



BUILT ON SECOND CHANCES

Where Animals Find Their Way Home

Every Second Chance Begins with Compassion

Angel arrived frightened, confused, and alone. And, she was blind.

As an older girl, she had clearly known a home at some point in her life. She was house trained and tried desperately not to soil her kennel. Her ears showed the effects of years of untreated infections. Her nails were painfully overgrown. She had sores and puncture wounds on her body and no way to tell us what had happened to her.

Then something remarkable happened.

Through a local Facebook group, we learned her name. In a situation where we knew almost nothing about her, it felt like a gift. We immediately went to her kennel and called out, "Angel." She lifted her head. Her nose rose into the air. Then her tail began to wag.

For the first time since arriving, there was recognition.

Her name was something we could give back to her when we knew nothing else about her. It was a small moment, but one that reminded us there was a life, a history, and people behind the animal standing in front of us.

Everyone at the shelter fell in love with Angel.

We admired her bravery, her courage, her tenacity, and her joyful, trusting spirit. Despite everything she had endured, she greeted each day with optimism and grace.

Angel was sunshine on four legs.

Every day, animals arrive at the shelter carrying stories of neglect, abandonment, illness, injury, and loss. Some are surrendered. Some are found wandering alone. Some have never known safety or kindness.

And every day, our team responds with care and compassion.

Today, Angel is living her best life. **She found her way home.**

Her story has a happy ending.

But behind every happy ending are countless moments of care, expertise, hard work, joy and sadness that most people never see.

Those moments happen every day at the Northumberland Humane Society.

One animal. One story. One second chance at a time.



MORE THAN A SHELTER

**This is not simply a campaign
to expand a building.**

It is a campaign to create a humane environment where animals can heal, where caregivers can thrive, and where our community's values are reflected in the way we care for the most vulnerable among us.

Humane Societies are often viewed as places that house animals.

In reality, they are frontline care environments.

Every day, NHS staff and volunteers:

- Comfort frightened animals
- Respond to neglect and crisis
- Support vulnerable pet owners
- Reunite families
- Make difficult decisions with compassion
- Carry the emotional weight of animal suffering on behalf of the community

Animal welfare workers are frontline caregivers.

Their work requires expertise, resilience, empathy, and extraordinary compassion.

Every animal who comes through our doors deserves dignity, comfort, safety, and compassionate care.

**The people who provide that care
deserve a humane environment in
which to do it.**

"Every day, I walk through the doors of our shelter and see the resilience of the animals who depend on us—the hopeful eyes, the tentative tail wags, and the gentle purrs. I also see how limited we are by the building around them.

Our shelter is filled with love, but it is stretched beyond what it was ever designed to do. The spaces are cramped, the building is ageing, and every week we find ourselves making room for one more animal in need.

The animals who come through our doors deserve comfort, safety, and the opportunity to heal. With your support, we can create a shelter that reflects the level of care they deserve.

Please help us create a future where no animal has to wait for comfort, safety, or a second chance. Together, we can build a shelter worthy of the animals who depend on us."

*Wendy Riley
Animal Care Director
Northumberland Humane Society*



Animal Welfare *is* Community Welfare

The Northumberland Humane Society serves all of Northumberland County.

Each year, more than 1,200 animals receive support through our shelter, adoption, foster, pet food, and community assistance programs.

But our impact extends far beyond the animals themselves.

When someone is escaping domestic violence, facing homelessness, recovering from illness, or experiencing financial hardship, the fear of losing a beloved pet can become one more overwhelming burden.

Through emergency boarding, compassionate fostering, pet food assistance, and community support programs, NHS helps keep people and their pets together during life's most difficult moments.

Animal welfare is human welfare.

Strong communities care for both.

The **CHALLENGE** Before Us

The current shelter was never designed to support the level of care now required.

As demand continues to grow, staff and volunteers work tirelessly to overcome limitations that affect both animals and caregivers.

Today, we face challenges including:

- Limited animal housing capacity
- Inadequate isolation space for disease control
- Poor ventilation and climate control
- High noise levels that increase animal stress
- Insufficient workspace for staff and volunteers
- Accessibility barriers for visitors, volunteers, and community members
- Growing waitlists for services and support

These are not simply building challenges.

They are barriers to care.

Animals heal best in environments designed to reduce stress and support recovery.

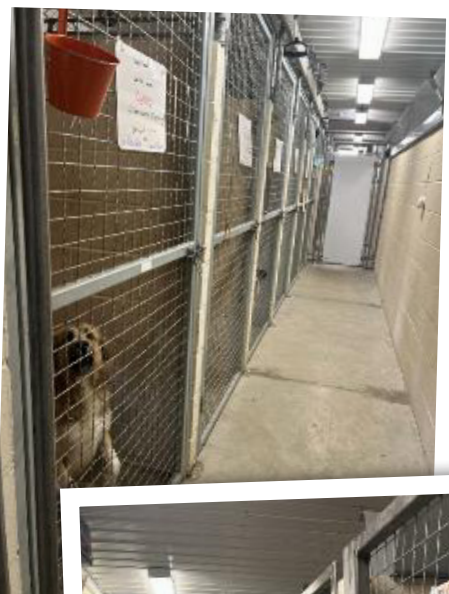
Caregivers perform best in environments that support their physical and emotional wellbeing.

The current facility limits our ability to provide the standard of care our community expects and our animals deserve.

“Some kennels are so small a large dog cannot turn around comfortably.

We do everything we can, but our spaces limit what we can provide, and what these animals deserve.”

*Lily Hargreaves
Shelter Supervisor*





A Vision Built on *Second Chances*

Our vision is to create a modern, accessible, purpose-built centre of care that reflects the compassion of our community.

Through a \$4 million campaign investment, NHS will expand and transform its facility into a welcoming, healing environment for animals, staff, volunteers, and visitors.

The project includes:

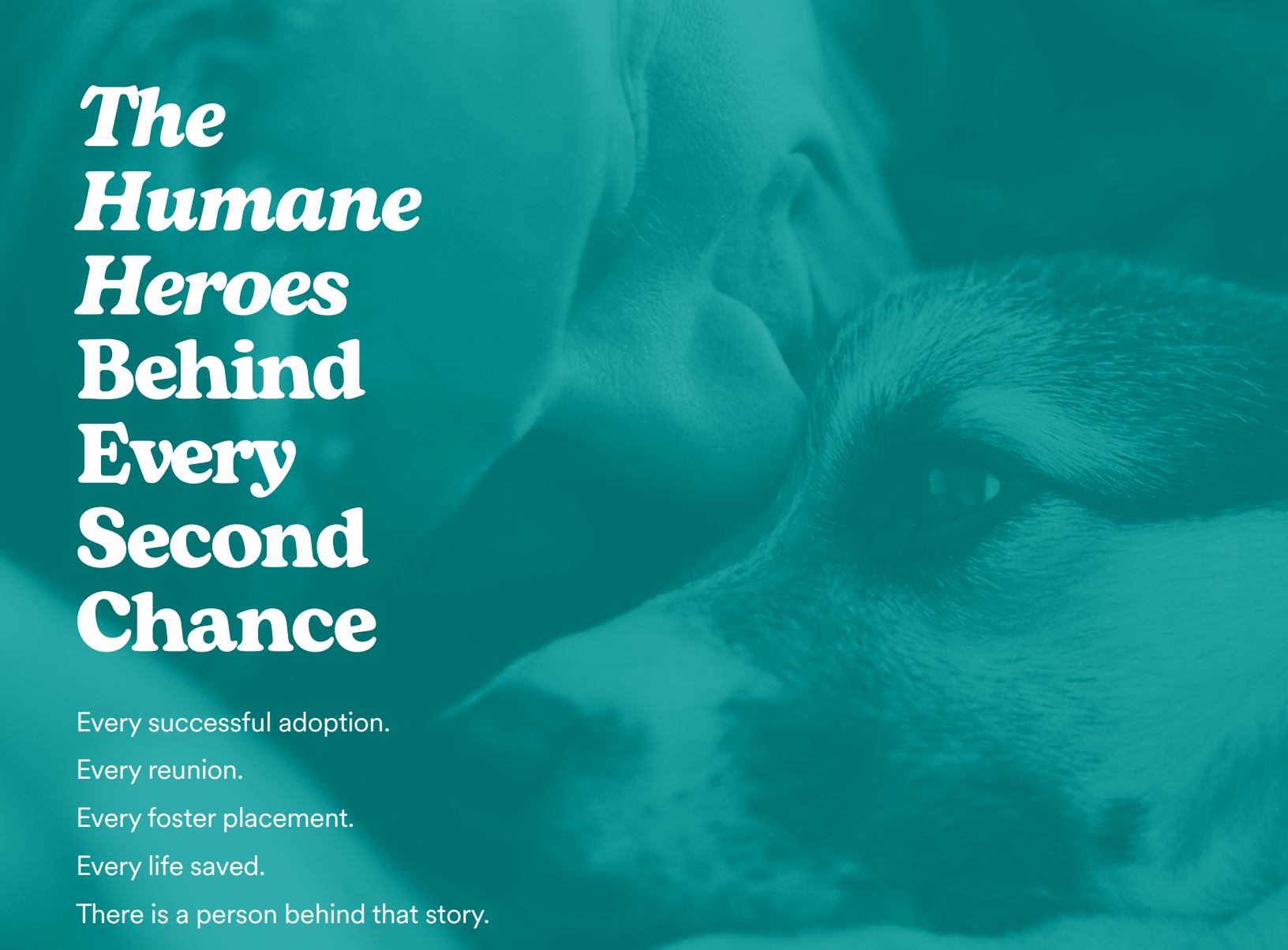
- A 6,200-square-foot expansion
- Accessible entrances, pathways, and washrooms
- Improved ventilation and climate control
- Sound-dampening features that reduce stress
- Modern animal housing designed around wellbeing
- Dedicated isolation and medical care spaces
- Improved volunteer and staff areas
- Flexible spaces for community education and engagement
- Future capacity for veterinary and spay/neuter services

This is not simply about adding space.

It is about creating an environment where compassionate care can flourish.

EXPANSION PROJECT STATUS

Construction planning is underway, with ground-breaking targeted for September 2026 and completion in 2027. This expansion will change everything – just for the next few years, but for decades of animal care in Northumberland County.



The Humane Heroes Behind Every Second Chance

Every successful adoption.

Every reunion.

Every foster placement.

Every life saved.

There is a person behind that story.

A staff member.

A volunteer.

A foster caregiver.

A donor.

A supporter.

A community member who chose compassion.

Together, they are the Humane Heroes behind every second chance.

This campaign honours their commitment while ensuring future generations have the resources needed to continue this work.

Our Goal

To raise \$4 million to create a more humane future for animals and the people who care for them.

This investment will help transform the Northumberland Humane Society into a modern centre of compassionate care that will serve our community for decades to come.

We have an opportunity to build something extraordinary:

- A place where animals find safety.
- A place where families find support.
- A place where compassion has room to grow.
- A place built on second chances.

JOIN US

Every Animal Deserves a Second Chance

For sixty years, the Northumberland Humane Society has stood beside animals when they needed us most.

Today, we are asking our community to stand with us.

- Together, we can create a shelter that reflects the values we share.
- Together, we can build a future where every animal receives the care, dignity, and compassion they deserve.
- Together, we can ensure that animals continue to find their way home.

To learn more about the **Built on Second Chances Campaign**, or to discuss donation/sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Kim Good

Capital Campaign Director

campaigndirector@northumberlandhs.com

Northumberland Humane Society

2363 Theatre Road, Cobourg, ON

905 885 4131

northumberlandhs.com

Charitable Registration Number: 87060 9443 RR0001



"At its core, this expansion project is about dignity and safety – for the animals, for the people who care for them, and for a community that believes compassion should never be constrained by square footage.

As a leadership volunteer for this organization, I am so proud to champion this project that will best support the needs of our region."

Denise O'Brien, Chair

Northumberland Humane Society Board