



Housing Authority of the City of Asheville

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July 17, 2017

Tracy Elliot
Asheville Humane Society
14 Forever Friend Lane
Asheville, NC 28806

Mr. Elliot,

My name is Lindsey Creasman and I am with the Asheville Housing Authority. I am one of the Resident Support Specialist/Family Self-Sufficiency /Homeownership Advisors.

I recently attended our June Board meeting and heard about the great things that the Humane Society is doing for the residents in the Deaverview community. The positive results from this outreach compelled me to reach out to your Community Solutions Supervisor, Emily Gelb. I met with Ms. Gelb and spoke with her about the need for additional support for our pet owners in our seven other communities. Many of our residents are elderly or disabled and those who work are on a limited income. I believe that the Humane Society could aid these pet owners by helping with vaccines, spay/neutering, and nutritional programs.

Over the summer we hold Community Social Events where we combine over forty representatives from local agencies that can provide assistance to those in need. Emily represented the Humane Society at our most recent event at Pisgah View Apartments and was a huge success. We will be holding two more events, one at Deaverview on July 20th and the second in the Southside Community at the Wesley Grant Sr, Center on August 10th from 4-6 pm.

It is my hope that the funding for these programs can continue so that pet owners can be better educated on the care of their pets. The vaccines and medical treatment will also prevent the spread of disease and reduce the number of animals that enter into shelters.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Creasman
RSS/FSS/HO Advisor



Dear Mr. Elliott:

The Housing Authority of the City of Asheville would like to extend its full support of your request for grant funding from PetSmart Charities for a pilot expansion of your Community Pets Program into three additional Housing Authority communities. The overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received from the management and residents of the Deaverview Housing Authority community compelled my staff to reach out to you to discuss the possibility of expanding your work into more of our communities.

We anticipate many benefits from expanding this program and would strongly support your efforts to acquire funding to develop and implement this innovative pilot project. Some of the benefits we would see from this project include:

- 1) Enhanced safety of children and other residents from dogs running loose and reducing the number of dog bites through spay/neuter, vaccinations and behavior assistance.
- 2) Improvement in human health by providing flea and tick prevention for pets to prevent infestations of properties and people, and reducing the spread of disease through vaccinations and medical treatment.
- 3) Behavior assistance for the untrained, aggressive-appearing dogs (who won't currently let maintenance into the apartment to fix a broken pipe, for example) to create a safer environment and better behaved pet.
- 4) Pet supplies given to pet owners to help prevent the animals from doing damage to the apartment, i.e., crates for when the owner isn't home and to prevent scratching and chewing on kitchen cabinets and walls that have to be replaced when the people move out.
- 5) Non-judgmental, professional and kind people going door-to-door and giving the residents respect and the help they request will provide residents with access to much needed resources such as spay/neuter, veterinary assistance, vaccinations, behavior assistance, wellness care and pet food and supplies. This will also help to build positive relations with people who are struggle with challenges in day-to-day living, building their self-confidence and trust.

It is our hope that our relationship with Asheville Humane Society and the generous funding support from PetSmart Charities will allow this important program to continue and expand to benefit the animals and the people who live in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gene Bell'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gene Bell
Chief Executive Officer
Housing Authority of the City of Asheville