



BLUEPRINTS & PAWPRINTS: ACC's Winter Updates

STATEN ISLAND SHINES

Now open for just over a year, the Staten Island Animal Care Center (SIACC) continues to prioritize comfort and well-being for pet owners and their fur families. ACC recognizes the emotional challenges often associated with entering a traditional animal shelter—for both pets and people—and saw the need for a transformative change. We are proud to report, the Staten Island Animal Care Center, designed by Garrison Architects, embodies this vision by setting a compassionate and forward-thinking standard for humane, sustainable shelter design.

You won't find any sad, "prison like" cages in this 5,500-square-foot facility. It features animal housing that faces the building's perimeter wall of windows to reduce animal stress, while natural light floods through translucent polycarbonate panels to create a calming environment. We have replicated these standards in our newly opened Queens and Manhattan facilities, and will do so in Brooklyn and the Bronx as well!



THE "QUEEN OF QUEENS" IS OPEN FOR CARE

The Paul A. Vallone Queens Animal Care Center, located in Ridgewood, Queens, officially opened in September, making history as the borough's first full-service public animal shelter!

Named in honor of the late Paul A. Vallone, former City Council Member and dedicated animal welfare advocate, this 50,000-square-foot facility accommodates up to 300 animals, addressing the critical need for additional shelter capacity and alleviating overcrowding in neighboring boroughs. The center offers innovative features, like a kitten nursery, expansive dog play yards, open-roam cat rooms, a wellness wing for sick animals, a rabbit garden, and even a retractable roof which allows plenty of fresh air and sunlight to enhance the animals' wellbeing.

Now that we are up and running, we are using every opportunity to optimize the operational capabilities of this state of the art care center. Beyond providing top-notch care, ACC is committed to reducing heartbreaking animal surrenders through programs that provide resources in lieu of surrender, and basic animal wellness services for pet owners in under-served communities.



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FROM WAGS TO RICHES: THE MANHATTAN PET ADOPTION CENTER

What was once an old garage has been completely transformed into our new, 2,500-square-foot Manhattan Pet Adoption Center! At the grand opening in October (aka Adopt-A-Dog Month), ACC President and CEO Risa Weinstock shared, “This state-of-the-art adoption facility will allow us to showcase the amazing animals waiting for their forever homes and will undoubtedly lead to more adoptions, bringing us closer to our goal of ending animal homelessness in NYC.”

The animals’ comfort and well-being is at the heart of every inch of the adoption center’s design. An abundance of natural light pours through the building’s multiple skylights and windows, helping animals maintain their circadian rhythms and promoting a sense of calm. Each animal enjoys their own skylight facing enclosure, thoughtfully arranged to reduce stress and create a more peaceful environment.

Designed by architecture firm Studio Joseph under DDC’s Design and Construction Excellence program, the project has earned multiple prestigious awards for its thoughtful design, including recognition from the NYC Public Design Commission and a Global Future Design Award.

NEXT STOP: BROOKLYN & THE BRONX

The next step on our journey to transform animal welfare in all five boroughs includes ACC’s Brooklyn and Bronx Care Centers, and our progress is well underway! Construction officially kicked off in the Bronx last summer with its groundbreaking ceremony, while Brooklyn is gearing up to begin deconstructing the old shelter this winter.

Exciting progress is on the horizon, and we invite you to share this update with fellow animal lovers and potential supporters to help amplify the impact of our **Campaign for the Future**—a multi-year fundraising initiative that enables us to provide best-in-class services within these state-of-the-art care centers. This campaign ensures that the essential work entrusted to ACC by you and our city is sustained for years to come.



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