

PAWS Columbus and Muscogee County Humane Society Merge

The Boards of Directors of Muscogee County Humane Society and PAWS Columbus have approved the consolidation of the two organizations into PAWS HUMANE. This consolidation will allow us to better steward the resources that you and thousands of other donors and adoptive families have entrusted to us over the years.

Today, an unacceptable 6,000 animals are euthanized by Columbus Animal Care and Control annually. Unfortunately they must do so because up until now, this community has had inadequate, out-of-date holding facilities and financial resources to properly care for these animals on a temporary basis. We have settled for a culture that animals are disposable. And we have had limited access to low-cost spay/neuter services.

Together, and with your help, we strive to become a community where no healthy companion animal is euthanized due to lack of space or an acceptable, permanent home.

The Muscogee County Humane Society brings a rich tradition of service to the animals in our community who cannot help themselves through animal protection and adoption services. It has in recent years established a regional spay/neuter clinic and has expanded this program to serve not only our citizens and their animals, but also other animal protection agencies within a 60-mile radius of Columbus.

PAWS Columbus has established itself as a regional and national leader in its ability to facilitate a public/private partnership with the city government to plan, fund and construct a new, comprehensive Animal Resource Campus. This model project, the result of nine years of planning, has recently opened. While the City is constructing an adjacent animal shelter on the Milgen Road campus funded with SPLOST receipts, the PAWS facility has been entirely funded by private contributions. The facility will provide a home for education and outreach programs, a family-friendly adoption center, expanded holding facilities and a modern veterinary clinic for spay/neuter services. Our education center will serve as a regional training facility for current and future animal welfare workers and volunteers in the southeast.

Together, the leadership teams, staff members and volunteers from both organizations will provide quality service and deliver measurable results to meet our mission and hold ourselves accountable for the future of the animals of our community. We recognize that we are stronger as one united team.

The dedicated board members of both organizations have spent months considering the impact of this merger on the community. Throughout this time, our first priority was of course, the animals of Columbus. Until now, we have partnered on many efforts including providing low-cost spay/neuter and immunization services to the animals of citizens who cannot afford the services of a private veterinarian. Together we have offered relief services for the animals of people displaced by Hurricane Katrina and have partnered on adoption efforts to place thousands of stray and unwanted animals in forever homes. And with Columbus Animal Care and Control and the Muscogee County Health Department, we have provided low-cost rabies vaccination and micro-chipping, and easy permitting of companion animals.

We believe that coming together as one organization under the name of PAWS HUMANE is the best way for us to serve our community and meet our mission. You have entrusted us with your contributions that have allowed us to learn best practices from other animal protection and welfare agencies. You have helped provide animal-assisted outreach programs that help children learn to read, bring hope to youth and adults incarcerated in detention centers and prisons, and bring joy to seniors who cannot care for pets of their own. You have made it possible to provide temporary shelter to the animals of women who are displaced from their homes due to domestic violence. You help us provide more than 7,200 meals annually to the animals of seniors who receive “meals on wheels.” Together, we have saved the lives of tens of thousands of helpless animals who have been discarded or lost.

Please share our excitement and anticipation as we face this next chapter in our history. We could not have come to this place without your help, and we cannot meet our future challenges and ultimate mission without your continued vote of confidence. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain with this consolidation. Together we are dedicated to making Columbus a leader in animal welfare in our region, our state and the nation. Together, we are People Helping Animals and Animals Helping People. Together, we are PAWS Humane.

Thank you again for your dedication and commitment to our progress. We look forward to celebrating more successes with you.

The Board and Staff of PAWS Humane