



Butte Humane Society's new location, off Garner Lane in north Chico, will expand the organization's work by providing more space for veterinary care and housing animals up for adoption. PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSSELL GALLAWAY ASSOCIATES INC.

disease spread when organizations take in animals from outside the community, she added that BHS' new location "would be huge" for city staff, alleviating its workload. "We run pretty much at capacity right now," she said. "Because we are not mandated to take in surrendered dogs, we do have a wait-list."

BHS began quietly fundraising for its new facility in January 2018, then went public after the Camp Fire. Gonser said the disaster underscored how much the community needs this facility.

"Chico has grown tremendously since the 1980s and our animal welfare really hasn't," she said.

Woodcox envisions its new campus as a resource for future disaster responses—whether it be for temporary shelter for displaced pets and livestock or a triage center for injured animals. BHS also intends to offer space for nonprofits to use for training and education.

"We want this to be a community investment," she said. "There's such a need for animal welfare services, especially in rural areas. We really would like to serve as a model."

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