

Construction has started for Cage-Free Cat Rooms!

The Humane Society of Livingston County is excited to announce that construction started in early January 2012 to add Cage-Free Cat Rooms to our shelter on Dorr Road in Howell. Since launching our Campaign for Cats just over one year ago, we raised nearly all of the initial funding estimate needed for this project through private donations. With so much support from the community, the HSLC Board of Directors decided to move forward with construction and continue fundraising efforts with a goal to cover the full cost of the project before the anticipated grand opening of the new cat room facility in spring 2012.

“This project has been part of our long-term plan for quite some time, so we are really excited to begin moving forward now,” said Barb Benford, HSLC Shelter Administrator. “We currently care for over 100 adoptable cats and kittens in traditional cages at our shelter. Our new cat rooms will provide more *feline friendly* housing options that maximize their quality of life and minimize stress while reducing expenses and increasing the number of adoptions.”

The new community cat rooms will provide a modest, but state-of-the art living environment where small groups of our adoptable cats will share benefits of natural sunlight, outdoor views, and healthy activity. Some of the **expected benefits** for this project include:

- Our cats will be less stressed, happier and less likely to become sick.
- Adopters will be able to interact with our cats in a more natural, comfortable environment and see more of their true personality resulting in increased adoptions.
- Cleaning the cage-free cat rooms instead of individual cages will be faster and reduce expenses.
- Healthier cats will also mean less money spent on veterinary work and medicine.
- **Healthier, happier cats will lead to more successful adoptions.**

The architect for the new addition is Bruce McCullen of Howell. Crane Construction of Brighton was awarded the project and began breaking ground early in January 2012. We appreciate the patience and support from both Bruce and Steve over the past year during our initial fundraising period.

We would like to thank all of our supporters who contributed to get us this far and hope you will continue helping to spread the good news about the benefits of this project. We plan to continue fundraising efforts through completion of the project including options for donors to purchase custom tiles that will be permanently displayed in the new cat room facility. If you would like to help, please call or stop by our shelter to donate, or visit our **Campaign for Cats** website to learn more and donate securely on line: <http://www.humane-livingston.org/campaignforcats/index.htm>.

The HSLC is a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to assisting the community by providing pet adoption services, lost and found assistance, and education on humane treatment, responsible pet ownership, and overpopulation of companion animals. We are not affiliated with any other animal organization or humane society. We do not receive tax dollars and rely on the generosity of people in our community for financial and volunteer support to care for over 1,000 animals each year plus help hundreds more throughout our community.

The Humane Society of Livingston County was recently named *Outstanding Limited Admission Shelter in Michigan with the Greatest Number of Adoptions* by the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a ‘no kill’ shelter philosophy. Winners were selected for having the best 2010 animal save rates. We thank and congratulate everyone in our community who makes our success possible including the HSLC staff, volunteers, adopters, and supporters!

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