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NEWS RELEASE

HARRIS COUNTY AUTHORIZES CONSTRUCTION OF ANIMAL TRANSFER SHELTER

Commissioners Court Approves Spending \$420,000 To Build Shelter That Will Save Thousands Of Animal Lives

Harris County Commissioners Court voted unanimously this morning to begin construction of a \$600,000 county animal transfer shelter that health officials estimate could save the lives of more than 3,100 animals a year.

The Petco Foundation Transfer Center will help ensure adoptable animals are disease-free before they are turned over to transfer groups. The shelter is to be built with \$420,000 in county funds and a \$180,000 grant from the Petco Foundation. Construction is expected to begin in August and be finished in 12-18 months.

"Harris County is continuing to look for better and more innovative ways to avoid euthanizing unwanted stray animals," said County Judge Ed Emmett. "Thanks to Petco, we can now get thousands more animals into the arms of loving owners every year."

The transfer center will accompany construction of a new county animal shelter financed by a \$24 million bond issue approved by voters in November.

"We are very excited that our Harris County officials will augment the Petco Foundation's generous gift to build a permanent facility that will increase capacity and allow our shelter to save more homeless pets," said Dr. Umair A. Shah, the executive director of Harris County Public Health, which oversees animal control in the county.