

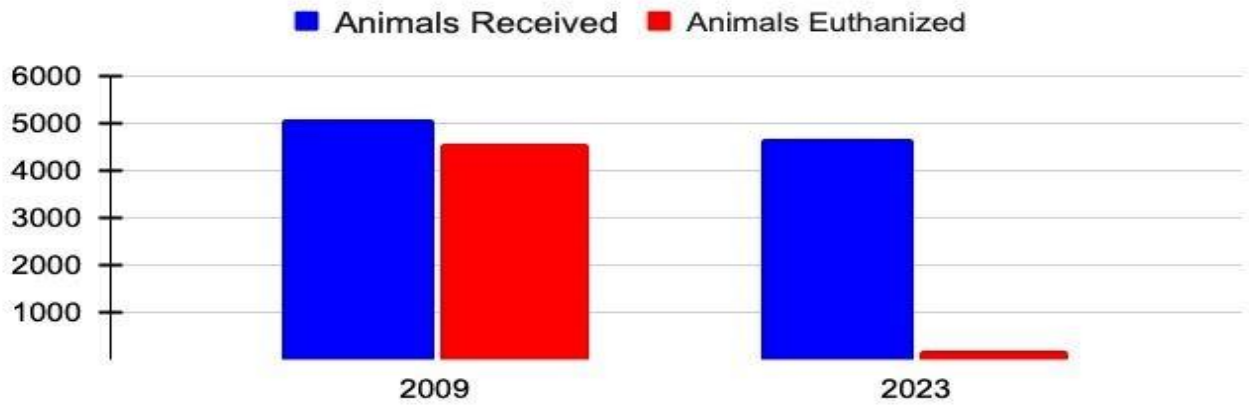


Winter 2024

# FOTAS News

FOTAS IS A RECIPIENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF S.C. ANGEL AWARD-ONE OF 10, OUT OF 14,000 ORGANIZATIONS, RECOGNIZED AS REPRESENTING THE MOST EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE CHARITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

## FOTAS & Aiken County Animal Shelter's Greatest Accomplishment



### 15 years ago, FOTAS was formed and what a journey it has been!

The Friends of the Animal Shelter – Aiken County (FOTAS) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), volunteer organization created in 2009 to supplement the resources of the Aiken County Animal Shelter in the care of over 4,000 homeless and abandoned animals consigned to its care each year. FOTAS is wholly funded by private donations.

When FOTAS was formed in 2009, the Aiken County Animal Shelter had an over 90 percent euthanasia rate. FOTAS' mission was to change that stat. To date this year, the shelter has continued to achieve an over 90 percent save rate with every adoptable animal saved. Your support makes this happen!







Aiken County Council Chairman Ronnie Young, left, and Jennifer Miller, second from left, cutting ceremony that was part of the new Aiken County Animal Shelter's grand opening celebration on Sunday. Also pictured on the front row, from left, are Mary Lou Welch, vice president of Friends of the Animal Shelter, and Aiken County Council member Kathy Rawls.



In 2014 Aiken County and FOTAS celebrated the unveiling of the new Aiken County Animal Shelter thanks to their public/private partnership

## Shelter opens new isolation wing

BY DEDE BILES  
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Gary Bunker described the new medical isolation facility at the Aiken County Animal Shelter as an impressive example of teamwork before he helped cut the ribbon during a short ceremony Friday.

The Shirley Ross Struthers Nurture and Wellness Building "is another milestone for this wonderful public/private partnership that we have with FOTAS (Friends of the Animal Shelter)," said the Aiken County Council Chairman.

The current animal shelter held its grand opening in March 2014, and FOTAS provided significant financial support for the County's effort to replace its aging predecessor, which wasn't "up to snuff anymore," Bunker said.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Friends of the Aiken County Animal Shelter President Jennifer Miller, second from left foreground, and Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker, third from left foreground, cut the ribbon outside the Shirley Ross Struthers Nurture and Wellness Building, which is the new medical isolation facility for the Aiken County Animal Shelter, on Friday.

A small room in the animal shelter that was used sometimes for sick dogs and sometimes for ill cats now is an isolation area exclusively for cats.

With the addition of the Nurture and Wellness Building, "we have enough space to do things properly," Miller said.

According to information provided by Aiken County, FOTAS received "a generous gift" to help pay for the Nurture and Wellness Building from the estate of Shirley Ross Struthers.

An Aiken resident who was a native of Vermont, Struthers died in 2015 at the age of 90. She was a retired nurse who enjoyed taking care of her cats, reading, walking and corresponding with pen pals.

Struthers attended Millbrook Baptist Church.

The animal shelter is at 333



In 2018 FOTAS funded the needed Medical Isolation Building



# Press PAWS



Aiken County Animal Shelter plays host to dozens of visitors Friday to celebrate completion of a building to help dogs and cats become better candidates for adoption.

## New building lets adopters, shelter pets meet in peaceful setting

In 2023 FOTAS funded the PAWS (Primary Learning Adoption Wellness and Socialization) Building



FOTAS funds weekly transports to supplement local adoptions. As there are not enough local adopters for the over 4,500 animals received

AIKEN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER  
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Text Dogscats to 44321





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**FOTAS is a recipient of the Secretary of State of SC Angel Award – one of 10, out of 14,000 organizations, recognized as representing the most efficient and effective charities in SC.**

**More Life Saving Programs Funded By Your Donations!**

- Pet Food Assistance and our Monthly Community Pet Food Drive Thru
- Heartworm Treatment for the Shelter’s Adoptable Dogs
- FIDO Off The Chain – Provides humane runners and dog houses to those in need
- Trap Neuter Return (TNR) for Feral and Community Cats
- Dogs Playing For Life – Playgroups for shelter dogs
- Home to Home, Enables County pet owners to rehome their pets without surrendering to the shelter

Our Volunteers help through many programs including Walking Dogs, Socializing Cats, Doggie Days Out, Fostering Dogs, Cats, Puppies and Kittens, they Assist Staff with Doggy Playgroups, Plan Events and So Much More!



**THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOTAS AIKEN CHOICE WINNER 6 YEARS IN A ROW SINCE 2019!**



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