

# New Jacksonville Animal Care and Control compound friendly to pets, environment

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You could say it has become a pet project.

Jacksonville's \$9.5 million, state-of-the-art animal care and control compound under construction in Riverside will be a hallmark building, friendly to animals and the environment, according to contractors and city officials.

"It shows that the city cares about animals," said Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi, the city's director of environmental and compliance department. "We want to showcase our concern."

Meanwhile, the compound at 2020 Forrest St. will be the city's first "green" facility, Gujjarlapudi said.

Slated to open in August, the long-awaited 42,000-square-foot center will be about 75 percent bigger than the overcrowded West First Street location, officials said. It will get a new name, but nothing is final yet. It will be more visible and accessible and look more like a trendy retail pet shop, with a light-filled open lobby and six rooms to let potential adopters get acquainted one-on-one with select rescue animals in care.

Plus, it will have 260 air-conditioned kennels and 200 indoor cat cages, designed to prevent diseases from spreading. The building will also have a 527-square-foot community-use conference room for pet education classes, to drive home the message of responsible pet ownership, said Scott Trebatoski, chief of animal control.

Built on a reclaimed and cleaned-up contamination site, it will be the first city building constructed from the ground up following the city's new "green" regulations. For example, it was built mainly with recycled and locally generated materials, low-odor paint, and low-flow and energy-efficient fixtures. Throughout construction, contractors have been diverting 92 percent of debris from the landfill. When the place opens, portable pressure washers will be used to reduce water usage, and sunlight will be used to sanitize surfaces.

It is expected to meet the gold standard of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, a national third-party accrediting agency, said David Mantia, assistant project manager, who is LEED accredited.

"We're that close to platinum," Mantia said, pinching his thumb and forefinger.

The West First Street facility may be used for emergency overflow, but nothing has been finalized, officials said.

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More information Jacksonville Animal Care and Control, 2580 W. First St., implements and enforces laws, regulations, codes and procedures concerning the treatment of domesticated animals and control of wild animals. The agency, which takes in about 26,000 unwanted animals each year, also adopts out pets. Here's a look at fees: Cats under age 1, \$60; cats older than age 1, \$20; dogs, \$80; rabbits, \$20; ferrets, \$40; hamsters

You read it at [CatOddities.com](http://CatOddities.com)

and gerbils, \$5. A \$15 city license is required for dogs, cats and ferrets. For more information, call 387-8924 or visit [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net).