



The Calgary Humane Society

for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Proposal for University of Calgary EVDS 702

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Committee
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Project Title: The Calgary Humane Society New Facility Design Long Range Planning Project

Project Description:

We are hoping to involve some creative, knowledgeable people in researching and designing a facility which would meet the changing needs of the organization. We envision a facility that enables us to house animals in a manner that better meets their needs while providing an environment for people that is warm, inviting and educational in an interactive way.

Our current facility was built in 1976 and has undergone minor enhancements over the years. The technology (e.g. disease-control, environmental enrichment, automation) has changed substantially in that period of time as has the approach to sheltering and handling animals. We shelter over 12,000 companion animals per year in our approximately 15,000 sq. ft. shelter located in northeast Calgary. Our facility is deficient in a number of ways.

An interdisciplinary approach to this project would be very exciting as we envision the Calgary Humane Society being a more integral part of the community.

Key Business Planning Goals:

The Calgary Humane Society developed a Strategic Plan in 1999. Two of the Business Planning Goals which relate to the facility are the following:

- ◆ A full exploration of an animal facility prominently located within the city is under way.
- ◆ Animals sheltered by the Society are provided with a healthy, clean, loving environment for the duration of their stay.

We have a number of complimentary initiatives being planned such as a community pet population study and an organizational branding review to understand people's perceptions of who we are and what we do. These projects represent the preliminary research for a 3-year awareness campaign to promote spaying and neutering of companion animals and adoption of shelter animals, both very important to our efforts to achieve our vision which is:

The Calgary Humane Society in partnership with others, will promote and support an environment which will create healthy, caring, loving and responsible homes for all companion animals.

We want to reduce the number of unwanted and mistreated animals in our community. How can we better design our facility to enhance our initiatives?

Key Questions:

What are the Calgary Humane Society's anticipated sheltering needs over the next 15 years given expected City growth, taking into consideration implications of surrounding community requirements, and the anticipated changes in other animal-related organizations such as City of Calgary Animal Services as well as other special interest animal welfare groups.

What is the community/stakeholder's perceptions of the Calgary Humane Society's strategic direction in terms of a new shelter? What are their expectations of layout, service, programs in relation to a new facility?

What improvements in the functionality of the Calgary Humane Society shelter could be made in the following areas:

- Core sheltering (dogs, cats, rabbits, others) - comfort, noise sanitation
- Quarantine/isolation area
- Veterinary facility (layout, equipment, capacity)
- Staff areas (offices, meetings rooms)
- Client requirements (adopters, students, visitors)
- Accessibility

What are the functional deficiencies of the current facility? What is the anticipated capital cost of a newly designed facility? What is the anticipated impact on the operating budget for a newly designed facility?

Research Sources: Internet; other Canadian Humane Societies/SPCA's that are also pursuing new building projects; Humane Society of the United States (HSUS); city of Calgary Animal Services regarding design and construction of their facility currently under construction; and US sheltering organizations recognized for innovative shelter design.

Summary:

The Calgary Humane Society is one of the most progressive animal welfare organizations in Canada. We pride ourselves on being innovative in programs and services to help animals that are admitted into the shelter as well as in efforts in the community to improve the welfare of animals. Given the unique and innovative nature of our project, we believe the students in EVDS 702 would find it a rewarding and challenging experience.