



About the Partners: Charleston Animal Society (formerly the John Ancrum SPCA)

Mission: The mission of the Charleston Animal Society is to insure that every domestic animal resides in an environment that provides protection, love, activity and nourishment.

Background: The Charleston Animal Society (CAS), formerly the John Ancrum SPCA, is a 134-year-old institution in the Lowcountry, taking in over 10,000 unwanted and abandoned animals each year. It is the only open admissions shelter in Charleston County. CAS celebrated the grand opening of its new 31,000 sq. ft. facility on March 8, 2008. The \$11 million capital campaign, spearheaded by CAS President Charles Karesh, is close to completion. The lovely ranch style building has a welcoming atmosphere for families and is located in North Charleston.

The Charleston Animal Society wasn't always a three-word organization. It started as the South Carolina Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and was chartered in 1874 but did not organize until 1880, when it elected its first officers. The Society's second president was John L. Ancrum, a Charleston physician who graduated from the College of Charleston and what was then the Medical College of the State of South Carolina. He served in the Civil War on the Confederate cruiser Nashville but returned to Charleston after the war to continue practicing medicine. Ancrum moved to Abbeville, South Carolina shortly before his death in 1900.

He willed the Society "the rest and residue" of his estate after the death of his wife and two relatives, under the condition that the organization be named for him when his last survivor died. That happened in 1940, and the organization changed its name to the John Ancrum Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The organization shortened its name to Charleston Animal Society on November 26, 2007 in advance of the opening of the new facility. Ancrum will not be forgotten though! The new logo has "Charleston Animal Society" in bold print; underneath appears, "A JASPCA Facility."

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