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# **Bound for what's next: Planned burn moves Homeward Bound closer to building new shelter**

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By STARLA POINTER

Of the News-Register

McMinnville Fire Department burned down the old cattery building at Homeward Bound Pets animal shelter Saturday, making room for construction of a new, modern facility for adoptable cats and dogs.

“It’s amazing ... the history,” said Ronnie Vostinak, executive director of the nonprofit humane society program, as the flames consumed the old buildings. “It’s exciting to move to the next phase, but for those of us that are intimately involved, it’s a very emotional day.”

Now the nonprofit just needs to finish raising the money to construct the new building. Toward that end, Homeward Bound will kick off a public capital campaign with a breakfast at 8 a.m. Thursday, April 20, in The Grand, 325 N.E. Third St., McMinnville.

“We need people to come and support us,” Vostinak said.

Homeward Bound already has banked \$2.6 million in donations and grants to fund the new shelter project. Vostinak said it needs to raise about \$2 million more.

Donors have opportunities to have their names placed on a wall inside the shelter. Those who give \$20,000 or more can have parts of the facility named in their honor, Vostinak said.

Saturday’s “burn to learn” served as training for firefighters, as well as clearing space for construction at Homeward Bound’s shelter property, 10601 S.E. Loop Road, McMinnville.

Vostinak said the plan is to build a shelter that is no-frills but clean and safe, with spaces for dogs and cats and a specialized HVAC system to keep areas separated. The building will have isolation rooms for animals that are believed to be ill, and space where potential adopters can visit pets.

“Homeward Bound Pets has needed this for many years,” Vostinak said. “We feel bad when we can’t accept animals. That’s why a new shelter is so vital.”

Besides, she said, the old buildings needed to come down because they had become decrepit over many years and no longer were in good enough shape to serve as catteries.

Homeward Bound currently is using a modular office to continue its adoption program. Volunteers house many of the animals, including kittens, prior to adoption.

Appointments can be made to visit dogs kept in the shelter’s kennels. People interested in adopting cats can visit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The nonprofit also runs a low-cost spay and neuter clinic at 723 N.E. Evans St. and a thrift store at 1120 N.E. Lafayette Avenue.

The thrift store, donations and grants support the no-kill shelter’s activities.

For more information, go to the website, [hbpets.org](http://hbpets.org), or call 503-472-0341.

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