

L.A. Unveils \$10 Million Animal Shelter Upgrade

Cats will receive a custom-designed, private area at the facility.

Posted: October 10, 2006, 5 a.m. EST

Animal control officials in Los Angeles have unveiled a \$10 million upgrade to an animal shelter in the city's Lincoln Heights area. The formerly indoor-only North Central shelter has been dramatically expanded with 45,000 square feet of outdoor space.

The renovated North Central animal shelter now resembles a botanical garden with fountains and greenery. Floors are heated for cool days and an overhead misting system is in place for hot ones.

Cats still reside in kennels in a room, but the shelter says it plans to have the cages removed and the room transformed into a "cattery" with shelving and ramps. As of now, dogs get private cages and the shelter has a free-flight aviary for birds and shaded hutches for rabbits.

There are 176 new 5-by-14-foot kennels, with radiant heat in the concrete floors for cool-weather days, an overhead misting system for hot ones.

On average, dogs and cats stay in city shelters for about a week before they're returned to their owners, adopted out, transferred to private rescue groups or euthanized, according to the shelter.

The renovations were funded by a 2000 \$532 million city bond.