



## Shelter design, Part 2: Key takeaways

1. [Consult a shelter design expert](#) to get an accurate construction quote. Don't forget to add legal and permitting fees, moving costs, fundraising costs and other expenses to your budget.
2. [Choose quality over quantity](#). If the cost of the facility you envisioned is beyond your organization's means, consider reducing the size of the building.
3. [Don't cut corners](#). Some savings might cost you more in the long run and could affect the health and safety of your staff or animals.
4. [Calculate your fixed costs](#) in the new facility, and make sure the projected annual operating budget will be feasible for your organization.
5. [Design your floor plan, HVAC systems and lighting](#) to reduce animal stress and prevent disease spread. Consult a shelter design expert and engineers with experience in animal facilities.
6. [Provide dedicated space for shelter staff](#) to decompress and attend to their own needs.
7. [Use ergonomics and floor planning](#) to make repetitive tasks easier.
8. [Design public areas](#) for a positive visitor experience.
9. [Incorporate flexibility](#) in your shelter design with multipurpose rooms and subdividable kennels and cages.
10. [Choose durable products](#) for flooring and other surfaces.

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