

LOS ANGELES ANIMAL SERVICES

Over Kill at East Valley

The East Valley animal shelter is currently being converted from an attractive Public Adoption Center to what some are calling a Medieval Dungeon. Are shackles and chains next?

The new modern looking East Valley shelter, which opened less than 2 years ago and costing approximately \$23.4 Million is undergoing “improvements” that some residents feel is Over Kill in the interest of public safety. Perhaps the cost of installing wire mesh on existing dog kennels outweighs a costly lawsuit should a member of the public be injured while putting their hand into one of the dog kennels at the shelter but it appears the solution was as well thought out as the original design.



The original design of the kennels allowed for the best possible viewing of dogs at the shelter in hopes it would encourage more public adoptions which it has according to statistics published on the LAAS website. In all cases, the months following the opening of new LAAS shelters resulted in higher numbers of adoptions. Adoptions at the East Valley shelter that averaged about 300 cats and dogs a month increased after opening the new shelter by about 33% with an average of about 400 cats and dogs being adopted each month.



The original kennel cage design has advantages that kennel staff, volunteers, scouts and rescuers have enjoyed making some aspects of their jobs easier however, the Department has opted to reduce any risk to public safety it may have by installing medium gage wire mesh to the front kennel door and bars.



An artist's rendition to the right shows that by simply adding a single vertical bar between each of the existing bars would reduce the ability of putting hands through the bars yet only slightly reduces the ability to view the dogs inside.



Visibility is further reduced by adding two vertical bars between each of the existing bars as shown in the artist's rendition to the right.



The Department has opted for this design, reducing visibility even further. The artist rendition to the right is actually not as bad as how it really looks as shown in the next photo taken just a day or two ago.



This is a photo of how the wire mesh actually looks right now. Visibility is obviously worse than what was depicted in the artist's rendition.

Is this what the new multi-million dollar shelters of Los Angeles are to become? Why wasn't this stopped immediately after the first wire mesh was installed? Why wasn't this thought out better before any work was done?

THIS NEEDS TO BE STOPPED NOW AND RECONSIDERED!!

... before any more time and money is spent on this ill-conceived design.

Brad Jensen
Cypress, CA
<http://www.sheltertrak.com>