

Response to Questions on the FY 2013 Budget

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: Please provide additional information on the expanded animal shelter facility. Is all the new space being utilized? Does this expansion preclude consideration of a second shelter being built in the southeastern part of the County if land, funds, etc. can be identified?

Response: Utilization of Expanded West Ox Animal Shelter
The expanded West Ox Animal Shelter is scheduled for completion in early 2013. The FY 2013 Advertised Budget Plan includes 2/2.0 SYE regular merit positions to help staff the expanded facility. In addition, the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) is implementing a multi-year workforce plan to provide adequate administrative and kennel staff to phase-in full utilization of the 15,000 square feet of new space (e.g., service lobbies, kennels, animal housing, and veterinarian suite).

South County

The expanded West Ox Animal Shelter does not preclude continued consideration and planning for a future South County Animal Shelter. Several years ago, a satellite facility near the Newington garage in South County was under consideration to meet the operational and community service needs for citizens in Springfield, Lorton, Alexandria, Fort Belvoir, Mount Vernon and the Route 1 corridor. Due to budget implications, no further action has been taken on this option and it is not included in the County Executive's FY 2013 budget recommendation. Under the current framework, the distance necessary to travel coupled with the increased risk of stress-induced illness from transport reduces the rate of redemption of strays from citizens living in South County. Given their proximity, many South County citizens utilize Alexandria, Arlington, or Prince William Animal Shelters, posing a service burden for neighboring jurisdictions.