

# Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH SECTION | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

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## Beaufort County Receives \$1 Million Donation from Hilton Head Humane Association for New Animal Shelter

Beaufort County and the Hilton Head Humane Association are one step closer to bringing their vision to fruition of a new \$7 million animal shelter facility in the Okatie area. During County Council's regular meeting yesterday evening, Humane Association Executive Director Franny Gerthoffer affirmed the Association's commitment to the project by presenting a gift of \$1 million to Beaufort County Council. The two groups recently signed an agreement for the construction and operation of a 22,000 square-foot facility to be surrounded by open space and trails. The County's Animal Services staff will treat and house animals and the Humane Association staff will manage a spay-neuter clinic and adoption center at the facility. The proposed facility will feature new technology to help reduce disease and improve the air exchange system, which will provide a healthier environment for staff and resident animals. The County has dedicated \$500,000 to design the facility and \$3.5 million for the project. The remaining \$2 million of the facility's estimated cost will come from private fundraising.

"Hilton Head Humane Association has been a tremendous friend to us for years," said Beaufort County Animal Services Director Tallulah Trice. "We are deeply grateful to Franny and her staff, as well as the entire Humane Association's Board of Directors, for this generous gift and hope that strong support from the community continues as we launch our fundraising campaign to save and help homeless animals."



*Pictured left to right are Beaufort County Public Safety Director Phil Foot, Beaufort County Council Chairman Paul Sommerville; Humane Association Executive Director Franny Gerthoffer and staff member Bonnie Powell; and Beaufort County Animal Services Director Tallulah Trice with Mudd.*