

# *Project Information*

*For the*



## *Animal Centre*

*Promoting responsible pet ownership, and  
providing a shelter and care for lost, sick, injured  
neglected and abandoned animals*

## *Introduction*

Below you will find information relating to our new Community Animal Care Centre. The concept for this exciting project was developed in conjunction with the Taupo District Council (the new Animal Centre is immediately adjacent to the new TDC Dog Pound) on land that has been donated for the development by Contact Energy.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, we moved into our new facility and we are absolutely delighted to be operating out of our new building. As there are still many jobs and items that need to be done & procured to complete the project, we continue to actively fundraise to ensure that we reach our fundraising goal, which will provide us with a completed building and help to cover operational costs for a number of years to come.

Although we have worked closely with the Council on this project, and in doing so been able to maximize construction cost savings, we have had to pay for every nut, bolt & screw used in our building. Thankfully, we have received wonderful community support and our aim is to ensure that the new facility will provide the region with a versatile and modern animal care centre that will cater for the region's animal welfare needs for many decades to come.

*We receive no government funding for our operational expenses or for this building project so we are totally reliant on financial support from our local community.*

## *About us*

The Taupo SPCA is a volunteer run organisation that provides help to animals and people 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We promote life-long adoptions, responsible pet ownership and aim to educate the Taupo public on animal welfare issues.

Despite the fact that we serve an important role in the community, we receive no government funding and are entirely dependent on our own fundraising abilities.



*The SPCA is the one organisation that encompasses the needs of all animals.*

## *Our Beginnings*

Formed in 1969, the Society was started by a group of dedicated animal lovers who supported the branch financially and also fostered animals in their own homes. In the early 1980's, donated materials and support from Taupo Lions Club built the original cattery, whilst dogs were still fostered out. The shelter was initially the Taupo Dog Pound, and over the years makeshift improvements were made as money became available. The shelter could only house 4 dogs, 8 pups and up to 60 cats / kittens.

As Taupo grows, so does the number of animals coming to us, and we are currently experiencing an increase of approximately 10% per year.

## *Our Need*



The site on Spa Road was only 166sqm total area, resulting in our animals living, and our staff & volunteers working, in very cramped conditions!

The building was poorly ventilated and made of materials that were not easy to clean - materials which harboured diseases such as Cat Flu & Canine Parvo Virus.

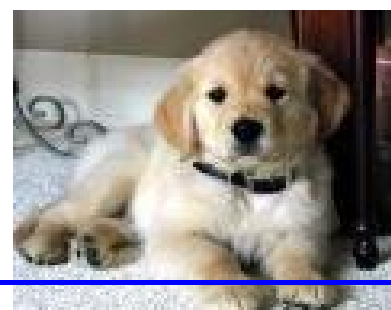
As we didn't have any veterinary facilities or proper isolation facilities, sick animals were often housed next to healthy animals and sometimes, due to a lack of space, we had to euthanase healthy cats and dogs.

All our cat cages were indoors and thus the cats and kittens in our care never saw the light of day. Our dog and puppy cages were outside (with no heating) and there were no facilities for larger animals, (horses, stock, goats, etc).

## *Our Vision*

**A new site was identified on which to build a new, purpose-built SPCA Animal Centre. Located on Centennial Drive, and only 2km up the road from our old Centre, this site is close to town and will have easy access off the Taupo Eastern Arterial Route (once completed).**

Since early 2007 we have been conducting extensive research on Shelters and Animal Centres both nationally and internationally, to ensure the facility we



are building is designed to optimise the health and well-being of the animals in our care. It has been equally important to us that we provide a working environment for our volunteers and staff that is functional, spacious and safe, as well as a Centre for the public to visit that is welcoming and caters to their needs.

Both cat and dog areas now have separate assessment, quarantine, isolation facilities, and nursery rooms. The dogs have large individual runs, as well as communal play areas. Both cats and dogs have access to sunlight and plenty of fresh air. A small animal area has been designed for rabbits, guinea pigs, etc, and the stock yards located close to the Centre can accommodate horses, goats and pigs, as well as stock.

We have a landscaped grassed area, where people will be able to sit and watch the animals and we have also provided separate meet & greet rooms where people can have some one-on-one time with their chosen pet before committing to adoption.



Animals that are rescued from abuse or neglect situations are now able to be cared for away from the public eye (reducing their stress) and a vet consultation room will be set up to cater for their needs.

In the main building we now have a large shop and reception area where people can purchase food, kitty litter, toys, etc – all they need to take their new pet home.

Education is of utmost importance to the Taupo SPCA, and we believe it is the key to the future of animal welfare. Thus, our education / display room will have been setup with the first steps of audio visual equipment which will allow us to make presentations to a wide range of community groups and organisations, not just to school groups.

The SPCA has an excellent working relationship with the Taupo Dog Pound and thus it was always the intention to build the two facilities side by side. Our business operations will remain completely separate, but we will now be able to capitalise on operational efficiencies.

***Photo's of the new Taupo SPCA Animal Centre***  
***2/131 Centennial Drive Taupo***





## *Our Dream Finally Becoming a Reality*

For years we have dreamed of creating a wonderful new facility that will cater for the complete needs of the lost, abandoned, sick, injured and neglected animals that come into our care. A new Animal Centre that will be able to properly promote long term adoptions for healthy, suitable animals.



An Animal Centre that will also enable us to prevent suffering and abuse through education. Our new location, building and business plan will enable us to do all of this in a cost effective way.

## *Financials*

The cost of turning our dream into a reality will be in the close vicinity of \$1,200,000 in total. This includes the building and fit out costs and, as it is business as usual for our SPCA during the building programme, an allowance for ongoing operational expenses.

*We are now asking for help from the wider district community and over the past 12 months have commenced a major fundraising appeal to raise the funding needed to complete the project and reach our \$1.2 million goal.*

## *Conclusion*

As previously stated, we are absolutely thrilled to be in our new building and that our dream has finally become a reality. With the help of the community, we are certain we now have an Animal Centre which the district and the community can be truly proud of.

However, we still need to fully complete the building and continue to operate it over the coming years, particularly as the town grows so now is truly our hour of need. Accordingly we would be most grateful for any support you may feel appropriate.

In the meantime, we thank you for taking the time to read about this exciting project and we look forward to any opportunity of working closely with you during the Appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Faye Johnson**  
**Project Manager**