



Calvert County NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calvert County Board of County Commissioners Approves Purchase of the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – Sept. 13, 2018 – At its Sept. 11 meeting, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) exercised its option to purchase the new Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter for \$6.1 million, averting lease payments of nearly \$46,000 per month.

In May 2016 the BOCC announced the shelter project as a public/private partnership with Marrick Properties that included terms for the county to lease the facility with an option to purchase it. This purchase will be funded by the issuance of general obligation bonds.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter is an open admission animal shelter that will care for surrendered and stray animals in Calvert County. The mission of the animal shelter is to provide compassionate humane care and treatment to the shelter population and responsibly rehome animals into the community.

At nearly 13,000 square feet, the shelter will be able to house an estimated 200 animals within the main building. Features include fenced-in play yards, cat condos, a cat patio, indoor and outdoor meet-and-greet areas for dogs, grooming and bathing space, an exotic animal room and a 1,380-square-foot barn to house livestock should there be an increased need. The shelter will run under the Calvert County Department of Public Safety and will house the Animal Shelter and Animal Control divisions.

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Linda L. Kelley was an Owings resident and Calvert County commissioner from 1994-2006. Kelley was widely known as a vocal and committed advocate of animal rights and their safe and humane treatment. Throughout her years of community involvement Linda served on dozens of boards, commissions and coalitions including the Friends of Felines board and the Tri-County Animal Shelter board.

In December 2015, Kelley suggested the BOCC look into acquiring its own shelter and adoption center, breaking away from its partnership with Tri-County Animal Shelter. In 2017, the BOCC unanimously voted to name the proposed facility in honor of the former commissioner.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 3 p.m. The shelter is located at 5055 Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick. Details on the shelter are available at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/AnimalShelter.

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