



Solutions–Veterinary Hospital at Spur



Solutions–Veterinary Hospital

The Dumb Friends League Solutions–Veterinary Hospital, located on Yuma Street in Denver, offers low-cost, donor-subsidized veterinary care for pets whose owners have nowhere else to turn. In doing so, we can ensure that more owned pets in our community are able to stay in loving homes rather than being relinquished to shelters or left to suffer unnecessarily.

More than 5,500 pets and 7,600 pet owners were helped by the hospital in our last fiscal year – ranging from senior citizens on fixed incomes, to veterans living with PTSD, to individuals who have found themselves homeless due to the COVID-19 crisis and many more community members in need.

Hospital patrons often pay their discounted bills in installments of \$25 or less each month. If they cannot afford to pay for care, they are never turned away or penalized. To fulfill our commitment to pets in need, regardless of their owners' ability to pay, the hospital operates at an annual deficit of more than \$1 million. This work is subsidized by our compassionate community of donors and partners who believe that everyone has the right to pet ownership, regardless of their circumstances.

Serving as a Resource for Veterinarians

Solutions–Veterinary Hospital provides hope for veterinarians in our community, as well as for pet owners. Members of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association have expressed gratitude for the resource this hospital provides for veterinarians, who regularly refer patrons in need to the hospital.

Meeting a Growing Need in the Community

In our last fiscal year, the team at Solutions–Veterinary Hospital conducted more than 6,000 exams, 1,167 surgeries and 463 dental procedures. The need for the hospital's services is tremendous, and patrons often line up at 4 a.m. to have their pets seen when the hospital opens at 7 a.m. Yet, there are an estimated 240,000 animals cared for by people living in extremely low-income households in the Denver Metro area – and we estimate that we are only serving 5 percent of the need with this facility.

Growing Our Reach: Solutions–Veterinary Hospital at Spur

In late 2021, the League will expand the reach of our Solutions–Veterinary Hospital with a second location in Colorado State University's 114,000 square-foot "Vida" building on the university's new Spur campus in Denver. This building will feature the university's veterinary medicine programs, its Temple

Grandin Equine Center and the second location of our Solutions–Veterinary Hospital. This second hospital location will allow the League to significantly increase the number of patrons and pets served each year, while opening up new opportunities for public education and engagement.

An Observational Design

The Vida building is truly one-of-a-kind, featuring public-facing educational spaces and experiential learning opportunities for visitors ranging from curious families and tourists, to K-12 students on field trips, to college students pursuing degrees in the veterinary sciences. The space is designed to let visitors observe our veterinary team at work, with large observation windows and microphones for staff.

It is estimated that more than 100,000 people will visit this building each year.



Inspiring Future Generations of Veterinarians

Veterinary students and externs from Colorado State University will have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience with community veterinary medicine in this hospital location. In addition, the League will expand our Humane Education programs, which currently serve more than 14,000 school-age children annually, to include new lessons focused on STEM and veterinary careers for Denver-area students. We aim to engage and inspire a diverse audience with an interactive, front-row seat to the world of animal science. We are proud that this unique facility will play a meaningful role in contributing to building more diversity, equity and inclusion in the veterinary and animal welfare fields – with the goal that one day, those who care for animals will truly reflect the communities they serve.

A Community-Supported Model

While the university has generously provided the space for this hospital, the League is responsible for equipping the facility and funding its annual operations, estimated at \$2 million per year. As with our original Solutions–Veterinary Hospital location, this facility’s impact will depend on community support.

Project Timeline

- Ground-breaking: May 5, 2020
- Soft opening: anticipated December 2021
- Public opening: anticipated February 2022

Additional Resources

- Colorado State University’s Spur Campus website: <https://www.csuspur.org>
- Video “fly through” of the Vida building: <https://youtu.be/gD1a3Wud6fs>. *Solutions-Veterinary Hospital’s presence can be seen in this video starting around the 1:00 mark and the 7:20 mark.*
- Construction updates and a live construction camera: <https://www.csuspur.org/construction>