

Idaho Humane Society plans move to Overland retail corridor

By: Teya Vitu January 12, 2017 0



The Idaho Humane Society will move its adoption center and pet hospital to new facilities on Overland Road. Image courtesy of CSHQA.

The Idaho Humane Society will build a 43,000-square-foot veterinary hospital, adoption center, retail space and public education center on Overland Road just west of Wal-Mart.

The move from a secluded spot behind the airport to a major retail corridor mirrors the evolution of pet care over the past 20 years from impoundment out of sight and out of mind to entering the community near where people live, said Jessamine Jones, development director at Idaho Humane Society.

IHS has been at its Dorman Street location since the 1940s. It now operates out of a structure built in the 1990s with several functions housed in trailers, including the education room and Jones' office.

But "a lot has changed in animal welfare over the last 20 years," Jones said. "This new facility will allow us to incorporate those changes."

IHS proposes a two-story structure, with 5,840 square feet upstairs for administrative offices.

The hospital square footage will more than double from about 4,000 square feet at the existing facility to 9,700 square feet with five exam rooms instead of two. The new hospital will include dedicated space for specific treatments, no longer requiring surgeries to share the same space with dental cleanings and extractions, Jones said.

The Overland site will also house the adoption center, with separate rooms for small animals (rabbits, birds, snakes, etc), cats and dogs.

The new cattery will have cat cages three times the size of existing cages and six open colony rooms with access to outdoor patios.

The dog kennel will change from four big rooms with 18 kennels per room to seven dog dorms with five dogs per dorm in kennels twice the size of the current ones. That is capacity for 35 adoptable dogs or more if smaller dogs are kenneled together, Jones said.

"We don't have the volume (of adoptable dogs) as we used to have," Jones said. "There are days where we have five dogs available."

The animal control function and sheltered medicine involving stray or surrendered animals will remain at the airport facility.

The Idaho Humane Society had originally planned to move all its facilities to Overland, but the cost was too high for now. Its design review application at the city of Boise does describe future phases that will move animal control to Overland and include a dog park and walking trail.

The nonprofit is fundraising for the new facilities, which are expected to cost \$10 million to \$12 million. IHS acquired the 9.71-acre property in 2011, Jones said.

"The next six months will determine if we break ground in 2017 or push that to 2018," Jones said.



The Idaho Humane Society's new animal hospital will be twice as large as its existing facility and more centrally located. Image courtesy of CSHQA.

CSHQA in Boise is the architect and PETRA is the general contractor.

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ABOUT TEYA VITU



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