



City and County of Denver
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City kicks off opening of new, state-of-the-art Denver Animal Shelter June 11

Open house, prizes and adoption specials help kick off grand opening event

DENVER, CO – Denver’s pet population will soon to get a new leash on life thanks to the new, state-of-the-art animal shelter built as part of the Better Denver Bond program.

On **June 11 at 10 a.m.**, Denver’s Department of Environmental Health will kick off the grand opening at a ribbon cutting event with Mayor Guillermo (Bill) Vidal and Council Member Chris Nevitt, followed by an open house with door prizes, reduced adoption fees and tours from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

While the new location of the [Denver Animal Shelter](#) at 1241 W. Bayaud Ave sits less than a mile from the existing site on Jason Street, the new site on the South Platte campus offers better visibility from I-25, and at just over 36,000 square feet--more than twice the space of the old one.

The extra room allows for [more amenities and features](#), including people and animal-friendly pet adoption spaces with “real life” pet visitation rooms for dogs, and cat colony rooms.

The facility was designed and built to reflect Denver Animal Care & Control’s commitment to animal welfare and health, and the city’s [commitment to sustainability](#). Shelter architect Animal Arts specializes in animal shelter and veterinary hospital design.

A few of the new amenities include:

- Separate lobbies and entrances for adoption services and lost and found
- Energy efficient heated flooring will keep paws warm and natural daylight throughout the building will keep the space bright and airy and minimize energy use
- A 26 percent increase in animal housing
- A new education/ community room
- Additional housing for dogs and cats
- Short-term housing for urban wildlife (raptors, raccoons, snakes, etc).
- Medical isolation areas designed to reduce disease transmission
- State-of-the-art surgery suite which will allow for on-site spay/neuter of shelter animals and care for injured animals

Under the City’s commitment to sustainability through Greenprint Denver initiatives, the shelter was designed and constructed with the goal of achieving Certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

(LEED) through sustainable construction approaches recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council. The shelter is on track to achieve Gold certification with potential to obtain LEED-NC Platinum. This rating that would make the shelter the only City facility and the first animal shelter in the country to achieve Platinum certification.

“We’ve worked really hard to ensure the shelter meets and exceeds all the green building standards,” says Doug Kelley, Director of Denver’s Animal Care & Control. “Many of the features that make this building sustainable are the same features that promote better health for both pets and people.”

Some of the sustainable features include:

- The building is comprised of at least 20% recycled content and at least 20% of the materials come from within 500 miles, tracked from point of extraction or harvest through the manufacturing process;
- More than 90% of the wood used in this project was certified by the Forest Stewardship Council to be harvested through sustainable practices to ensure long term health of the forests;
- Every paint, sealant, adhesive, or coating was reviewed for its volatile organic compound (VOC) content and only approved for use if it met rigorous standards and plywood, millwork, and other pressed wood products used special glue that does not contain urea formaldehyde, a commonly used compound that may be harmful to occupants.

The Denver Animal Shelter and Animal Care & Control is division of the Denver Department of Environmental Health. For more information about the Denver Animal Shelter, visit www.denveranimalshelter.org.

The City & County of Denver’s Better Denver Bond Program works to preserve, renovate and create amenities that touch citizen’s lives – including roads, libraries, parks, recreation centers, child care sites, hospitals, city buildings, and cultural facilities. Approved by voters in 2007, the bond program brings millions of dollars into the economy, helps to preserve and create jobs and is making Denver a more attractive place to live, work, and invest in the future. For more information about the Better Denver Bond Program, visit www.denvergov.org/betterdenver.

Denver’s Department of Environmental Health (DEH) is a charter city department established in 1997. DEH includes Denver Animal Shelter and Denver Animal Care & Control, Community Health and Decision Support, Environmental Quality, Office of the Medical Examiner and Public Health Inspections.

For more information about Environmental Health, visit www.denvergov.org/deh.

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