The Potsdam Humane Society’s animal shelter is bursting at the seams. In these tough economic times, people are moving to smaller places and are forced to part with their animal companions. For this and many other reasons, more and more animals are showing up at our door. Our door opens to reveal the 17 Madrid Avenue facility is aging and falling apart. While full to capacity much of the time, quality adoptions are giving the animals a second chance with a loving forever home.

The bustling shelter needs renovating and expansion. The building project is a necessity, not a luxury. The present problems:

1. Not enough room to serve all the animals needing our care
2. No way to isolate sick and incoming animals from the healthy adoptable population already there
3. An aging building that is literally crumbling down around us

But, in spite of the poor economy, the PHS is encouraged by the generous response of community donors! The “Labor of Love” capital campaign is on its way to create funds to renovate the existing 2058 sq. ft. space and add another needed 3825’ sq. adoption wing.

The renovated part of the shelter will have a new surgical room with prep and recovery areas, a private nursing mother kennel area, kennels and cat areas to isolate the incoming animals until evaluated or claimed, and a greatly needed cold storage space.

The new wing, which will be open to the public, will house an adequate reception area roomy enough to seat visitors, a classroom for local school children to visit and learn about humane animal care, as well as 18 new dog kennels, 3 new puppy kennels, 3 new kitten spaces, and two new adoptable cat rooms. The entire facility will have proper air exchange to keep the animals healthy. Plans for the building can be seen on the PHS’s website.

As the PHS strives to become a “no kill” shelter where no adoptable, healthy animal would be killed for lack of space, $250,000 is needed by June 2009 to proceed with sending out construction bids and breaking ground for the building completion in December of 2009.

These are exciting times! North Country residents are showing that they care about their homeless animals by giving what they can.

Most recently, Lucas Manning, owner of the Partridge Café in Canton sat on his roof for nearly 12 hours on Friday, February 13th and raised $3500 toward the new addition. Local college and high school students along with other members of the community have been logging on to the website zootoo.com/makeover to vote for PHS to win a million dollar makeover. While not expecting the top
million-dollar prize, if the PHS stays in the top 20, we may well win a substantial amount of money to help with the building project. Visiting this clean zootoo website is free and does not generate Spam in email boxes. The contest ends on March 13th.

Good feelings abound in this Labor of Love. Every gift is precious whether it be $1 or $10,000, a free visit to the zootoo website or volunteering on fundraising projects. You~EVERYONE OF YOU~are needed by the animals at PHS! When everyone pitches in to help our companion animals, we reach our goal! You can visit our website and learn more about us, and check out the pets looking for their forever homes.

Volunteers are desperately need to help with many upcoming fundraising events. These volunteers could work out of their homes or on-site at events, but would not be working directly with the animals. Please call Tracy Adle 420-4478 or Bonnie Boyd 353-2847 for information.

The Potsdam Humane Society operates an animal shelter at 17 Madrid Ave in the village of Potsdam, next to the town barns.

The Potsdam Humane Society provides humane care for animals in the towns of Potsdam, Norfolk, Colton, Pierrepont, Parishville, Hopkinton, Fine, Lisbon, Lawrence, and the surrounding area.

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Bonnie S. Boyd, Board President