

Women's Humane Society News Release

For Immediate Release

Women's Humane Society to Open New Building in Bensalem

Cages, food and toys are packed and ready for the Women's Humane Society's move to its new environmentally friendly building in Bensalem, PA on Friday, September 2. The new building replaces the Society's existing facility in North Philadelphia.

The Bensalem location allows the Society to serve a larger geographical area, offer a modern veterinary clinic and provide additional housing for dogs, cats and small animals.

"We're looking forward to making our services available to more pet owners throughout the Delaware Valley," said John Foster, Managing Director. "Parking was an issue in Philadelphia. We didn't have a parking lot and street parking wasn't always secure. Our new facility has a large lot and is conveniently located near I-95."

The new facility, located on 11 acres on Richlieu Road, incorporates an environmentally friendly design that is expected to reduce energy costs by as much as 45 percent.

"We had a wonderful opportunity to build a facility that would meet our needs and reduce our environmental footprint," said Elizabeth Fuller, President of the Society's Board of Trustees. "We wanted a building that would be safe and healthy for both people and animals."

The building was constructed with all-natural building products designed to eliminate "sick building syndrome," a problem found in new construction when noxious odors from building materials sicken people.

Linoleum used throughout the building contains non-petroleum products, including linseed oil, wood flour, clay, chalk, cork and jute. Insulation used to fill the concrete block walls is free of dangerous chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and formaldehyde.

"The project gave us the opportunity to be very creative," said Susan Maxman, President of Susan Maxman Architects. "We selected materials and finishes that are comfortable for people and animals, but also good for the environment."

Recycled products have been used throughout the building. The ceramic tiles on the floors were once light bulbs, and the blue plastic benches in the waiting area were constructed from plastic milk jugs. Energy efficient lighting is expected to reduce lighting costs by 40 percent. Fluorescent fixtures and occupant sensors turn off lights when no movement is detected. Natural sunlight from windows and skylights will provide almost half of the lighting needs for the building and will augment the heating and cooling system.

The Women's Humane Society provides temporary housing for unwanted pets and strays, offers pet adoptions, an animal ambulance service, obedience training classes, cruelty investigations and a full-service veterinary hospital.

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