

# San Francisco SPCA Opens \$29 Million Vet Hospital

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The San Francisco SPCA celebrated the opening of the Leanne B. Roberts Animal Care Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 30.

The \$29 million, 44,000-square-foot center is the new home of the San Francisco SPCA's nonprofit veterinary hospital, spay and neuter clinic and shelter medicine program. The organization outgrew a 10,000-square-foot facility built in 1932.

The new home offers spa-

acious examination rooms, surgery suites, laboratories, quarantine and intensive care wards. Other features include:

- \* A dentistry suite.
- \* A tranquility room dedicated for euthanasia and situated close to the building's exit.
- \* A large staff lounge.
- \* A kibble kitchen containing dry food for dogs and cats, courtesy of Nestlé Purina.
- \* Separate areas for feral cats and shelter animals to create a more stress-free environment.
- \* A small pet store.
- \* Digital radiography and

digital record keeping, brighter light fixtures and several elevating exam tables.

John Aldridge, DVM, director of veterinary services, who has been with the organization since 1976, said the new facility will help the staff treat animals with the best possible care.

"It is really a



ATRIUM

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imals and will work with low-income owners to ensure that their cats and dogs receive the necessary care.

The hospital plans to perform 12,000 spay and neuter procedures in 2009, nearly twice the number of previous years. The SF/SPCA aims to meet this milestone by offering discounted services to rescue groups and expanding service to pets outside of San Francisco.

"Spay and neuter services and veterinary care have always been critical pieces of our efforts to save and protect lives," said Jan McHugh-Smith, president of the SF/SPCA. "But there are always more animals in need. Our new veterinary hospital enables us to provide high-quality, compassionate care not just for cats and dogs whose guardians can afford it but also for homeless animals and for guardians who need financial assistance."

The hospital is named for the late Leanne B. Roberts, a former SF/SPCA board member. Her son, Eric Bovet Roberts, is a current board member. The family donated \$18 million for the hospital's construction.

Seventy-three percent of the center's costs have been raised through donations such as the Roberts family's. An additional \$7.9 million in philanthropic support is being sought to finalize the capital campaign. ●



TREATMENT ROOM



EXAM ROOM

dream come true, allowing us veterinarians to practice medicine as we want," said Dr. Aldridge, vice president of the San Francisco Veterinary Medical Assn. "Things that we thought were going to be good are even better. But the real benefit is to see how we can further help animals."

The hospital will offer competitive rates for routine check-ups, vaccinations and prescriptions, spay and neuter procedures, common surgeries and emergency care during normal working hours (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily). It will continue to provide free care to homeless and shelter ani-