

Animal shelter ready to move to new home

Animal shelter moving into its new facility

The Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter is moving into its new 20,000-square-foot facility on East Cameron Bridge Road, executive director Margie Taylor said Monday.

Volunteers began moving the shelter's equipment Sunday.

Taylor said she expects the move to take about seven days, concluding when they move the animals this weekend.

The old location on North Rouse Avenue is closed, though it is still accepting strays from animal control officers, Taylor said.

The new shelter will have roughly the same capacity as the existing shelter, except all of the

animals will be kept indoors, a major improvement, Taylor said.

"As we grew, we were never able to build here, so we grew by just putting animals outside," she said. "It's OK temporarily, but in the long term it's just brutal on the animals."

So far, the shelter has raised about \$4 million for the new building. The shelter does not yet have an occupancy permit, pending some finishing touches to the building's fire suppression and phone systems. But Taylor expects the permit will be approved midweek.

The shelter is asking for volunteers to help move cats to the new facility at 9 a.m. Saturday. Volunteers should arrive at the old shelter with an enclosed vehicle and no other animals along for the ride.