

**Councilman**  
**TONY CARDENAS**  
6<sup>th</sup> Council District



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***  
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**Cardenas, Animal Services Previews State-of-the-Art Pet Refuge**  
***New Animal Shelter Becomes Valley's Swan Story with Help of Councilman***

**Van Nuys-** Today, Councilman Tony Cardenas joined the Department of Animal Services and the Bureau of Engineering in hosting a sneak preview tour of the city's latest, state-of-the-art East Valley Animal Care Center.

The 49,000 square-foot facility, built to replace the old shelter on Sherman Way in North Hollywood, was open for a sneak preview. Community members and press representatives were given a tour highlighting the shelter's unique architecture, including the renowned yin-yang gardens where future pet owners can get acquainted with their furry friends. The enviro-savvy animal care kennels were also on display. Cardenas expressed his thanks to city officials who replaced the East Valley's overcrowded, dated facility with a "true swan story."

"This will not just be an animal shelter, this will be an animal sanctuary," said Cardenas. "When you look at the differences between the old shelter and this new pet refuge, it's obvious the city has made a commitment to taking better care of our animals."

The new East Valley Animal Care Center is equipped with "get acquainted" courtyards, an animal training field, free-flight aviaries (bird enclosures), and water features. The facility is also composed of three exclusive sectors which include a community/training room, the dog kennels, and the staff support area. More than a shelter, the building also houses a spay and neuter clinic, a medical area, and staff administrative offices.

"This new East Valley Animal Care Center demonstrates the City of Los Angeles' commitment to ending pet euthanasia, by building expanded pet-and-people friendly facilities with more animal holding capacity and great community appeal," said Ed Boks, General Manager, Los Angeles Animal Services.

"This is the third project to be delivered for the Prop F, Animal Facilities Bond Program," said City Engineer Gary L. Moore, Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering. "The project is delivered within budget and ahead of the November 2007th schedule mentioned in the bond issue documents. The 49,000 square-foot facility is designed with concern for the safety and comfort of animals and people, and for energy efficiency."

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Kennel walkways are equipped with a microclimate misting system to keep the public and animals cool during hot weather. It is capable of providing as much as a 20-degree drop in temperature. Cubby areas are also provided in the kennels equipped with radiant slab heating system with temperature controls to keep the animals warm. An automatic water system is also provided to keep a constant flow of fresh water for the animals.

When the animal care center is open to the public, the community will be able to take advantage of weekend and evening dog training classes which will be held in the training yard. The 1600 square-foot conference room will be used for additional community activities.

The new site offers 165 kennels compared to only 60 at the old facility and is an acre larger in size. The new facility is approximately three acres.

The project's final construction cost is estimated at \$12.3 million dollars. The center will be open to the public some time in late spring.

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