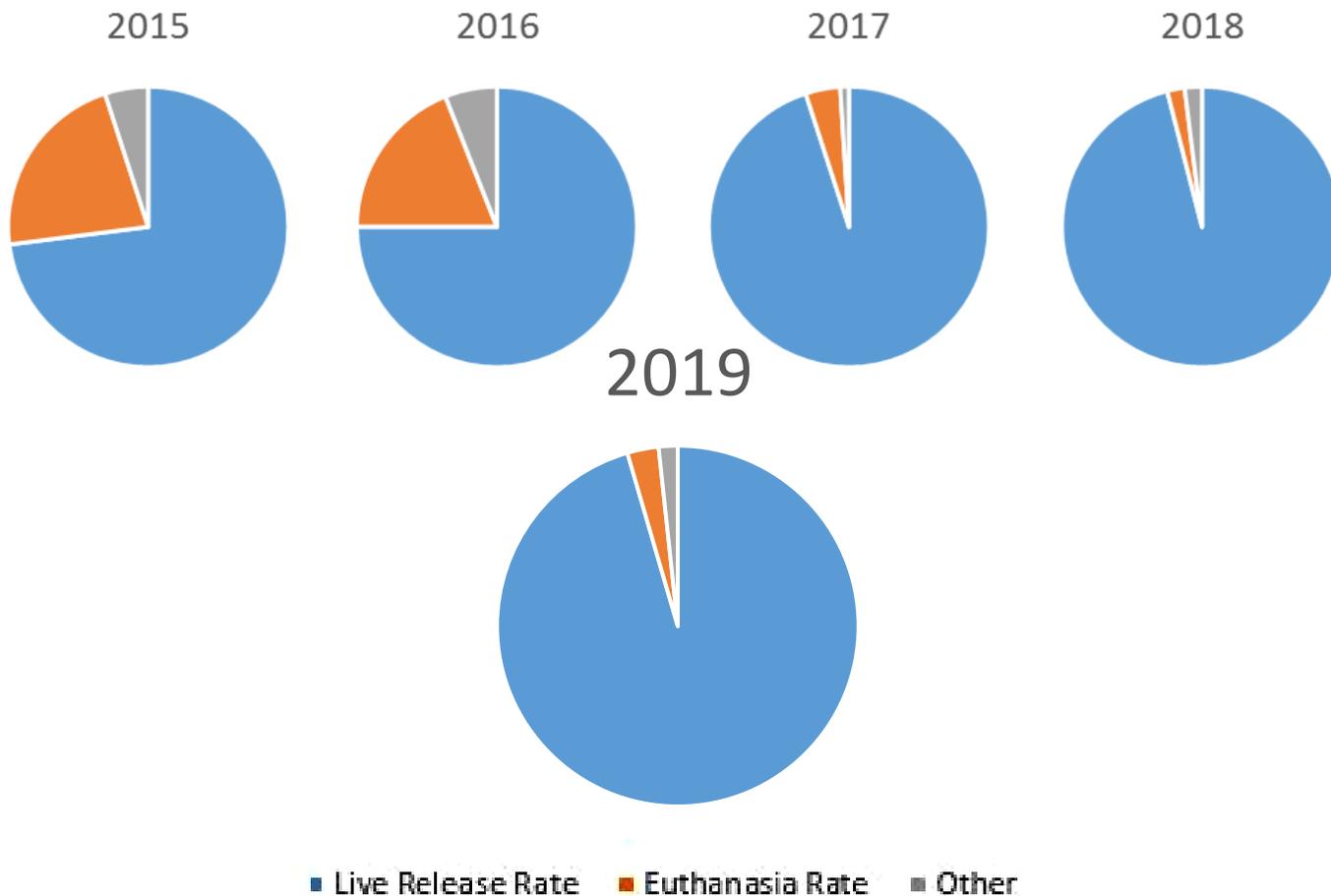
2015: 72%

2016: 75%

2017: 95%

2018: 96%

2019: 96%



“Other” represents animals who may have died onsite or went missing .

The live release rate in previous years may have been influenced by the number of hoarding cases or seized animals that came in potentially sick or aggressive and euthanized.

BEFORE AND AFTER

WHAT LOVE AND CARE DO FOR AN ANIMAL

Before

After



Chester came into the shelter as a stray in May 2019. He was in really rough shape, with a major skin infection, both ears infected and swollen, dehydrated, parasites, and swollen legs and paws. After a lot of medications, love, and care, Chester's hair grew back (mostly) and we got his infections under control. This sweet boy definitely knew we were here to help him. In September 2019, Chester found his forever home!



John Deere and Harvester are brothers who both had severe URI's and infections in their eyes that caused their eyes to bleed. Unfortunately, they each had an eye that was not savable and had to be removed. They have since both recovered nicely and have adjusted to their new lifestyle with ease. These two are partners in crime and now complete each other with their missing eyes.



Jeta came to us with 4 wonderful puppies. However, Jeta had a softball size tumor growing on her mammary gland. This tumor hindered a lot of Jeta's activities, though you would never know it sometimes. After a lot of assessments, Jeta finally was able to get this mass removed at Cornell, and is now living the life in her new forever home.



SPAY AND NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM

The ASPCA® (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) awarded Wanderers' Rest Humane Association with \$40,000 to assist low-income Madison County families with costs of spaying and neutering in 2018-2019.

- In 2018, 53 cats and dogs were spayed or neutered through this program
- In 2019, 124 cats and dogs were spayed/neutered through this grant.

MADE POSSIBLE BY
A GRANT FROM THE



Spaying and Neutering is the key to solving our overpopulation problem. Leaving animals intact leads to unwanted litters which end up in shelters.

REDUCE SPRAYING & MARKING

REDUCE ROAMING

REDUCE AGGRESSION

LOWER RISK OF CANCERS

DECREASE OVERPOPULATION

INCREASE LIFESPAN UP TO 3-5 YEARS

In 3 years, and as early as 4 months old,
1 unspayed female and
1 unneutered male can produce:

512 DOGS
382 CATS

Staffworks FUND

Save-A-Life Campaign 2019

The Staffworks Fund Save A Life Campaign matched donations given to Wanderers' Rest Humane Association from December 3rd to December 31st, 2019.

This year, the Staffworks Fund was matching based off the following criteria:

FIRST \$10,000 in donations = \$10,000 match
PLUS \$1,000 for every additional \$5,000 in donations
PLUS \$2,000 for reaching \$100,000 in donations
\$30,000 TOTAL POTENTIAL!

***This time we raised \$64,791.28 and was matched by the Staffworks Fund with \$20,000!!

That is a total of **\$84,791.28** which helps us provide the necessary care to the animals that make Wanderers' Rest their temporary home. Thank you to everyone who donated and supported us this past year. We cannot do what we do without your help!***

Thank you to the Staffworks Fund for your consistent critical support of our shelter.



WOOFSTOCK 2019

At Woofstock on August 17th, 2019, Wanderers' Rest Announced some big news!

1) No—kill

- Even though we have been operating as a no-kill shelter the past few years, we decided to make it official. This means that we only euthanize animals that are severely aggressive or severely ill, beyond treatment. We prefer calling ourselves a Care and Compassion shelter, as we go above and beyond for each animal, in an attempt to make them adoptable.

1) New shelter

- We have been undergoing plans of a new shelter and have floor plans completed. We are beyond thrilled to be starting this new chapter for the shelter as it will benefit the animals, staff, and public as a whole.

SHELTER AND OPERATIONS EVALUATION

Due to this big news, we wanted to ensure we are taking all of the right steps, following the right protocols and procedures, and running the shelter to the best of our ability. We want to continuously improve, but wanted someone from outside the shelter to evaluate us.

In December of 2019, we had Barbara Carr, a shelter consultant, spend two days in our shelter to go over everything with the shelter manager, and watch how tasks are being accomplished by all staff. In her review, she provides suggestions for some changes we could consider making, and we are accepting those changes with open arms.

SHELTER EVALUATION—CLIPS FROM OUR SHELTER REVIEW

Observations:

The cleaning and disinfection processes at WRHA are exceptional.

Discussion:

In the morning animals are fed, then dogs are walked, then kennels are cleaned.

Recommendations:

Look into changing the order of jobs in the morning. Eating in dirty cages may often cause animals to not eat, particularly cats. Food should be offered after cleaning. In the case where animals seem ravenous, like kittens will be in the morning, provide a small meal followed later with a larger meal after cleaning is complete.

“The main areas of concern in addition to the physical plant itself are too few administrative staff members to get the job done, a lack of a robust volunteer program to support a small staff, an antiquated adoption program, and a lack of a development plan or staff.”

“While animal care is covered well by staffing, there are not enough staff or trained volunteers to provide enough appropriate enrichment for cats. There is one very dedicated cat volunteer that does an incredible job, but more is needed.”

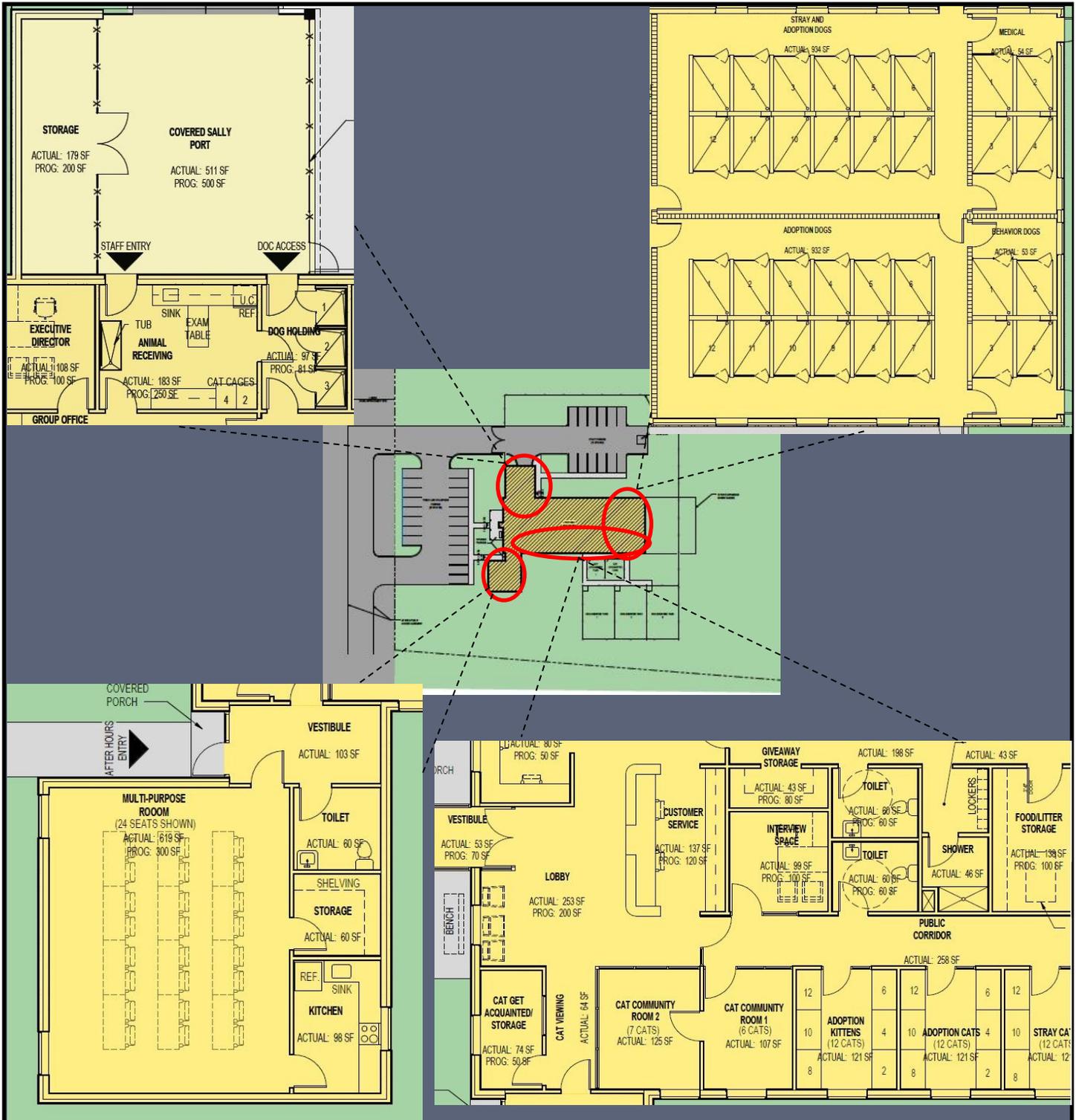
“We determined that keeping the doors open at WRHA costs in excess of \$1500 a day, day in and day out.”

“First impressions are important. Other than the noise of dogs barking, WRHA gives an excellent first impression.”

“Staffing for animal care at WRHA is quite acceptable. The animal care team is passionate, knowledgeable, caring, and very impressive individuals. I sat in on one of their weekly staff meetings and was very impressed with their ability to recognize issues and their willingness to think outside the box for solutions.”

NEW SHELTER PLANS!

(A SNEAK PEAK)



UPCOMING: What to expect in 2020

- More E-blasts
- Quarterly Newsletters
- Our Largest Event!
 - ⇒ Woofstock: August 22, 2020
- An increase in other smaller events
- Adoption specials for every holiday
- Capital Campaign
- Changes
 - ⇒ Switching to shelterluv (a new program to track the animals in our care)
 - ⇒ New/improved protocols
 - ⇒ New volunteer program



If you would like to be:

- an active member on one of our event committees...
- on our mailing list or update your current address...
- on our e-mail list...

...Please contact the shelter at
(315) 697-2796

or

info@wanderersrest.org

Contact Us!

WANDERERS’ REST HUMANE ASSOCIATION

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