



Shelter design, Part 1: Key takeaways

1. First, make sure your shelter operations are running smoothly, your organization has clear goals, and you have the right leadership to oversee a major building project.
2. Carefully weigh the pros and cons of building a new facility versus renovating your current one. A consultation with a shelter design expert can help you make this call.
3. Don't build cheap and fast. If you urgently need more space, consider renting space or purchasing construction trailers while you're planning and constructing a new facility.
4. Recruit a knowledgeable project team, including someone with in-depth knowledge of the construction industry and a shelter design expert.
5. Conduct a needs assessment focused on your current needs and future goals. Solicit ideas from your staff, board members and community.
6. Learn what other animal welfare organizations in your community are doing and their future plans. Develop a cohesive community plan for meeting animal welfare needs.
7. Make sure any land you buy will serve your needs. Consult a shelter design expert before you purchase.
8. Tour other shelters and find out what their staff like about their new facilities—and what they would do differently.

[Read the full article.](#)

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