

ANIMAL FRIENDS OF THE VALLEYS WILL BE THE OPERATOR OF THE NEW SOUTHWEST COMMUNITIES ANIMAL CENTER

It was a long awaited day for the JPA and Animal Friends of the Valleys when both entities voted to accept the operations agreement for the new Southwest Communities Animal Center.

“We are very excited about this partnership. It is truly a day of celebration. The animals, our employees, volunteers and the communities are going to benefit from this beautiful shelter. We are honored and proud to be the operators of a shelter we have been so involved in for over 14 years. We have worked with the JPA to make this dream a reality,” said Willa Bagwell, executive director for Animal Friends of the Valleys.

The construction of the building is anticipated to be finished by the end of August, but won't be open to the public until September/October. Animal Friends of the Valleys is required to purchase all the equipment, cages, furnishings, and computers for the 32,000 square foot facility. Time will be needed to set up kennels, adoption rooms and administrative office plus train employees. “Animal Friends will be very busy raising funds and purchasing the needed equipment and supplies for the shelter. We are hoping that now, more than ever, the public supports AFV and helps raise the funds to purchase the needed equipment,” said Kristine Anderson, AFV's board president.

Animal Friends of the Valleys is grateful to the cities of Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Temecula and Riverside County for providing the funding to build the much needed shelter. The shelter will allow the animals to be housed indoors where the temperature can be controlled, where disease will not be spread and where the animals will be safe.

A dream has finally come true!