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## **Raytown Animal Services expands**

*New facility, additional staff increases health and safety of pets, community*

**(RAYTOWN, Mo.)** Stray animals in Raytown will soon have new space to reside while waiting for their owner or a new family, thanks to the City's expansion of its Animal Services Department. The expansion includes relocating the City's entire animal services department into a free standing 2,240 square-foot facility at 10312 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.

The Board of Aldermen approved this expense allowing the City to purchase the former Midwest Animal ResQ building.

"The expansion of Animal Services into a dedicated facility represents a significant step forward in our commitment to the community," said Raytown City Administrator Diane Egger. "This new space will enhance our capacity to care for animals awaiting reunification with their owners or adoption into new homes. By broadening our staff and services, we are strengthening our ability to safeguard the health and well-being of both residents and animals alike," she said.

For nearly two years, the City of Raytown utilized Laurel Pet Resort to house strays. "They have been a fantastic partner, and we will continue to partner with them for overflow," said Egger.

The new facility will be able to hold dogs and cats as well as have an isolation space for puppies or animals under veterinary care. In addition to an expansion of space, two new staff will be added to include one additional animal control officer and an administrative staff person.

Once in the new building, staff are hoping to host more community outreach events and utilize volunteers.

Currently, improvements are underway to include: resealing the parking lot, adding signage, upgrading the flooring and security system, and making the building ADA compliant. A ribbon cutting to celebrate the official opening of the facility is expected later this fall.

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