



*Monroe County Legislature*

**RACHEL BARNHART**  
LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 17

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October 4, 2024

County Executive Adam Bello  
110 County Office Building  
39 W. Main St.  
Rochester, NY 14614

**Re: Request for Funding in 2025 Budget for Animal Shelter Shared Services Study**

County Executive Bello,

Thank you for your leadership in securing funding for the Rochester Emergency Veterinary Services facility. Monroe County has a critical role in ensuring the welfare of our community's animals, as the way we treat them reflects our values of compassion and care for others.

Considering this, I respectfully request that you consider allocating up to \$100,000 in the 2025 budget for a feasibility study on shared services among Monroe County's municipally run animal shelters. A recent WXXI report highlighted both the interest of suburban towns in collaboration and the troubling situation at the Rochester shelter, including overcrowding and staff shortages.

The 2023 Monroe County Shared Services Plan estimated a potential \$250,000 savings from a centralized animal shelter, though the landscape has since shifted with some towns making investments in their own facilities. A feasibility study is needed to explore various options related to shelter facilities, staffing, purchasing, and veterinary care.

Such a study would not only help maximize tax dollars but also enhance the care provided to vulnerable dogs and cats. Monroe County residents care deeply about ensuring animals in need receive the best possible treatment and a chance to thrive. I am confident that including this funding would garner strong support from both colleagues and the public.

Thank you for considering this request. Your continued leadership on animal welfare issues is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rachel Barnhart – Legislator District 17