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Monday, July 19, 2004

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A Lap Of Luxury Animal Shelter



www.arf.net

Aug. 20 — Life is about to get a whole lot better for homeless animals in Contra Costa County.

- [ARF Web Site](#)
- [ABC7's Perfect Pet](#)

Its aim is to take down-and-out dogs and cats put them in the lap of luxury.

You might call it a "pet palace." Its 37,000 feet of space devoted to saving the lives of cats and dogs. No tiny cages or smelly dog runs in this animal shelter. Animals here live in deluxe rooms called "habitats" and they play in a room full of simulated trees.

Elena Bicker, Animal Rescue Foundation: "It allows the cats to participate in an environment that also allows the outdoors to become the indoors, without having the risks of having the animals outdoors."

The building is the culmination of a dream started by former Oakland A's manager Tony LaRussa. LaRussa and his wife founded a group called The Animal Rescue Foundation, and their star power helped raise the money for what is now the only "no-kill" shelter in Contra Costa County. The group hopes the beautiful setting will help the animals find homes.

Brenda Barnette, Animal Rescue Foundation: "Basically what you do is you put animals, dogs and cats, in habitats where they have attractive furniture, where you can actually visualize what it would be like to have an animal in your home."

The center also features a spay and neuter clinic, and an education center where children learn about taking their pets to the vet and what supplies they need to care for them.

Beth Needel, Animal Rescue Foundation: "The idea here is for children to understand animals in our society, so they not only grow up to love and appreciate them, but understand what their needs are as well."

Dana Kilan, 11 Years Old: "I want to do dog volunteer work, like dog walking."

The center opens for pet adoptions and public tours Thursday. The

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- [Woman Arrested After Dead Baby Found](#)
- [Earnhardt Burned In Wreck At ALMS Warmup](#)
- [Man Shot, Killed On Santa Rosa Bike Path](#)
- [Bay Area Volunteers Held At Gunpoint In Guatemala](#)
- [Baby In Napa Crash Dies In Hospital](#)
- [Thousands Turn Out For SF AIDS Walk](#)
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24 at the Caldecott Tunnel

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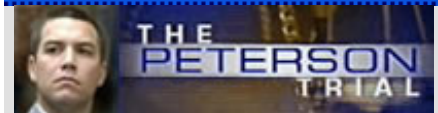


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