



Fact Sheet

Orange County Animal Services (OCAS)

Pending Capital Projects

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Background: Orange County Animal Services (OCAS) is the only open admission shelter in Orange County, which means that it does not turn away any animal and accepts all animals, regardless of their temperament or health. The health and well-being of the animals in the care of OCAS is of the utmost importance to Orange County and its community. Most animals are ideal candidates for adoption, yet some come to the shelter suffering from long-term and profound health problems, as a result of being homeless, stray or abused. During the FY 15-16, OCAS surpassed its own adoption records, celebrating more than 8,300 homes for homeless pets. On average, the shelter receives approximately 50 animals each day, but these numbers can double during peak summer months. The original shelter was built in the 1980s as an animal control facility, yet in recent years, services at the shelter have significantly expanded to include a full adoption center, veterinary clinic and outreach efforts to reunify lost pets with families.

In 2016, Orange County Mayor Jacobs requested that Orange County explore the idea of building a new animal shelter after determining that the existing shelter could not be retrofit with an HVAC (heating ventilation and air conditioning) system. Also of consideration, OCAS now delivers many more services than the original 1980's building was designed to house.

OCAS Current Numbers (Fiscal Year 2016-2017)

- Impounds – 17,496
- Adoptions – 8,412
- Pet Reclaims – 1,594
- Sterilizations – 9,049
- Shelter Visitors – 106,775
- Approximately 100 total employees, including 3 full-time veterinarians

There are several significant ongoing OCAS capital projects of interest, as well as projects that were completed in 2017:

Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Study: COMPLETE

- In July 2016, OCAS requested a feasibility study to assess the total financial impact, challenges and benefits relevant to the installation of an HVAC system within its shelter. The original building, constructed in 1987, featured national design-standard open air circulation. The building was not constructed to serve as an adoption center, rather a temporary emergency holding location for dogs in the custody of animal control.
- The building is currently equipped with a ventilation system that moves air and helps curtail the spread of disease but does not produce cool air.
- Sick or infirmed animals can be cared for in an area that has conditioned air.
- The cost of the study was \$15,000.
- The proposed options ranged from \$350,000 - \$2.8 million, with monthly expenses in the thousands.
- Portable air conditioning units were considered in the study; however with the design of the building would likely offer little relief.

- OCAS staff monitor the interior temperatures during summer months several times a day, with the average temperature in the mid 90s.
- No animal has died as a result of summer temperatures while in OCAS custody; however, some animals are admitted with extreme health conditions or have experienced profound neglect. These conditions result in their passing.
- Orange County's Capital Project division brought the study results to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, who opted to upgrade the ventilation of the current facility and explore the idea of a new shelter and asked for a later presentation on that subject.

Ventilation Project: COMPLETE

- Upgraded ventilation in the dog building, also known as building 300, will improve air flow for the benefit of pets and shelter guests.
- Although not an air cooling system, the new ventilation does promote better air circulation, which did combat rising summer temperatures.
- In addition, the ventilation system is credited with helping the shelter combat the 2017 canine influenza outbreak in Florida.
- The approximate was \$450,000 and was completed in the summer of 2017.

Cat Building Project: COMPLETE

- Cat building, also known as building 500, will be renovated to be fully enclosed, have an HVAC system and commercial doors
- This project was approved at the February 7 Board of County Commissioners Meeting.
- Approximate cost was \$475,000, completed in fall 2017.

Interaction Yards Project: ONGOING FOR 2018

- Construction of two additional play yards on side of building 300
- Anticipated cost is \$175,000 anticipated completion date by spring 2018.
- Funding for the project was approved by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners on Dec. 4, 2017

Satellite Spay/Neuter Clinics: ONGOING FOR 2018

- Creation of two offsite spay/neuter clinics, one on the east side and one on the west side of the county
- Will offer large volume of low-cost sterilization surgeries to residents
- East side clinic will be located near the intersection of Alafaya and Woodbury, anticipated cost is \$650,000. Clinic is projected to open by summer 2018.
- The location for the West side clinic has been selected, design and launch plans remain underway. A projected opening date has not been identified.

Orange County Animal Shelter: ONGOING

- In 2017, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to pursue replacement of the current animal services building.