

# FAQs for CAS/BAC Partnership

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## General

### What is happening?

Charleston Animal Society has partnered with Berkeley County for the management of the Berkeley Animal Center. (Contract approval pending, Council will vote at 5/27/25 meeting.)

### When does it take effect?

July 1, 2025

### Why now?

Berkeley County and the tri-county area is experiencing accelerated growth, which is stressing our workforce and infrastructure.

Charleston Animal Society has a long working relationship with Berkeley County and through that relationship, more opportunities have been identified. We have been in discussion for a year-and-a-half to carefully explore all of the opportunities in light of our rapidly growing community and the stress that is placing on our public safety that includes the growing population of dogs and cats.

*Stress that we are adding experiences and resources to address our growing challenges.*

### What are the benefits?

- By joining forces, Charleston Animal Society and Berkeley Animal Center are both better able to meet the growing needs of Berkeley County.
- With the national veterinary shortage crisis, we can utilize that expertise more efficiently. Already, Charleston Animal Society provides services to more than 2,000 Berkeley County residents.
- This will help mitigate confusion about cities that span multiple counties, it will be one system.
- Cutting back on the duplication of services helps animals, taxpayers, and clients
- This will be a model for other communities in our rapidly growing area to explore

### What is the cost to taxpayers?

Charleston Animal Society will assume the current budget to cover the humane disposition of animals in Berkeley County. The Berkeley Animal Center currently operates at approximately \$1.6 million for Fiscal Year 2026.

### Will operating hours change?

Our goal is to continue making the Berkeley Animal Center accessible and affordable to the public. Any changes in operating hours will be communicated publicly.

### What will the name of the facility be?

We all know this facility as Berkeley Animal Center. Any changes in the name will be communicated publicly.

### **What will happen with BAC social media accounts?**

Because of the transition from a government agency to a nonprofit, the social media pages for Charleston Animal Society Berkeley Campus are now up and running in new locations and we hope you will follow us [@CASBerkeleyCampus](#) on both [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

## **Staffing**

### **Will BAC staff be retained?**

Berkeley Animal Center staff will transition to Charleston Animal Society employees, following Charleston Animal Society policies and procedures.

### **Are volunteer rules different between BAC and CAS?**

Volunteers at Berkeley Animal Center will become Charleston Animal Society volunteers, following Charleston Animal Society policies and procedures.

### **Will volunteers be retained?**

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### **Will new job positions be created at Berkeley Animal Center?**

We are planning to staff the Berkeley Animal Center at the current level.

## **Animal Care**

### **How will animal control be affected?**

We will be meeting with the various animal control agencies to ensure an effective transition.

### **Will BCSO still be a possibility for providing animal control?**

The partnership applies only to animal sheltering.

### **How will stray animals be handled?**

All animal shelters should strive to follow the national Association of Shelter Veterinarians' *Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters*. We will continue to do this.

### **How will in-shelter veterinary care be handled?**

All animal shelters should strive to follow the national Association of Shelter Veterinarians' *Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters*. We will continue to do this.

### **Will the public TVAR program change?**

This is a great program and we are committed to continuing it. We appreciate Berkeley County's commitment to this.

## **EXPANSION**

### **Will the expansion project continue and how will it be funded?**

Berkeley County is currently expanding on the property to include an adoption center funded at \$1M. Charleston Animal Society is excited to see Berkeley County's additional investment in animal care.

**Does this mean Berkeley will be No Kill now?**

Charleston Animal Society strives to create No Kill **communities** through our No Kill South Carolina initiative.

**Why are shelters continually overcrowded?**

Spay-neuter is the flagship for mitigating overpopulation; this is one of the benefits of the partnership.