

# New home for lost and abandoned animals



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

The county's new Animal Services Authority complex will open at Rodriguez Street and Seventh Avenue Sept. 18.

## Animals Services complex set to move from Scotts Valley to Live Oak; will open Sept. 18

By SHANNA MCCORD  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER



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If he's not adopted by Sept. 18, this cat will make the move to the new Animal Services complex at Rodriguez Street and Seventh Avenue.

**LIVE OAK** — The more than 100 abandoned and lost animals in Santa Cruz County will soon move to new, modern digs where they'll have more room to stretch their legs and space to "meet and greet" families looking to adopt a pet.

The Santa Cruz County Animal Services Authority will close its dingy Scotts Valley shelter on Sept. 18 and relocate the staff and animals to a new \$5 million home on Seventh Avenue in Live Oak, under construction since December.

Final touches are being applied this week to the green 13,000-square-foot Animal Services building, which carries a strong scent of new paint, in preparation for the animals' arrival in a couple of weeks.

"This is a huge improvement visually and operationally for the community," said

Susan Pearlman, a project manager with the county Administrative Office. "There are big upgrades in resources for the animals and it's a big win for the neighborhood."

Animal Services — a joint powers organization funded by the county and cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville — had been operated out of a converted warehouse on Janis Way in Scotts Valley since 2003 when they left an old, run-down facility on Seventh Avenue.

The old Animal Services building, next door to the former SPCA shelter that burned in March, was torn down to make room for the new shelter.

Instead of renovating the old shelter, Pearlman said it was cheaper to start over and build a new facility. The project has been funded through the county Redevel-

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## Shelter

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opment Agency, Pearlman said.

Features of the new shelter include a separate private area to check in animals dropped off by the public, and an inline disinfection system will make it easier to clean the animals' cages, General Manager Henry Brzezinski said. Space for a larger clinic has been added to spay and neuter the cats and dogs.

Solar panels have been installed to heat the shelter's water and solar tubes will light the kennels.

Dogs will have designated areas to run inside and outside, Brzezinski said.

Cats, which make up the majority of the shelter's animals, will be separated into four



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Animal Services will remain at the Scotts Valley site until they move to the new complex Sept. 18.

areas: isolation, wild, adopt or lost. The cats will be housed in white, fiberglass "condos" with glass openings on all sides rather than steel cages.

Brzezinski expects to see an increase in the number of people

seeking their services because of the location in Mid-County. "The new location is more centrally located, so I can envision more clients coming into the facility," Brzezinski said. "It's going to be better for the

animals and for the public."

Brenna Ewing, an SPCA employee, toured the new facility on Thursday and walked away impressed.

"I really liked the set-up for cats. That's a huge plus," Ewing said. "The old facility was just that. It was a pretty old style. This is definitely a nicer look, even the landscaping."

Santa Cruz County Animal Services Authority's telephone number will stay the same, 454-7303.

The new shelter hours will be 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, and the animals will be available for viewing 12:30-5:30 p.m.

The Scotts Valley building is available for lease and no changes are in store for the shelter in Watsonville.

Contact Shanna McCord at 429-2401 or smccord@santacruzsentinel.com.



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Jay Gunter, facility manager for the new Animal Services complex, shows off the shelter's two commercial washers and one dryer.