

SPCA eyes spring groundbreaking

Animal Shelter

12-9-12

Group in midst of \$1 million fundraising campaign

By KIMBERLY WHITE

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LIVE OAK — The local SPCA's four-legged charges will be in animal heaven this time next year, with triple the space to run around and stretch their whiskers and furry little limbs and tails.

In a few months, crews will break ground on a new, state-of-the-art animal shelter, just a couple doors down from the rescue organization's existing facility on Chanticleer Avenue. The SPCA of Santa Cruz County has rented that building since May 2008, but the 800-square-foot building can

hold only about 50 dogs and cats, all of them confined in cages.

The new, 8,400-square-foot "cageless" facility will be able to comfortably house up to 150 animals, but "if we had to prepare for a disaster like (Hurricane) Katrina, we could definitely hold more," said Lisa Carter, the SPCA's director. Construction on the half-acre site, which the SPCA purchased in late 2010 for \$571,000, will begin in the spring and should wrap up by late 2013.

"It'll be a great Christmas present for the SPCA," Carter said.

Meanwhile, the private non-

SEE SPCA ON C3



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The 8,400-square-foot cageless SPCA facility will be able to comfortably house up to 150 animals, according to Lisa Carter, the SPCA's executive director. Construction on the half-acre site, which the SPCA purchased in late 2010 for \$571,000, will begin in the spring and should wrap up by late 2013.

SPCA

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profit is in the midst of a campaign to raise \$1 million, including seeking financiers to pay for naming rights — not only for the entire building, but also for dozens of individual rooms.

"A dollar (donation) is not too little, and anything more is greatly, greatly appreciated," Carter said.

In a recently produced video, viewers can take a 3-D, room-by-room tour of the two-story building, designed by an Albuquerque-based architectural firm that specializes in animal facilities.

The first floor will be reserved for cats, and the second for dogs, which will be able to socialize and play in more than two dozen soundproof "suites." Other features include dog runs, offices and a sprinkler system.

Residents can get a sneak peek of the facility next week, during an event co-hosted by the SPCA and Humane Society of the United States. During that event, slated for 7-9 p.m. Dec. 12, Jennifer Fearing, California Senior State Director for the Humane Society, will discuss the best ways to advocate on animals' behalf, recent legislative victories and ongoing efforts to change the state's laws. For example, poultry are currently excluded from the federal Humane Slaughter Act, and a pending bill would

IF YOU GO

SANTA CRUZ SPCA
AND CALIFORNIA
HUMANE SOCIETY
'VICTORY WRAP'

WHEN: 7-9 p.m. Dec. 12

WHERE: Santa Cruz
Museum of Art and History,
705 Front St., Santa Cruz

COST: Free, but seating is
limited

INFORMATION: 831-
465-5000 or california@humanesociety.org

TO DONATE: Call 831-
465-5000 or go to www.santacruzspca.org

require more space for laying hens to roam, nest and perch.

The SPCA is a no-kill shelter that takes in animals from Santa Cruz and other counties, where they often are in danger of being euthanized. More than 40 percent of the animals are adopted out to people who live outside Santa Cruz County.

The organization is separate from the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter, which was formed in 2002 and provides animal control services throughout the county. One-third of the roughly 7,000 animals brought to the Live Oak and Watsonville facilities each year are euthanized, according to Melanie Sobel, the agency's general manager.

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