



November 8, 2011 Election

Animal Shelter Facility and Charter Amendment

Animal Shelter Facility

- Provide a single facility for impounding, adoption holding needs, enforcement and sheltering.
- Provide additional areas and reorganize existing areas to increase efficiency, accommodate increased capacity and strengthen disease control
- Provide an expanded lobby, reorganized office area, expanded adoption areas and food preparation room
- Funded by a \$3,035,000 GO bond which, over five years would add approximately 93 cents per month (\$11.21 per year) to the property tax of a homeowner whose home has a market value of \$100,000
- Projected animal population growth over the next 20 years is predicted to increase 31.4%
- Annually nearly 40% of dogs and 60% of cats impounded are euthanized each year.
- Current capacity is up to 55 Dogs and 25 Cats and the projected 2025 needed capacity is 66-73 Dogs and 49-54 Cats

On Tuesday, November 8th, the citizens of Norman will be asked to vote on whether to authorize the issuance of debt in the amount of \$3,035,000 to remodel and expand the City of Norman Animal Shelter facility. The addition to the facility will expand housing and care of stray or impounded animals. This facility will function alongside the adoption center for the adoption of pets.

A single facility for impounding, adoption holding needs, enforcement and sheltering will be provided by the additions. The 2009 Citizen Satisfaction Survey reported that 78% of Norman residents responding believed that the renovation and expansion of the animal shelter was important.

The funding of the animal shelter facility would be through the issuance of a five year general obligation bond repayable through property tax assessments. If the debt authorization is approved by voters, the bonds would be sold through competitive sale at the best interest rates available and the cost over five years would add approximately 93 cents per month (\$11.21 per year) to the property tax of a homeowner whose home has a market value of \$100,000.

The expansion will be on land currently owned by the City of Norman connecting with the current building. The current building that houses the stray and impounded animals is an aged structure that was built in 1973 at a time when Norman's population was approximately 57,000. The mechanical and plumbing systems are no longer adequate. The current building does not provide for animal and human traffic flow which makes disease control more challenging.



Concept drawing of Animal Shelter Facility

Currently, the building has the capacity for approximately 55 dogs and 25 cats. Based on the average annual intake by the facility over the past three years, combined with the required hold periods for the animals, the allowable population of the current building does not provide for increases in the dog population and is only 60% of that needed for the current cat population.

Nearly 40% of dogs and 60% of cats impounded are euthanized each year. It is projected that the animal population will increase 31.4% over the next 20 years. Current facilities cannot accommodate this growth and, therefore, the euthanasia rates will need to increase.

Charter Amendment

- Will amend the Charter to allow 45 days for absentee ballots to be received by citizens who vote by absentee ballot
- The addition of the proposed new language amends the Charter to be compatible with federal and state laws.

Charter Amendment

A City Charter is a unique document that acts like a constitution for the City adopting it. It can only be amended by a majority vote of the City's voters.

On Tuesday, November 8th, the citizens of Norman will be asked to vote on a proposed Charter Amendment which ensures that citizens voting by absentee ballots have forty-five (45) days before an election to receive and return their ballots. This City of Norman Charter Amendment is compatible with the **Let the Troops Vote Act (LTVA)** and **Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act**, federal and state laws.

Additionally, the State law (LTVA), directly impacts municipal elections by specifying which months are available to hold elections that are conducted by County Election Boards.

2011 ANIMAL SHELTER FACILITY AND CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the election? Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

What are the early voting dates? If you are a registered voter in Norman, you can vote at the Cleveland County Election Board from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 4th and Monday, November 7th prior to the election. The Cleveland County Election Board is located at 641 E. Robinson St., Suite 200. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by contacting the Cleveland County Election Board by phone at (405) 366-0209 during business hours or downloading the form from their website at www.clevelandcountyelectionboard.com.

What services are provided by Animal Welfare? Animal Welfare Officers are responsible for responding to calls for service from citizens. These calls are generally in reference to barking dogs, stray animals or animals running at large in neighborhoods, and nuisance wildlife. Animal Welfare Officers also investigate animal cruelty cases and animal bites in the City of Norman. Dead animals located on public roadways are picked up for proper disposal to avoid the spread of disease in the City.

Animal Welfare staff cares for the animals housed at the Animal Welfare Center. All animals are provided food and water and the kennels are cleaned daily. City ordinance requires that dogs and cats be held to allow owners time to redeem their pet. The animals must be cared for during this holding period. After the required time, the animal is evaluated for placement into the adoption program.

Animal Shelter staff work to reunite owners with their pets and find placement for unclaimed animals.

How will a new animal shelter facility impact staffing and operating expenses? The staffing at the animal shelter facility is expected to be sufficient for the immediate future even with the construction of a new facility. More efficient cleaning and disease control techniques are expected to save employee work time and the savings will offset the extra impound capacity. Operating costs are expected to be similar due to improved efficiencies in design and operations.

How will this general obligation bond change my property taxes? The general obligation bond, in the amount of \$3,035,000, will add approximately 93 cents per month (\$11.21 per year) to the property tax of a homeowner whose home has a market value of \$100,000.

How does the Animal Welfare Center return lost pets to owners and control the unwanted pet population in the City of Norman? The staff at the Animal Welfare Center encourages pet owners to purchase City pet licenses for their pets and have their pets micro-chipped. All pet license information is entered into the records system to allow for easier identification of animals found at large. If owners can quickly be identified, pets can be returned before being impounded and possibly exposed to sick animals. To help control pet populations, spaying and neutering is recommended. All dogs and cats adopted from the Animal Welfare Center are spayed or neutered before their adoption. The Animal Welfare Center cannot perform spaying or neutering services on privately owned pets, but will provide information about spay and neuter services they are aware of in the community, including low-cost services for those on a limited income.

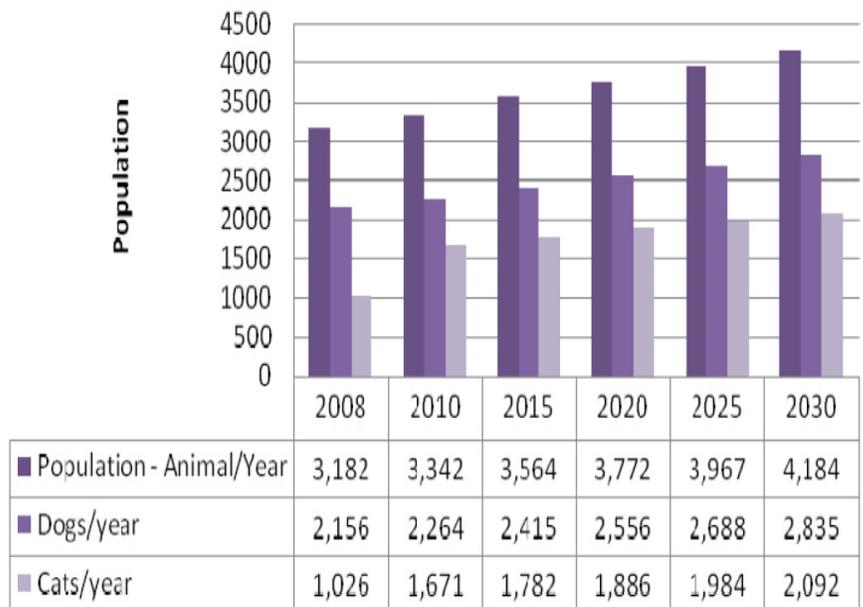
For more information, please contact: The City of Norman Action Center by phone at 366-5396, by emailing the Action.Center@normanok.gov or on the City's website www.normanok.gov.

The chart below illustrates the animal intake projection. As the population grows in Norman, the number of animals impounded is also projected to increase. It is predicted the animal population will increase 31.4% over the next 20 years (Tevis Architects P.A. 2008).

Project Costs

Animal Delivery	\$165,000
Isolation & Quarantine	200,000
Stray Holding	890,000
Miscellaneous	110,000
Adoption Expansion	380,000
Training Room	190,000
Site Development	150,000
Furniture and Equipment	375,000
Design & Contractor Fee	340,000
Construction Contingency	200,000
Debt Issuance Costs	35,000
TOTAL COST:	\$3,035,000

Animal Intake Projection



Animal Shelter Facility Needs

The City of Norman Animal Shelter provides care and treatment to animals, attempts to find homes for adoptable animals, and reunites lost pets with their families. The City of Norman Animal Shelter is a public facility which means any animal that is brought to the door by the public or impounded by animal welfare officers is accepted. Due to space limitations, it is necessary at times to euthanize animals to make room for incoming animals.

Currently, the shelter area and the adoption area are in two different buildings. The current setup presents challenges in controlling the spread of diseases from sick animals to healthy animals because there are no temporary containment areas for sick animals or delivered animals that present a disease concern. The existing caging system does not meet the current standards of the Humane Society of the United States since there are stacked dog kennels and the current cage size is too small. Additionally, the mechanical and plumbing facilities are aged and in need of updating.

In the concept drawing shown to the right, there are areas dedicated to receiving animals, evaluating incoming animals prior to introducing them to the general population, a stray holding area, an isolation holding area and a delivery area. Additionally, office design has been renovated to allow for more efficient functionality to better serve the public and the animals.

In working with citizens, recommendations published by the Humane Society of the United States and the American Shelter Veterinarians' Association and the Citizens Animal Welfare Oversight Committee, the renovation of approximately 5,000 square feet of the existing animal shelter facility and the addition of approximately 10,000 square feet of new building would allow the Animal Shelter for the City of Norman to serve the estimated population of 135,000 in the year 2025.



Preliminary Concept Drawing

Charter Amendment Encourages Voter Participation Through Increased Time for Returning Absentee Ballots

In 2009, the Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act was passed by federal legislation. As a result of this legislation, in 2011, the Oklahoma legislature passed the Let the Troops Vote Act (LTVA). This legislation increases time requirements for absentee ballots to be mailed to the voter and returned to their Election Board. By increasing this timeframe to 45 days, citizens desiring to participate in elections by absentee ballot will have an opportunity to receive and return their ballot without the possible complication of mail delays outside of the voter's control.

Additionally, the LTVA specifies which months are available to hold municipal elections to be conducted by the County Election Board. By working within the election dates set by this legislation, the City will save money by not scheduling elections during months when the County Election Board would not be available to conduct the municipal elections. This Charter Amendment will allow the City of Norman's Charter to be compatible with federal and state laws.



City of Norman

P. O. Box 370
201 W. Gray
Norman, OK 73069

Phone
405-366-5396

E-mail
action.center@normanok.gov

NOVEMBER 8TH SPECIAL ELECTION ANIMAL WELFARE FACILITY AND CHARTER AMENDMENT

We're on the web!
www.normanok.gov

PreSort Standard
US Postage
PAID
Norman, OK 73070
Permit No. 282



Printed on 30% recycled paper

2011 ANIMAL SHELTER FACILITY BALLOT LANGUAGE

SHALL THE CITY OF NORMAN, STATE OF OKLAHOMA, INCUR AN INDEBTEDNESS BY ISSUING ITS BONDS IN THE SUM OF THREE MILLION, THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,035,000) TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REMODELING, EQUIPPING, FURNISHING AND EXPANDING THE CITY'S ANIMAL SHELTER FACILITIES (INCLUDING RELATED DRAINAGE AND PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS), ALL TO BE OWNED EXCLUSIVELY BY SAID CITY; AND LEVY AND COLLECT AN ANNUAL TAX, IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER TAXES, UPON ALL THE TAXABLE PROPERTY IN SAID CITY SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE INTEREST ON SAID BONDS AS IT FALLS DUE, AND ALSO TO CONSTITUTE A SINKING FUND FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL THEREOF WHEN DUE, SAID BONDS TO BEAR INTEREST AT NOT TO EXCEED THE RATE OF TEN PERCENTUM (10%) PER ANNUM, PAYABLE SEMI-ANNUALLY AND TO BECOME DUE SERIALY WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THEIR DATE, BE APPROVED?

2011 CHARTER AMENDMENT BALLOT LANGUAGE

SHALL SECTIONS 5 AND 6 OF ARTICLE II OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORMAN WHICH RELATES TO THE DESIGNATION OF DATES FOR MUNICIPAL GENERAL AND RUNOFF ELECTIONS, BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE SETTING OF MUNICIPAL GENERAL AND RUNOFF ELECTIONS AS PROVIDED UNDER THE THEN-CURRENT STATE LAW, BE APPROVED?