A Better Shelter for Homeless Pets is Now a Reality

Learn how Larimer Humane Society’s new shelter is making Northern Colorado a great place for pets.
We have said good-bye to our old shelter where tens of thousands of second chances were made possible, and now we look forward to the future with excitement and optimism knowing more second chances are just around the corner.

The opening of our new shelter in September marked the beginning of a new era for Larimer Humane Society. With more space, efficiency and flexibility, we are able to better achieve our mission of furthering the compassionate, safe, and responsible relationship between animals and people. We are proud to be strengthening our commitment to our community and the animals we share it with.

- We are committed to expanding our programs and services to operate under best practices to ensure every animal that comes through our doors is cared for guided by the five freedoms while providing high-quality safety net and animal control services to keep our community safe.
- We are working to enhance our organizational capacity to ensure a healthy future for our organization to ensure animals and people have a place to turn in their time of need.
- We will continue to strive to be a community resource and leader in animal welfare through collaboration, partnerships and advocacy.

With our community and partners beside us, we will continue to make great strides towards building a better world for pets. The opening of our new facility is just one of many steps we are taking to help make Northern Colorado a great place for pets and the people who love them.

Warm wishes,

Judith A. Calhoun, CFRE, CAWA
Executive Director

Larimer County Commissioner, Steve Johnson
“Thanks to the citizens who voted to pass a sales tax initiative in late 2014, we have today a tremendous example of a successful public-private partnership. As we continue to see growth in our region, residents of Larimer County can feel good knowing that our important animal control services will remain with the same provider, Larimer Humane Society, for at least the next 30 years.”

Mayor of Loveland, Cecil Gutierrez
“We are proud to welcome Larimer Humane Society to Loveland and have them as a resource in our own backyard.”
Larimer Humane Society was born in 1969 when a group of volunteers created a safe haven for the community’s homeless animals in a rented warehouse on Prospect Road. In 1974, Larimer Humane Society took its commitment to help homeless animals a step further when the operation moved to its location at 6317 South Kyle Avenue. Every day since it opened, the staff and volunteers have worked to provide second chances to animals in need but, over the past 40 years, that original shelter began to deteriorate while animal sheltering and the needs of the community evolved dramatically. Northern Colorado continues to grow and, with it, the animal population grows as well. Currently, many of the animals that come through the doors of Larimer Humane Society require more time and space for behavior modification and medical recovery to become adoptable. These best practices in animal sheltering require the space and efficiency that simply weren’t possible in the worn-down facility. With the support of the Northern Colorado community and the many supporting partners, Larimer Humane Society embarked upon a journey to build a better shelter for homeless pets through the construction of a new shelter. After more than a decade of strategizing, planning and fundraising, Larimer Humane Society moved into its new forever home over Labor Day weekend and opened the doors of the new shelter to the Northern Colorado community and animals in need on Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

“The Larimer Humane Society’s new facility is a place for pets and people to find love, a community resource and education center, a rehabilitation and training center, a dog park, a veterinary clinic for shelter animals and a place to uphold the ordinances that keep our community safe,” says Executive Director Judy Calhoun. “Most importantly, it offers a place for second chances.”

The new state-of-the-art shelter will allow Larimer Humane Society staff and volunteers to better protect the five freedoms every animal deserves. Every animal that enters their shelter receives quality food, vaccinations and medical care, a clean kennel, socialization, walks, playtime, cuddles and training all delivered with love. The space, efficiency and functionality of their new shelter will allow them to improve the quality and efficiency of how these services are delivered.

“Our new shelter will strengthen our commitment to providing excellent service, serving the community and improving behavior modification for frightened, high-energy, and otherwise challenging pets,” Calhoun says. “These improvements to our programs and services will help us ensure accessible resources for our community as well as happier, healthier animals which will result in more adoptions and ultimately help make Northern Colorado a great place for pets and people alike.”

Larimer Humane Society’s commitment to healthier, happier animals and improved community service shows in the design choices made in their new shelter. “When it came to the design of our new shelter we were excited to put the needs of animals and our community first,” adds
Calhoun. “Animal shelters can be a stressful environment for both animals and people. We strived to design a new building that would be friendly and welcoming for visitors as well as a comfortable, enriching and hygienic environment for the pets in our care.”

The health and happiness of the animals in the Larimer Humane Society’s care is its number one priority. Some of the features in the new shelter that help improve the health and happiness of the animals include:

- **Roomier kennels, cages, and space** in which animals can move, play and walk. The smallest kennel in the new shelter is one-and-a-half times larger than the largest kennel at the old shelter.

- **New spaces that incorporate natural light** as well as indoor/outdoor areas and better ventilation to help prevent disease. During the design phase, Larimer Humane Society made sure to place almost all animal housing space on the outside of the building and places humans on the inside to allow the animals to maintain a more natural sleep/light cycle.

- **Improved housing options for cats.** The new shelter boasts three new housing options for cats including five-foot-wide cat condos with individually ventilated litter box space for one cat, large cat suites similar to a dog kennel to provide vertical space for cats to climb, stretch and explore as well as cat colony rooms that can house three to five cats together with an outdoor “catio” space for the cats to enjoy birds and insects. Bushes and flowers that will attract bees and butterflies were planted outside of the “catio” for extra enrichment for the cats.

- **Improved housing options for dogs.** All of the kennel spaces for dogs are larger and will provide flexibility to house more than one dog together for socialization. New dog pavilions with an environment controlled cover will allow bringing the outside in. This means dogs will have a warm play area in the winter and more space to socialize with other dogs. Additionally, double-sided kennels will provide additional space for dogs and assist with the efficiency of cleaning to ensure the health and safety of the animals and staff.

- **Implementation of proven methods for reducing stress** such as housing similar animals together, and noise reduction will help keep animals happier and reduce stress. In the new shelter, cats, dogs, small mammals, exotics and predatory mammals and barnyard animals are all housed separately.

- **The new facility will provide sufficient flexible space for growth** and changes in animal populations. This means that Larimer Humane Society will be more able to provide for the individual needs of animals that come through its doors and will also assist in larger scale rescues.

- **Heated flooring** near the front of cages will encourage the animals to socialize with potential adopters and will assist finding loving new homes more quickly.

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**Five Freedoms**

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor.

2. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4. Freedom to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind.

5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

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A Better Shelter for Homeless Pets 10 Years in the Making

2007: Two plots of land totaling 27 acres on County Road 30 were purchased by Larimer Humane Society

2011: The loan for the land on County Road 30 was paid off

2012: Design of the new shelter began. Animal Arts, an architecture firm specializing in animal shelters, was chosen through an RFP process

2014: Yes on 200, a special purpose tax initiative allocating one penny for every ten dollars to fund Larimer Humane Society’s new shelter made it on the ballot

November 4, 2014: Yes on 200 passed

May 4, 2016: Larimer Humane Society, in partnership with construction management firm Ditesco and general contractor Mortenson, broke ground on their new shelter

September 5, 2017: Larimer Humane Society’s new shelter opened

April 2013 – October 2017: Capital campaign to raise remaining $2.1 million needed for their new shelter

• Isolation unit and state-of-the-art HVAC system that ensures no air is recirculated to reduce the spread of disease and allows any area of the new shelter to be turned into an isolation unit if needed, thereby protecting both sick and healthy animals in the Larimer Humane Society’s care.

• A new veterinary clinic for shelter animals with three dental tables allows provision for better care to the growing senior population of pets that come through the doors, improved surgery suite and recovery kennels. On-site radiology means sick and injured animals no longer have to be transferred off-site to receive an x-ray.

Larimer Humane Society also ensure improvements that would benefit humans as well. Larimer Human Society’s new shelter will allow it to be a better community resource. Some of the features in the new shelter to help improve services and client experiences include:

• New intake lobby with expanded hours will allow those in need of services other than adoption to receive them more quickly. The new intake lobby is open Monday-Friday from 8am-7pm and Saturday/Sunday 8am-5pm. This means services such as dropping off a stray animal, picking up a lost pet, surrendering an animal, along with other services will be more accessible.

• A new on-site education center allows the expansion of the Humane Education offerings with programs and classes to promote safety, compassion and responsible pet ownership.

• A new public dog park will be open to the community from sunrise to sundown.

• A new community room will be a great place to host meetings or gatherings with Larimer Humane Society’s partners and other animal
2,904 strays found a safe haven at Larimer Humane Society in their time of need

5,973 animals were welcomed into our shelter in 2017

410 animals were cared for in loving foster homes until they were ready to be adopted

51,814 days of care

94,512 meals provided

2,624 homeless animals found their forever homes

1,627 Lost Animals Were Reunited with Their Families
It is our goal to keep pets with their families! The best thing you can do to make sure your pet finds its way back home should it become lost is to license them - it’s their ticket home!

Average Length of Stay
A shelter can be a stressful environment for animals and we want nothing more than to help animals in our care find loving new homes as soon as possible. During fiscal year 2017, we are proud to have reduced our average length of stay for cats and dogs by nearly four days.

- On average cats were in our care for just under 12 days
- On average dogs were in our care for under 6 days

665 animals were transferred in or out of our shelter to give them the best opportunity for a second chance

1,663 total surgeries

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Return to Owner Rates
Your pet is an important member of the family and we want to help keep it that way. During fiscal year 2017, we are proud to have increased our overall return to owner rates for stray cats and dogs by 6.2%.

Commemorate Your Love of a Pet or Animal Lover in Your Life
Help provide second chances to animals in need by giving a gift to Larimer Humane Society in honor of a beloved pet, friend or family member and we will immortalize them in our new shelter with a personalized inscription on a brick in our new dog park or oversized ID tag that will hang in our new adoption area.

Oversized ID Tag = $150
4”x8” Brick = $250
8”x8” Brick = $500

Email development@larimerhumane.org to purchase your tribute or memorial today!
MISSION: TO FURTHER THE COMPASSIONATE, SAFE, AND RESPONSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANIMALS AND PEOPLE.

VISION: LARIMER HUMANE SOCIETY IS VALUED AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT TO THE HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE IN NORTHERN COLORADO.