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EASEL Animal Rescue League Sets New Industry Precedent in Animal Rescue

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Mercer County, NJ A unique mutual agreement has been forged between a township and a non-profit to benefit animals. It saves animals and taxpayers. Effective July 1, 2015, EASEL Animal Rescue League of Mercer County has been contracted to manage the Ewing Township's animal shelter cutting expenses to taxpayers nearly in half.

Building on its success at the shelter for more than six years, the municipality and EASEL have demonstrated their commitment to animal welfare showing that government and a nonprofit can be good partners. This new arrangement provides an example to other governments on how they can work successfully with rescue groups to benefit animals.



Bert Steinmann, Ewing's Mayor, the business administrator, and council members unanimously approved the new arrangement June 23, 2015. The current contract is for a period of five months, with a longer-term deal under consideration to take effect in December. This is in alignment with EASEL's goal of helping more animals and to become Mercer County's premier animal adoption center.

While the current location at 4 Jake Garzio Road in Ewing has been working well, the needs are greater than the current facility can handle. EASEL's vision includes own building at a new location that will accommodate more animals, provide more amenities for training, play, and socialization, and provide more comforts while awaiting adoption. "We know the need is there," states Karen Azarchi, President of EASEL Animal Rescue League.

"We are thankful to our countless volunteers and many supporters including Church and Dwight, ETS, National Greyhound Rescue, and the Hightstown Animal Welfare Committee who recognize our efforts and help have helped us move the ball forward," she adds.

FACILITY CHANGES

Hours at the shelter, located at 4 Jake Garzio Rd facility off Scotch Road in Ewing, will be expanded which should result in more animals placed. The facility will be open for adoptions now seven days a week from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Residents can be confident in EASEL's ability to manage the facility. While EASEL will continue to rely heavily on volunteers to take over some of the management tasks, a few paid positions will be added.

As for other immediate changes, the public will be hard pressed to spot them. The entities have had a shared commitment for the animals working together for nearly seven years in preparing and placing animal rescues into loving homes. EASEL's year-round off-site "Adoption Days" will continue at area business including PetSmart, PetCo, Concord Pet, PetValu, and Rosedale Mills.

Heroic Rescue Efforts

"Since Kate Tuttle founded EASEL Animal Rescue in 2008, we have been able to provide a wider range of services to meet the changing needs of the community," adds Azarchi. EASEL's mission is to reduce the number of unwanted dogs, cats, and horses euthanized in Mercer County, through the power of collaborative coalitions and community alliances.

In addition to actively seeking animal placements, EASEL provides training and foster care. "As a no kill shelter, we work very hard to understand each animal's needs and the type of environment in which it will thrive," says Mark Phillips, EASEL Executive Director. "Sometimes animal are taught commands or how to walk on the leash, other times it might be helping them to recovery from surgery." Whether a cat or puppy, rabbit or another animal, all get the time and treatment that they need until they find homes.

EASEL is known for its many other services and educational efforts. They include its microchip clinics, vet clinics, dog training, fundraising events, school and community group interactions, low income pet owner assistance, and help line for pet owners.

Both volunteers and staff are excited at the opportunity to expand its services and look forward to new programming such as a children's animal clinic. The organization also plans to expand its animal care training and its reach in publicizing animals available for adoption.

How to Help

Volunteers, fostering, and donations (financial and canned food) are top priorities. Canned dog and cat food of any kind may be dropped at the EASEL's doorstep any time or to its adoption events. As a 501(c)3, donations may be tax deductible(www.easelnj.org/donate). Residents are encouraged to join EASEL's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/easelnj) and Twitter account (www.twitter.com/easelnj) for up-to-the

minute news on upcoming adoption events, clinics, breaking news, and to see lots of cute faces available for adoption.

For those considering adoption or fostering, they are encouraged to download an application from the website www.easelnj.org/adopt to begin the approval process. The shelter is located at 4 Jake Garzio Road, Ewing, NJ. For more information, please contact with Mark Phillips, Executive Director, at 609-649-4253/mphillips@easelnj.org or Karen Azarchi, President at 609-883-0540/ kazarchi@easelnj.org.

With EASEL providing an example of a successful municipality-nonprofit partnership to benefit animals, it knows it is on to something great.

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Photo Caption Mark Phillips, Executive Director at EASEL Animal Rescue League, recently announced it has assumed management of the Ewing animal shelter in addition to expanded adoption hours (seven days a week from noon until 3pm). EASEL is seeking volunteers, foster families, and loving homes. Here Mark is holding Luke, age 2-3 years, who is very friendly and available for adoption.

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EASEL Animal Rescue League

EASEL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization with the mission of reducing the number of unwanted animals killed in Mercer County, through the power of collaborative coalitions and community alliances. Our Vision is to build and operate a state-of-the-art facility, the Pride of Mercer County, to house and care for unwanted and homeless animals while working diligently to quickly find them loving, permanent homes. Currently, EASEL's all-volunteer network of concerned residents provide assistance in the following areas: Trap/Neuter/Release of feral cats, fostering unwanted cats, dog and horses, and adoption days at local Mercer County pet supply stores.. For more information about our organization, please visit us at www.easelnj.org or <http://www.facebook.com/easelnj>.