

FLUVANNA SPCA

Supporting Pawsitive Pet Partnership Since 1989



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLUVANNA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY VOTE WEDNESDAY ON FSPCA POUND CONTRACT

Troy, VA: The Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote at its 2:00 p.m. meeting this Wednesday, August 3rd, whether to continue to contract with the Fluvanna SPCA for its provision of pound services to the county. The meeting is open to the public and will take place in the Fluvanna County Courthouse (Circuit Courtroom). For more than twenty years, the Fluvanna SPCA, a community nonprofit organization, has operated a shelter that receives abused, neglected, and abandoned animals and places them in appropriate, caring homes. Additionally, the FSPCA provides pound services for Fluvanna. Every city and county in Virginia is legally required by state law to either operate its own pound or to contract with a qualified organization, like the Fluvanna SPCA, to have its legal obligation to the state provided.

The Fluvanna SPCA operates one of the most successful pounds and shelters in Virginia, saving and successfully placing more than 90% of the animals it receives. According to Gracie Roberson, FSPCA Treasurer, “We are requesting that our Supervisors authorize funding to the FSPCA necessary to meet the actual costs of providing the county’s pound services. If an agreement is not reached, the county would be tasked with creating, staffing, and operating its own pound facility or finding another pound service provider. We believe the FSPCA provides the most cost efficient and humane option, while also serving as a vital community hub for citizens, volunteers, families, youth groups, and seniors.”

According to the FSPCA, Fluvanna County currently pays the FSPCA about \$80,000 per year— less than 40% of the shelter’s total annual budget—for pound services, while Fluvanna’s pound animals account for more than 90% of the animals received by the FSPCA. This equates to the county paying the FSPCA at a rate of about \$96 per animal, or \$3 per capita, as based on the county’s human population. By comparison, neighboring rural counties operating their own pounds fund their pound services at the rates necessary to meet actual costs. For example, in 2010, Louisa allocated \$7 per capita (\$237,000) for pound services, and Orange County directed \$9 per capita (\$310,000) to meet the costs of operating its pound.

The current Fluvanna SPCA contract proposal requests \$4.06 per capita (\$104,000) for fiscal year 2011-2012, \$4.58 per capita (\$118,000) in 2012-2013, and \$5 per capita (\$128,000) in 2013-2014. These contract amounts would include capital compensation during the next two years to make facility upgrades necessary for the pound’s compliance with State Vet regulations—upgrades the FSPCA would not need to make if it were not providing pound services to the county.

According to Roberson, “the Fluvanna SPCA is a no-frills, efficient operation, and we are best positioned to provide pound services for Fluvanna, but we cannot continue to provide this service at our own expense. We are successfully meeting the county’s legal obligation to the state, and we need the citizens of Fluvanna County to contact their Supervisors and support our request. We believe that it will cost the county much more money to operate its own pound than it would cost to contract with the FSPCA to provide pound services, and Fluvanna taxpayers would pay for such an increase. Concerned citizens need to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting at 2:00 p.m. this Wednesday and support the FSPCA’s contract proposal to continue providing pound services to the county.” Visit www.fspca.org for more details.

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