

# Puppy Care Center

March 2010

## Welcome to the House You Helped Build!



One year after breaking ground, Val's Puppy Care Center has opened its doors. All in the nick of time for the rescued orphans and moms who'll need our help during puppy season!

All new arrivals will land at the Puppy Admissions Building, made possible by the Enrietto and Kallas Foundation. And when they're ready, they'll move to posh puppy apartments in the Laurie and Carlee Mc Grath Puppy Preschool.

This is all in preparation for their public debut with volunteers at Puppy Class in the spacious, indoor eBay Socialization Room. And after school? Straight to Beamer Robb's Puppy Park!

A heartfelt puppy thanks goes out to over 1,300 eBay Community Gives donors and 300 Best Friends members, as well as generous corporate, foundation and private major donors who helped build the Puppy Care Center. Please come and visit – and better yet, take one (or more) of us home!

As part of a festive dedication on Thursday, March 25, puppies crossed the threshold first – leading special guests and campaign donors on a tour through Dog-town's newest digs. Soon, the pitter patter of little paws will keep the puppy mommas hopping.

**Keep up with the puppies on the Best Friends Network!**

[network.bestfriends.org/groups/pcc](http://network.bestfriends.org/groups/pcc)



# Building Connections



The puppies may think it's playtime, but Puppy Class is where the school of life begins. Built around positive training principles, Best Friends' model for early socialization helps identify and prevent problem behaviors in adult dogs – the number one reason families surrender their dogs to shelters. The curriculum includes being held and handled, examined and brushed, and taught basic skills like how to walk on a leash and run into a crate.

What's so exciting about the eBay Puppy Socialization room is that the sound-proofed classroom has been designed with a home environment in mind – including furniture, different types of flooring, kitchen appliances and even a doorbell! So when puppies are adopted, they'll be well on their way to being well-mannered and well-adjusted forever family members.



## Sanctuary



Drumroll please! Just in from New Friends, the former location for puppies, are caregivers Analia, Lindsey and Andrea. While many staff will be a part of "bringing up puppy," these three will be the resident puppy mommas. Formerly a vet assistant in New Jersey, Analia has been a puppy caregiver since 2007. She's looking forward to "all the new luxuries ... heated floors, grooming area, big kitchen and our own laundry room," but her favorite part of working with puppies is "loving them."

Lindsey joined the team in May 2009, from a vet tech position in North Carolina. At first she split her time between New Friends and the adult dogs at Dulcie's. Now she'll be anchoring the

Puppy Preschool Building, where there will be "a lot more opportunities for socializing the pups to a bigger variety of people and situations."

Andrea recently came on board from Community Animal Assistance, Best Friends' helpline for people with pets. She's no newcomer to puppies, however – she's a foster mom for some of the neediest.

Lindsey sums up their appreciation: "Thank you for all your donations. It's almost like a dream to be moving into these new buildings and for each and every puppy to get a great start in life."

## Society

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is the home base for all of our outreach efforts – and the Puppy Care Center will continue this work. The medical care and training techniques modeled at the center will be shared nationwide through Best Friends' campaigns.

Puppy mill survivors lucky enough to find sanctuary at the center will truly be "poster puppies" to spread our Puppies Aren't Products message to adopt rather than buy dogs. Showcasing success with our "pittie puppies" will help Pit Bulls: Saving America's Dog change the "dangerous dog" image and work to end breed-discriminatory legislation. And once a pet is adopted – from Best Friends or your own community shelter – First Home Forever Home is standing by to provide support with grassroots resources. Check out their "I'm a Keeper" success stories!

All of this is part of building connections between sanctuary and society to achieve No More Homeless Pets.

