CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION
111 EAST FIRST STREET

JULY 22, 1970

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A new City of Los Angeles Valley Animal Shelter, considered to be the most modern in the country, will be formally dedicated Wednesday, August 5, at 2:00 p.m. by the Board of Public Works and the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation.

The new facility, located at 20655 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, is virtually sound-proof and aesthetically compatible with urban surroundings.

Councilman Robert M. Wilkinson, whose 12th District is the home of the new Shelter, described it as "functionally perfect" following a recent tour of the complex.

"This represents a milestone in advanced humane animal treatment," he said.

Mayor Sam Yorty, who will participate in the dedication, described the facility as a prototype of future animal shelter construction at other Los Angeles locations, as well as in the nation. The Mayor noted that new operational concepts in the building have attracted the attention of Animal Regulation Departments from many parts of the county.

"This is another step in the City's continuing effort to make its facilities compatible and environmentally acceptable to the community. We are extremely proud of this architectural achievement," Yorty said.

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The $500,000 animal compound, occupying 3.3 acres at the northeast corner of Plummer Street and Lurline Avenue, will be known as the West Valley Animal Shelter.

The building was constructed by Gattman-Mitchell Contractors under the supervision of the Board of Public Works' Bureau of Public Buildings.

Howard W. Chappell, President of the Public Works Commission, and George W. Beckley, President of the Animal Regulation Commission, will introduce featured guests at the dedication.

Concerning acoustical properties of the building, Robert I. Rush, General Manager of the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation, said that animal disturbance (barking dogs)emanating from the structure, should not exceed the range of normal street level decibels outside the building.

"Special built-in construction features are designed to minimize the noise usually associated with a shelter operation," he said.

Rush predicted that the building's architectural dignity and operation capability will establish new shelter trends everywhere in areas of urban development.

The new West Valley Shelter is designed to process 36,000 animals a year.

Wilkinson welcomed the new structure as a boon to the Valley pet-oriented populace.

"Our animal population has dramatically increased in proportion to the human population explosion in the Valley," he said. "This new installation will greatly enhance community service by the Department

of Animal Regulation in an area where all forms of dogs, cats, horses and other animals, including wildlife, are an integral part of our society."

Valley animal problems, until now, have been serviced by a single Shelter located at 13131 Sherman Way, North Hollywood. With the opening of the Chatsworth facility, new areas of service responsibility have been designated by Animal Department Manager Rush.

Two areas of jurisdiction, divided by the San Diego Freeway, have been established.

Communities east of the freeway, will now be serviced by the East Valley Animal Shelter--telephone 764-7061. Involved communities are North Hollywood, Pacoima, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Sunland, Sun Valley, Sylmar, Tujunga, Van Nuys, Panorama City and Lake View Terrace.

The area is bounded on the east by the Glendale, Burbank and County lines; on the south by Mulholland Drive; on the north by the County line; and west, the freeway. Population for the 100 square mile area approximated 568,750.

Communities west of the San Diego Freeway will be serviced by the West Valley Animal Shelter--telephone 882-8127. The communities in this area are Chatsworth, Canoga Park, Granada Hills, Northridge, Porter Ranch, Reseda, Sepulveda, Tarzana, Woodland Hills, Mission Hills and Encino.

This area is bounded on the east by the San Diego freeway; south, Mulholland Drive; and west and north, the County Line. The involved population of the 122 square mile district approximates 453,700.

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Concerning the new boundary alignments, Rush said: "It's evident, with the implementation of our new West Valley Shelter, that service will be expedited throughout the entire Valley."

The new Shelter, occupying 22,235 square feet, encompasses an Administration Building (3,033 square feet); a kennel building (15,432 square feet); an animal service center (3,770 square feet); a carport annex; and a small pasture to hold rescued animals (horses, deer, cattle) in event of disaster, including fire and flood. Ample off-street parking is provided for the public and department personnel.

In addition to sound-proofing, construction features at the facility are many.

The building will house a radio communications center, designed to increase efficiency of field units, and programmed to assist Civil Defense in time of emergency. Pressurized chlorine and hot water washing systems will be used to clean animal housing units and animal collection vehicles.

Housing units will include kennel runs constructed of block walls coated with plastic; cat and puppy rooms, with stainless steel cages; an animal observation room; a hospital room; and a complete kennel kitchen. Animal cages will be equipped with watering devices and animal self-feeders to assure proper nourishment at regular times.

Three corrals with enclosed box stalls will house livestock, impounded almost daily. Each stall is equipped with automatic watering devices. The corrals are protected by an overhead fire-sprinkler system.

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An Emergency and Wildlife Control unit will be stationed at the Shelter. Each week, species of wildlife trapped in the entire Valley, will be relocated in Angeles National Forest by helicopter as part of the City's Animal Airlift program.

Gasoline pumps at the compound will service all types of City vehicles operating within the area.

Three new methods of booking animals at the Shelter, together with spacious self-service holding facilities, will expedite animal traffic with lesser personnel.

"All these innovations represent long-range money savers," Rush said. "The operation will stress economy."

The new Shelter is open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., holidays excepted. It will be administered by District Supervisor George W. Mason with a staff of 18.

The Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation operates five other Animal Shelters in the City, whose addresses and phone numbers can be found in local telephone directories.

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