

Building a Brighter Future for Mobile's People & Pets

A Case for Support for a New Animal Shelter in Mobile



Overview

The City of Mobile Animal Services (COMAS) is embarking on a mission to build a brighter future for Mobile's people and pets by constructing a modern animal shelter to serve our community. For the past decade, we have been facing a growing animal overpopulation crisis in Mobile. Currently, COMAS takes in nearly 2,000 animals annually in need of shelter, food, and a loving home, and there are still more stray and abandoned animals that need our help every day.

Built in 1967, our current facility makes it challenging to adequately respond to the need. While we are proud of our track record and ability to vaccinate, rehome, and support the animals that come through COMAS, we also recognize that our decades-old systems are over capacity and our physical facility is no longer functional.

The most fiscally responsible way forward is a modernized shelter that meets animal control laws and requirements, upholds the highest standards of care, and addresses the needs of our community.

Over the last 50 years, the state of animal welfare has continued to evolve. What was once a system built solely on animal control and impounding is now a more comprehensive, holistic system that includes lost and found (to reunite pets with families), a foster program, adoptions, outreach, and education.



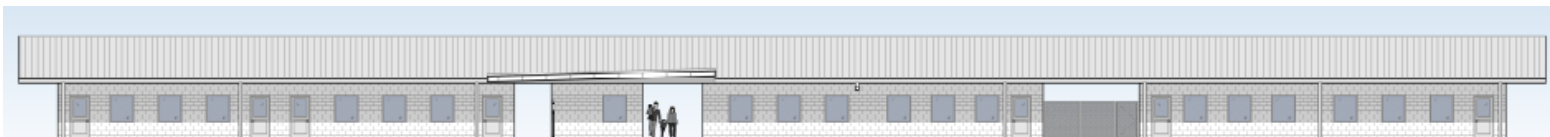
In August 2021, Mobile City leadership began charting a new course to transform the way we respond to and care for the animals in our community.

A new shelter will help us continue this transformation from a facility designed with old methods and concepts for animal control and sheltering to one that maximizes our operational efficiency and provides the best experience possible for people and animals.

We hope you'll join us on this mission to build a facility that will serve our community for years to come, improving the safety, health, and welfare of the animals and people of Mobile. We're seeking visionary donors and investors to help us reach our \$5M goal.

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN TODAY!

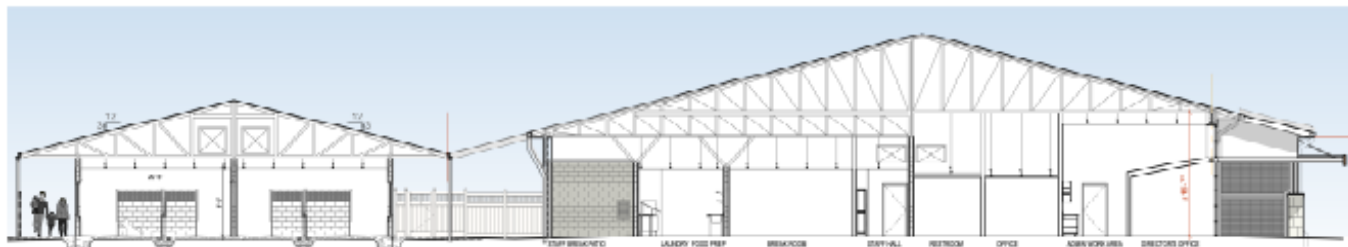
Read on to learn more about the benefits this campaign will bring to our community.



A New Vision for Mobile Animal Services

There are thousands of pets across our City who need our help. **Our community will benefit tremendously from a modern animal facility, along with programs and processes focused on improving quality of care and creating a brighter, safer, and happier future for Mobile’s pets and their people.**

Our current animal shelter was constructed in the 1960s, and over the decades the building has deteriorated substantially. While city staff has worked to keep up with the maintenance needed to keep the building functioning, many issues are beyond repair and upkeep is no longer cost-effective.



Additionally, the capacity of the building is very limited and no longer adequate to provide the space needed for all services. The new shelter will greatly expand our footprint, so that we can adequately care for more animals, streamline our operations, and accommodate the public with a more welcoming experience.

In 2021, City leadership contracted with Jackson and Ryan, a national leader in animal sheltering, in partnership with Mobile-based architects at Clark, Geer, and Latham, to design a state-of-the-art facility that will allow COMAS to create a more positive, welcoming experience for shelter visitors. In addition to providing the space needed for future growth in animal intake, the new building will help solve the many pressing health, safety, and logistical needs that exist today.



Benefits of a New Facility

Animal Environment

Current Facility	New Facility
No noise reduction systems, leading to a loud and stressful atmosphere for employees and animals.	New floor plan and paneling will provide adequate separation between areas, as well as noise buffering.
Cats are kept solely in kennels with limited access to sunlight or open space until they are adopted.	Cats will have a dedicated catio to roam free in a more relaxed environment to meet potential adopters. They will also have access to natural sunlight via windows at the front of the building.
Dog kennels are concrete. Many are located outside or partially outside. Given that space is limited and the number of intakes far outweighs the building's capacity, dogs must often be confined in wire kennels until more space becomes available.	The new facility will include kennels designed to lower stress (via noise reduction, extra space, and better construction) to minimize noise and visibility of other dogs.
No adequate space internally for animals to play and socialize while staying at the shelter.	Multiple play yards and outdoor space will provide secure, safe, recreational areas for dogs of all sizes to help provide enrichment, exercise, and alleviate kennel stress.



Visitor & Office Space

Current Facility	New Facility
Not enough lobby space to accommodate visitor load. Visitors must routinely wait outside for appointments and to be assisted.	Adequate lobby space with seating for all visitor types.
No additional rooms or space outside the small lobby to conduct meet and greets or to answer questions and discuss potential options with people who come to the shelter for assistance.	Multiple, quiet rooms available for potential adopters to comfortably meet animals and receive counseling if they need help with their pet (such as spay/neuter vouchers, food, or surrendering their pets or a stray).
Adopters cannot walk through the shelter currently, given the layout and overcapacity.	The new shelter's design will make it easier for adopters to view animals available for adoption while minimizing noise and stress for the animals.
No space to provide for community education classes or to hold internal and external staff meetings.	Dedicated meeting rooms for community classes, stakeholder and volunteer meetings, rescue partners, trainings, and more.
Not enough office space for current employees, with existing office spaces shared by multiple people.	Adequate office space providing room for current and future staff growth.



"A new facility will provide the staff with the necessary resources to better assist the calls they receive and the animals that come through the system. So many calls come through the 311 system that are seemingly overlooked because there is not enough space for all of the abandoned animals to be housed. This leaves the animals to roam the streets, or the sick and injured are left to die, or to rely on local rescue groups which are already full."

- Community Member

Medical Surgical Suite

Current Facility	New Facility
No isolation areas for sick animals with ventilation and disease-control systems, nor adequate number of treatment rooms.	Modern clinic and surgical suite will accommodate all medical cases, critical care, exams, and surgeries by a licensed veterinarian. Includes separate HVAC systems to reduce disease transmission. Intakes/new admissions will be conveniently located so that animals can be transferred immediately to our medical suite to minimize any spread of disease.
No adequate space to meet community demand and need for animal medical services.	The new suite will greatly expand capacity to provide more medical services to animals in need.
No space to accommodate in-house veterinarian and medical services team.	New medical suite will allow an in-house veterinarian along with a medical team to to perform in-house spay/neuter surgeries, diagnostics, and equipment/supplies, thereby reducing the need to transport animals to outside clinics.

"COMAS is a lifeline to stray and abandoned pets in our community, and it's a facility where lost pets can be reconnected to their family. COMAS provides timely and better health care for stray and unwanted pets, which includes spaying and neutering to decrease the population. This allows the public the chance to adopt a healthy animal."

- Shelter Volunteer



We Need Your Help!

With your support, we know we can provide a high level of care for the vulnerable animals in Mobile and create an inspiring vision for the future of animal services in our city.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$20,000,000. The City of Mobile has already committed \$15 million, and the remaining \$5 million will be raised through the following naming opportunities:

\$2,000,000

Main Shelter and Adoption Center Building**

\$1,000,000

Medical Surgical Suite**

\$450,000

Public Adoption Lobby***

\$150,000 (3 available)

Staff and Volunteer Break Patios & Rooms***

\$100,000 (2 available)

Puppy rooms to hold approximately 20 puppies each***

\$75,000 (6 available)

Cat rooms***

\$25,000 (18 available)

Dog adoption blocks (12) ***

Large spotlight dog kennel spaces (6) ***

**Estimated cost as of 9/1/23*

***Naming rights for building names will be for a ten year period from the grand opening.*

****Each sponsored named space that has a plaque will feature an engraved customizable plaque with the donor's name, or that of their favorite pet, along with the date of sponsorship.*

To learn more about naming opportunities and how you can leave a lasting legacy in our community, please contact Robert Bryant, Director of Animal Services, or Stacey Yawn, Lifesaving Outcomes Coordinator, at animalshelter@cityofmobile.org.

[For more details, please visit www.animalservicesmobile.com.](http://www.animalservicesmobile.com)

Project Budget

The overall cost to build the new Animal Shelter in Mobile is \$20M. Currently, the City has committed \$15M, leaving COMAS with \$5M left to raise to begin construction.

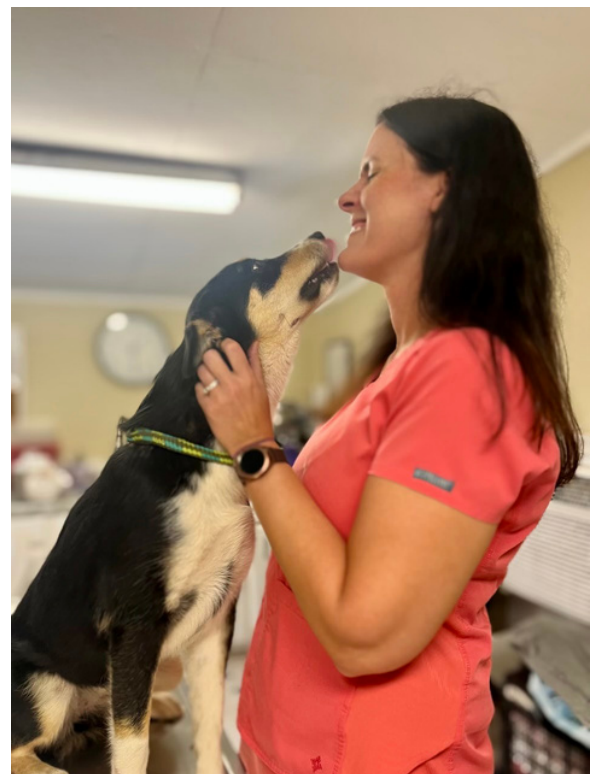
NEW ANIMAL SHELTER TOTAL COST:	\$20,000,000
AMOUNT COMMITTED BY CITY OF MOBILE:	\$15,000,000
TOTAL TO RAISE:	\$5,000,000

Your Support = HUGE Impact on People & Pets

COMAS's mission is to promote responsible pet ownership, implement programs to reduce animal overpopulation, and form innovative partnerships and programs to increase the City's effectiveness in supporting animals and humans in Mobile.

Our goal is to save as many animal lives as possible (maintaining the animal welfare industry standards of 90% or higher live outcomes), while also supporting our animal control officers and kennel staff so they can do their best to keep pets in their home, reduce the number of stray and abandoned animals in the community, and maintain high standards of care for animals in our system.

We all know that animal overpopulation poses public health and safety risks to our residents, not to mention the fact that we all care deeply about the well-being of our four-legged friends and don't want to see them alone and suffering in our community.



By supporting this campaign, you will help us expand on our ability to care for animals in need and provide services to residents who need assistance to keep their pets in their home.

COMAS

BY THE NUMBERS



Number of Pets Served

More than **2,000** animals come through COMAS' doors and receive services annually.



Linked to Homes

An average of **1,500** animals cared for by COMAS each year are successfully and safely adopted into homes.

Reunifications

Additionally, COMAS reunites an average of **210** animals each year with their original families.



Vaccinations

ALL animals that come through COMAS are vaccinated on intake.



Support COMAS

The welfare of our pets and community depends on you!



PARTNERS IN PET WELFARE

COMAS is proud to work alongside other nonprofit partners committed to animal welfare, like:

Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter:

Provides funding to support specialized medical care, supplies, and other facility needs.

Animal Rescue Foundation:

Partners in pet welfare. Funds supplies for our foster program and helps with specialized medical care and other special requests.

Mobile SPCA:

Assists with transporting animals to other shelters for adoption services.

City of Mobile, Emergency Management:

Partners in preparing for emergency evacuation of animals in the event of disasters.



The mission of the City of Mobile Animal Services is to balance the health, safety and welfare needs of the people and animals in our City. Together with the community, we strive to accomplish the following: in our work, we will educate the public about responsible companion animal ownership, investigate animal cruelty and neglect cases, provide compassion and humane care for unwanted animals in our City, give adoptable animals a second chance at a forever home, and humanely euthanize animals when necessary and appropriate.

City of Mobile Animal Shelter

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