

Dear friends of the SPCA,

The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA hopes to clarify recent news reports about the SPCA's financial situation. First, we have not closed our doors and are not asking for a bailout from the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle. We are simply in the process of re-negotiating our current contract/working arrangement with the City and County.



The SPCA has a contract with the City and County to provide "pound services" to our community. These are services required by law and services that the City and the County are responsible to provide much like road maintenance, public schools, waste management, and law enforcement. Neither the City of Charlottesville nor Albemarle County has a pound to house stray animals. For more than 80 years, the SPCA has provided these much needed services, and we believe have saved the City and County substantial revenues.

For several years the SPCA requested additional compensation through the appropriations process without success. In Spring 2008, the SPCA put the City and County on notice that the current compensation the SPCA receives for pound services does not adequately compensate the SPCA for the basic costs of providing these services.

Compensation currently paid is below market compared to similar animal welfare organizations in Virginia, even those organizations that still euthanize a large number of animals. The industry standard suggests that a reasonable rate for pound services is \$4.00 per capita to \$7.00 per capita. The current rate paid to the SPCA for pound services is approximately \$1.60 per capita.

The SPCA provides many services to the community above and beyond basic pound services. Pound services consist of housing strays, licensing of animals, making sure lost animals have rabies vaccines, holding animals for court cases and bite quarantines, providing emergency medical care to injured strays, humanely euthanizing injured wildlife, aggressive or vicious animals, or other animals as directed by the health department and many related services. In addition to these basic services, the SPCA has implemented a series of life-saving programs creating a No Kill community. Because of these programs, Charlottesville- Albemarle is one of the safest communities for homeless animals in the United States.

These achievements have not cost taxpayers a penny. All of the costs have been borne by private donations. The SPCA is not asking for taxpayer dollars to support its No Kill mission. The SPCA simply seeks compensation for pound services at the same rate paid to pounds that are still euthanizing animals. As a nonprofit organization, the SPCA should not be subsidizing the legal obligations of our local government.



We believe we have served our community and the City and County well over the past 80 years, and we hope to continue to do so long into the future. If you agree, please let the members of the Charlottesville City Council and Albemarle County Board of Supervisors know you support fair compensation to the SPCA.

Please email the following statement or other any other statement of support to the following email addresses:

Statement of Support:

"I support fair compensation in accordance with industry standards (\$5 per capita) to the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA to enable the SPCA to continue providing pound services to our community."

Charlottesville City Council Members:

Mayor Dave Norris: cvilleDave@hotmail.com
Vice Mayor Julian Taliaferro: iafctreasurer@comcast.net
David Brown: dbrowndc@gmail.com
Holly Edwards: hollye@charlottesville.org
Satyendra Huja: hujal@comcast.net

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors:

Lindsay G. Dorrier: riverstreet4444@yahoo.com
Dennis S. Rooker: dsrooker@earthlink.net
Sally H. Thomas: sthomas@albemarle.org
David Slutzky: dslutzky@albemarle.org
Ann H. Mallek: amallek@albemarle.org
Kenneth C. Boyd: kboyd@albemarle.org

Let's help keep all those tails wagging,

Kristen Smith Bain
Board President

Susanne M. Kogut
Executive Director