

Santa Cruz Co. Animal Services signs lease for shelter

Animal Shelter
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

Santa Cruz County Animal Services signed a three year lease for property in Scotts Valley to be transformed into the new public animal shelter. This shelter will serve all Santa Cruz County communities with the exception of the city of Watsonville. Animal Services will begin their transition into the new facility, located at 27 Janis Way, on Dec. 4. Animals that are currently being housed in veterinary hospitals and boarding facilities throughout Santa Cruz County will start being transferred into the shelter in mid-December.

"Although this is an interim shelter for the next three years, we see

this as a first step towards achieving our goal of providing a humane environment for lost and adoptable animals," says Michael McFarland, the newly appointed General Manager of Santa Cruz County Animal Services. "In addition, this shelter will provide the community with a focal point for all issues related to the compassionate care and protection of its animals."

Although the lease of the Janis Way site means Animal Services will not be immediately returning to the Santa Cruz SPCA 7th St property, the Animal Services Authority remains interested in negotiating a purchase of the Santa Cruz SPCA property. In the next three years,

the Animal Services Authority will be evaluating several potential long term shelter sites, including the SPCA site on 7th St.

Lost and adoptable animals will continue to be viewed at the county Web site www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us and click on "Rescued Animals" as well as the Web sites of the cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola and Scotts Valley. Members of the public will still be able to contact Animal Services at the same telephone number (454-7303) after the move. Animal Services will also continue their offsite adoption clinics throughout the county to continue their mission of placing as many adoptable animals as possible.