



Rural Development • Community Programs • Community Facility Loan and Grant

Opening of Veterinary Clinic and The Bed ‘n Bark Inn

HART for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization founded in 2003 to improve the condition of homeless animals in the Western Maryland region, requested funding for a new shelter. The shelter replaced a 1,000 square foot facility with a 12,000 square foot facility. HART for Animals, Inc. works every day to save the lives of homeless pets and are a mainstay for providing an essential service to help reduce pet overpopulation through low-cost spaying and neutering and help to prevent the spread of disease by vaccinating all puppies and kittens that are received at the center.

The shelter opened in February 2014 and is located in Accident, MD. Allegany County donated 6.85 acres and USDA Rural Development provided \$1,728,725 in low-interest loan and grant funds that helped with the construction of the facility that houses several offices, a veterinary clinic and boarding and grooming areas, and an adoption wing that will hold 100 homeless animals.



Participating in the ribbon cutting from left to right, are Bob Gatto, Garrett County Commissioner; HART mascot, Sunny the Dog; Michael Pellet, HART President; State Senator George Edwards; Mercedes Pellet, Development Director; James Raley, Garrett County Commissioner; Diana Modelska, Representative for Congressman John Delaney; and Dr. Bill McGowan, State Director; seated front and center: Jose, friend of the animal center.

Obligation Amount: \$1,683,000 loan and \$45,725 grant

Date of Obligation: August 2012 and August 2013

Congressional District: Representative Delaney, District 6; Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin

Partners: State of Maryland and Allegany County

Demographics: Western Maryland Region

Impact: Economic Development, Relieve overcrowding of the County' Animal Control/Shelter, job creation/retention, attracting new visitors to the area by providing boarding facilities for their pets.