

No One Left Behind

*Working Toward Pet-Inclusive
Shelters*



The Samaritan Inn
HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS



Why should shelter be pet-inclusive?

Why Should Shelters Be Pet-Inclusive?

LEGAL

- Service animals
- Emotional Support Animals

TRAUMA INFORMED

- Furry family members
- Last ties
- Supportive and inclusive

PET-INCLUSIVE SHELTER: LEGALLY

SERVICE ANIMALS

- Covered by **ADA**
- Legally required to allow access to all public areas
- Cannot ask for supporting documentation
- No breed restrictions, but species restricted
- States can ADD to rights, but cannot lessen

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

- Not covered by ADA
- Is part of **FHA** (Fair Housing Act)
- Legally expected to provide “reasonable accommodations”
- May ask for supporting documentation
- Expands to include most animals

Service Animal 101



-
- *Only dogs (any breed) and miniature horses*
 - *No “proof” required*
 - *2 questions ONLY:*
 - “Is the dog/horse required because of a disability?”
 - “What work or task has the dog/horse been trained to perform?”



All battles are
worth fighting,
but some of them
just aren't worth
winning.

Service Animal Misconceptions

- There is no such thing as a service animal registry
- Vests are NOT required
- Leashes are NOT required
- If there are others afraid of dogs you can deny them
- It will require extra work for the team
- We have to pick and choose who to help if there are allergies or fears
- We can't ask questions so might as well let them all in and there's nothing we can do

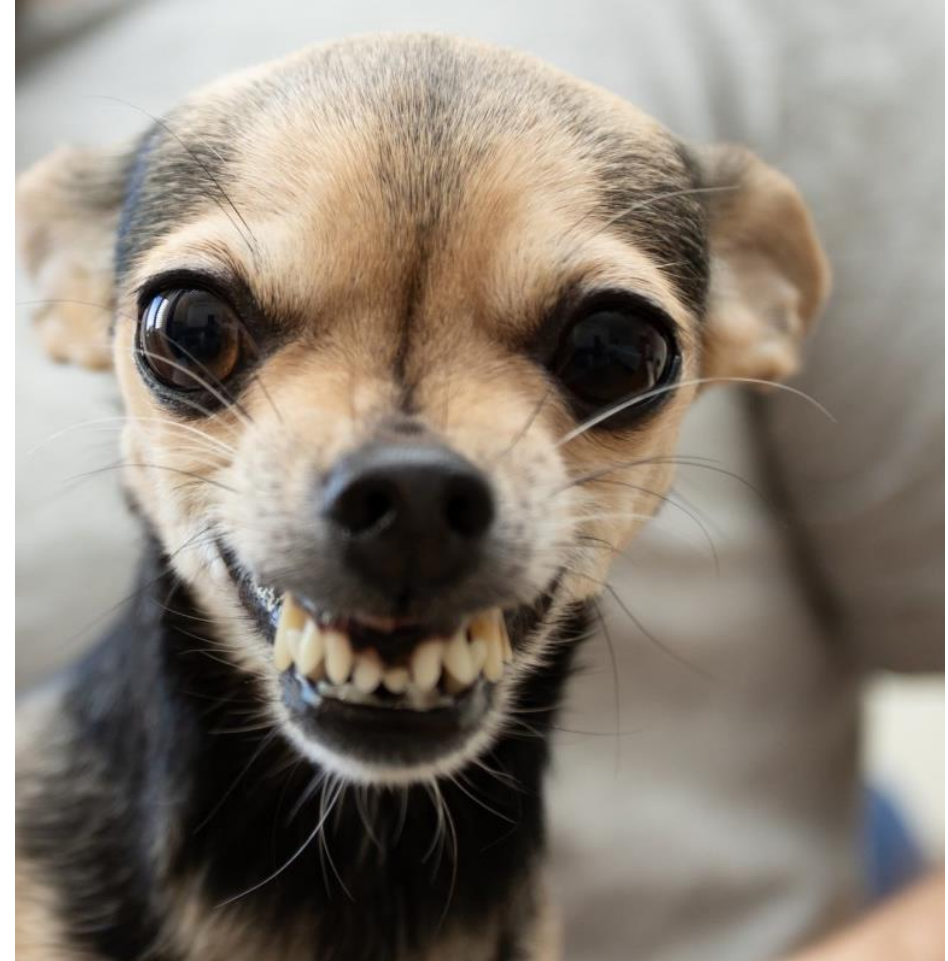
Service Animal Exclusions

Not housebroken

Behavioral issues

*Would fundamentally change
functionality—RARE*

Would compromise safety—RARE



Emotional Support Animals (ESA)



This is where it gets tricky and each agency should engage legal counsel before making policies related to ESAs.

- Covered by Fair Housing Act which includes housing, shelters, dorms, etc.
- Can be any animal “commonly kept in households” (see handout for exclusions)
- Should provide reasonable accommodations. This is where legal counsel can help you determine what is reasonable for each agency.
 - Allowing animals that typically has a no animal policy
 - Waiving pet fees
- Documentation request permitted (ESA only)
 - Note from healthcare provider (MH)
 - Disability determination letter
 - Disability benefits

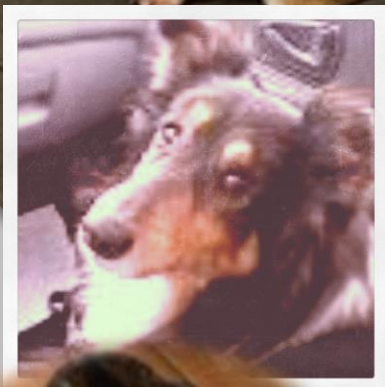
MISTY

*“Dogs have a way of finding
the people who need them,
filling an emptiness we didn’t
ever know we had.”*

-Thom Jones



FAMILY



TRAUMA-INFORMED

"What a life saver and blessing The Samaritan Inn has been to us. No amount of money could even repay or match what the Inn has provided by family and I (Fefe & Bella)."
-Tonya M.



- According to National Alliance to End Homelessness, 22% of homeless individuals avoid shelters due to pet restrictions.
- Studies have shown that almost 50% of DV survivors delay leaving dangerous situations for fear surrounding their pets' safety.
- In 2015, USC School of Social Work's study of homeless youth revealed that pets not only reduce depression and loneliness, but they create feelings of safety (72.9%), provide companionship (84.5%)
- The Homeless Rights Advocacy Project revealed that pets also motivate positive life changes such as maintaining sobriety and avoiding incarceration.

SAMARITAN INN KENNEL PROGRAM

Stage One



- 2009-2010
- Converted existing structure
- 2 indoor/outdoor runs; 1 interior only space
- Enclosed yard
- Partnered with vet down the street-free
- Partnership ruined
- Changed to mobile vet-low cost

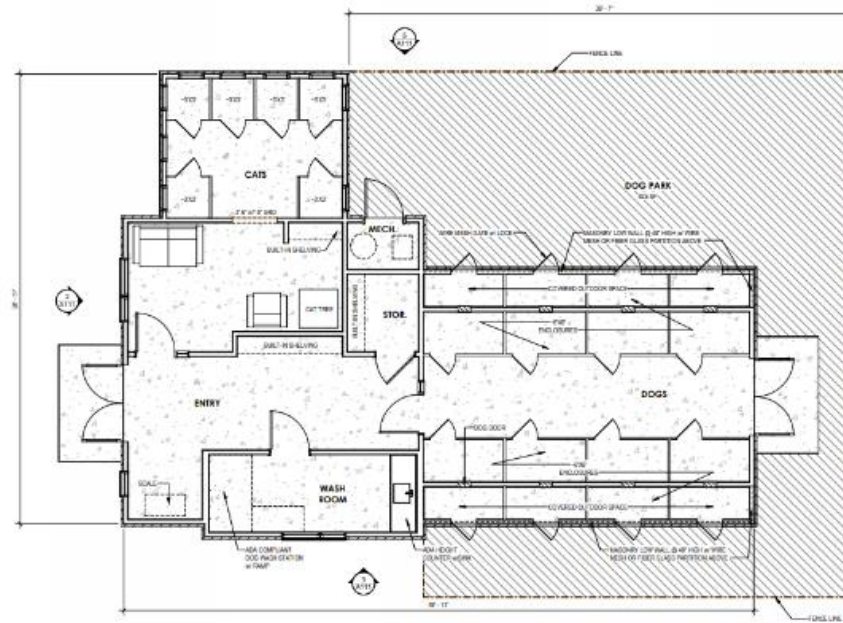
Stage Two



- 2019-2020
- Temporary building
- 4 indoor/outdoor runs
- No enclosed yard
- Mobile vet until 2023
- Switch to Volunteer team + TCAP

STAGE THREE

- 2024-2026
- Dreaming, fundraising, and planning
- Expanded and permanent structure
- Double dog space
- Add cat housing
- Create space for bathing/grooming and laundry
- Create operational budget—FT Kennel Manager

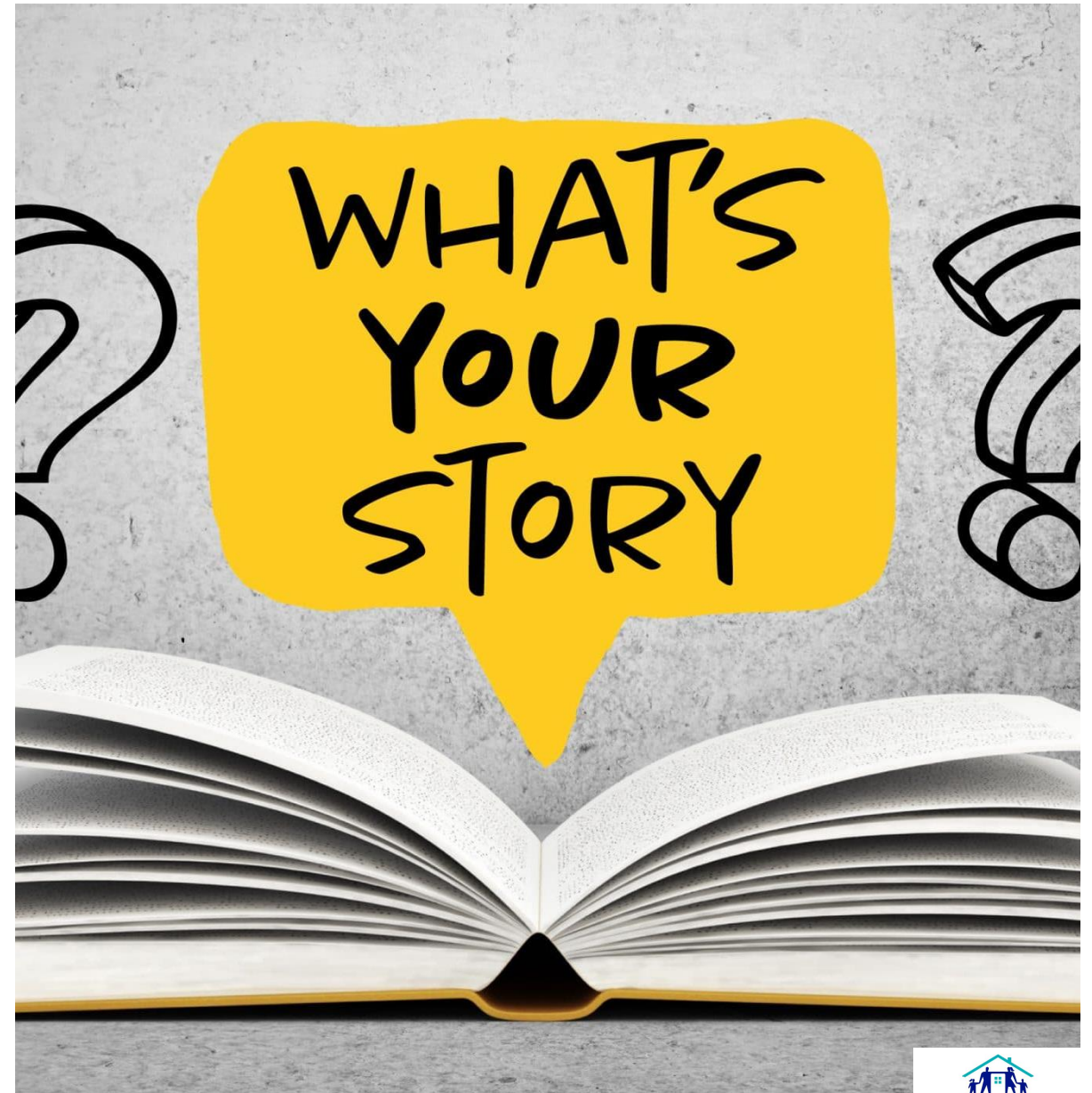


EVERY STAGE

- Release of information
- Kennel guidelines
 - Staff
 - Residents
- Signed waivers
- Open communication and education
- Staff point of contact
- Division of responsibility
- Flexibility
- Incidents that we learned from
- Protocol adjustments
- Commitment to our WHY

WHY

- Legal? Dignity? Both?
- Will inform your story-telling
- Drives supporters and the money





WHAT

- Neighbor involvement
- Structure v. partnership
- Plan A, B, C, and XYZ

HOW

- Policies and Procedures
- Fundraising
- Trial and Error





MONEY MAKERS



PLANNING TEAM (HERDERS)

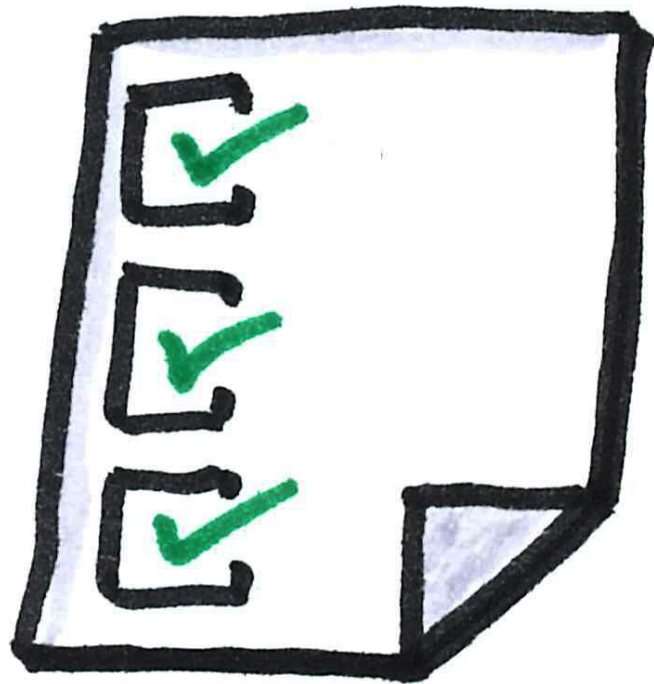


WORKING PARTS



STEADFAST SUPPORTERS

What to keep in mind



- Breakdown of responsibilities
- What things will be provided by whom
- Vet informed protocols
- Who is the staff contact
- Feeding/care expectations
- Cleaning
- Emergencies
- Contact/exposure
- Insurance, waivers
- Communication and education
- Documentation

THANK YOU

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