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La Porte's Animal Shelter Gets Friendlier Look with Donation



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The City of La Porte's animal shelter recently spruced up its "industrial" appearance and added space where people can interact with pets they're thinking of adopting. The 23 year-old facility has 21 dog runs and 21 cat kennels. A grant from the Lyondell-Basell Global Day Care project helped it add some new amenities.

"We couldn't really add more space, but we added an adoption area," says Clarence Anderson, supervisor of the city's Animal Control Division. "They fenced in an area and put a patio in with benches and landscaping." This will give potential pet-adopters a better place to interact with animals at the shelter, and hopefully, "make sure that our adoptions are...a better fit," Anderson says. "When you've got 20 dogs barking at you [inside a crowded shelter], it's a little hard to really interact with that animal."

The grant, along with other donations and volunteer efforts, also made it possible to add some shrubs and planter boxes outside the building, and a bathing a dip area. Without outside help, this work may have been a substantial cost to the city. "If I had to bid this out, it would probably cost me close to \$20,000," Anderson says of the improvements' value. "This is a big step towards helping us save the animals' lives."