

*Animal shelter
director Richard
Collard with new
mobile unit.*

Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter Department (Ames Blvd. at Belle Terre, PO Box 389, Marrero, LA 70073) has a mobile rabies unit, staffed by the shelter veterinarian and two assistants, serving the low income areas of the community. A rabies shot is \$3, and a heartworm check is \$1. The mobile unit is introducing more citizens to the animal control department while encouraging pet owner responsibility....■



Two sources to check for funds

Animal shelters seeking funding should check these two sources:

The US Department of Agriculture makes loans available through the individual states for community facilities in rural areas. To qualify for a construction loan, the parties building the shelter will need to show that the shelter is a valuable service to all the public. Typical projects include hospitals, nursing homes and street improvements.

According to the Community Facilities Loan Division of the Farmers Home Administration, each state receives funds based on rural population, income levels and other factors.

The loans are available to a local government or a private, non-profit group, and in either case, the loan can be secured with tax revenues by the local government. The interest rate is 5%, and the payback period is the life of the building to a maximum of 40 years. The community served must have fewer than 10,000 people.

For complete information, contact the Farmers Home Administration County Supervisor listed in your telephone book under Farmers Home Administration or under the county government offices.

Communities receiving federal revenue sharing funds can make these funds available for the construction or operation of animal shelters.

The federal government requires cities and counties to hold hearings on the distribution of revenue sharing money, according to the Office of Federal Revenue Sharing, US Department of Treasury. Shelters can request funding at these hearings.

There are few restrictions on using the money. Distribution depends on local priorities. Shelters will be competing against other interests for these dollars and should be prepared to show that they are performing a community service.

For complete information, contact your city or county budget or financial director. ■