

Axis cameras provide a loyal companion.

Northeast Arkansas Humane Society installs Axis small systems solution after break-in.



Organization:

Northeast Arkansas Humane Society

Location:

Jonesboro, Arkansas, USA

Application:

Safety and security, theft deterrence, small systems security

Axis partner:

Critical Edge

Mission

The Northeast Arkansas Humane Society is an animal welfare organization that has been operating since 1971. The non-profit shelter operates many programs that benefit the local community, and it relies solely on donations, membership dues, and adoption fees. In 2013, the Humane Center launched a donation drive in conjunction with the local food bank to collect pet food and supplies for families who had fallen on hard times. However, the Humane Society suffered a major blow when a burglar broke in and stole items worth thousands of dollars that had been donated for the program. The Humane Society needed a solution to protect against this type of theft happening again.

Solution

After hearing reports of the break-in, the Humane Society's neighbor, systems integrator and Axis partner Critical Edge, decided to donate a video surveillance system to help the shelter deter future break-ins.

Critical Edge chose five Axis network cameras for the property, including HDTV 1080p quality and outdoor-ready AXIS P1346-E Network Cameras to cover the exterior of the building and the driveway, and the discrete HDTV 720p quality AXIS P3344 Fixed Dome Network Camera to watch over the animals indoors. The system is managed with AXIS Camera Companion software, which provides an easy to learn camera management tool for newcomers to video surveillance.

Result

Critical Edge was not the only community member to step forward when news of the break-in spread. Donations and food poured in, and soon the shelter had rebuilt its stockpile of goods and more. Their new video surveillance system now provides 24/7 security for the animals, the shelter, and their vital supplies. The cameras' outdoor-ready enclosures will ensure they continue to function in harsh weather conditions, and the HDTV-quality video will provide crisp, clear images for police investigation should an incident occur again.

“We were devastated by the loss of our pet food pantry. Having a security system and cameras in place will definitely deter people from trying this again.”

Margaret Shepherd, Executive Director, Northeast Arkansas Humane Society.

A devastating break-in

In January 2014, thieves broke into the Northeast Arkansas Humane Society's Jonesboro, Arkansas animal shelter and stole supplies worth thousands of dollars. The supplies had all been donated by the community and friends of the shelter to help local families care for their pets during hard times. The items stolen included 600 pounds of dog food, 200 pounds of kitty litter, a washer and a dryer and more.

Margaret Shepherd, executive director of the Humane Society, said the shelter did not have a video surveillance system in place when the break-in occurred. Due to a lack of video evidence, police were unable to broadcast any images of the suspects or the vehicle to aid in the investigation.

“They definitely would have put something like this on the news,” she said.

The neighborhood responds

Jonesboro, Arkansas systems integrator and Axis partner Critical Edge, who also happen to be neighbors of the shelter, read reports of the break-in and decided to donate a video surveillance system to help protect against future break-ins, as well as provide video evidence should another occur.

“When we saw the news report, we immediately wanted to help,” said Michael Allsup, owner/CEO, Critical Edge. “Our office is right around the corner. They are our neighbors. We knew the right system would warn thieves that our community takes security seriously.”

Critical Edge selected an Axis small systems solution with edge storage to provide the benefits of IP video in a user-friendly package. The software is designed with both casual and experienced users in mind, so it is well-suited for a newcomer to surveillance technology like the Humane Society.

Securing the shelter

Critical Edge installed five Axis network cameras, including HDTV 1080p quality and outdoor-ready AXIS P1346-E Network Cameras to cover the exterior of the building and the driveway, and the discrete HDTV 720p quality AXIS P3344 Fixed Dome Network Camera to watch over the animals indoors. The system is scalable, so the Humane Society can add more cameras on a one-by-one basis as needed.

The cameras' ease of installation helped Critical Edge get the system up and running quickly, and the outdoor cameras' environmental enclosures will ensure the system stays vigilant in all weather conditions. The system will be managed by AXIS Camera Companion, which allows video to be recorded directly onto the SD card inside the cameras themselves and controlled by a free PC software client, eliminating the need for a typically expensive and maintenance-heavy DVR often used by analog CCTV in small systems environments.

Capturing the evidence they need

The Humane Society can now access crisp live and recorded video in HDTV on their PC, over the Internet or on a mobile device, making instant identification of incidents possible both on- and offsite.

According to Shepherd, break-ins at animal shelters are not uncommon, and many target the animals themselves. Shepherd believes the cameras will play a key role in preventing these crimes. In fact, she has already seen people on video approach the shelter at night, notice the cameras, and turn away. If another break-in does occur, she is confident the video evidence will help find the culprits.

“With the video, we believe we can get good visual evidence for public broadcast which somebody might recognize and call in as an anonymous tip,” she said.



CriticalEdge