Animal shelter to build new pet adoption center

BY AYOFEMI KIRBY

As hundreds of cats and dogs await adoption at the Orange County Animal Shelter, a new center is being built to make room to save hundreds more.

To provide additional space for animals that arrive every day at the shelter, the Animal Protection Society is building a 5,600-square-foot facility off of Nick's Road in western Orange County.

The new adoption center will serve as temporary housing for animals that have been chosen for

APS board member John Wise said construction for the the new adoption center, scheduled to open in late spring, began last week

The reason we are building it is to save the lives of more animals than we are saving now," Wise

"The ability to adopt animals is hindered by space. It will provide space for adopted animals to leave the shelter and opens up space to display animals to the public that we otherwise wouldn't have the chance to display."

takes four to six days to process them and complete paperwork, adoption counseling, neuter/spay

surgery and recovery.

The new center will serve as a "halfway home" for these animals as they undergo this process.

The center is the final addition

to the society's Felicité Latané Animal Sanctuary.

Located on 57 acres of land, it

omprises a neuter clinic, a learning center, a dog training facility and a dog park.

The location of so many facili-ties in one place creates an animal "campus" environment that serves many different needs of animals in the county, Wise said.
As of March 1, there were about

341 animals in the Orange County Animal Shelter facility on Airport Road.

"It stays right around that number," said Amy Eller, customer relations manager for the shelter. "It depends on the weather. When it's hot we get more and more ani-

The new adoption center, which will cost about \$550,000 to build,

When animals are adopted, it is being funded through dona-

"We've asked people for support," Wise said.

People are really interested in helping getting animals here adopted and lowering the euthanasia rate in our communi-

The shelter makes an effort to euthanize only animals that are trained to fight or are fatally ill, but once the shelter gets full, the animals that have been there the longest are euthanized.

We don't have a specific time limit," Eller said.

"If the animal is stray, we are obligated to keep them for seven days, but they usually stay here until they are able to find a home."

Animals within the Chapel Hill town limits are brought to the shelter by the Orange County Animal

ter by the Orange County Animal Control and by the public.

"People in our community are very generous and have shown the willingness to help solve this prob-lem," Wise said.

> Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Premier may pull troops out of Iraq

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, Spain — Spain's incoming prime minister pledged Monday to bring Spanish troops home from Iraq unless the United Nations takes control there, harshly criticizing the U.S.-led war even as he promised to maintain good relations with Washington.

A day after his Socialists swept

Spain's ruling conservatives from power in elections overshadowed by terrorist bombings, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero also promised

to lead a more pro-European gov-

In a surprise defeat, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's conservatives Sunday became the first government that backed Washington in Iraq to be voted

The election was held amid charges that Aznar made Spain a target for terrorists by supporting the war and that his government concealed possible connections between the attack and Islamic ter-

rorists for political gain. Thursday's train bombings, the worst terrorist attacks in Spain's history, killed 200 people and wounded 1,500.

Zapatero campaigned on a pledge to order Spain's 1,300 troops home. "I have said clearly in recent months that, unless there is a change in that the United Nations take control and the occupiers give up political control, the Spanish troops will come back, and the limit for their presence there is June 30," Zapatero told a news conference.

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