



Melbourne, Australia

The Lost Dogs Home

Newly renovated cat adoptions center helps our stars shine



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“The Cat Condos significantly reduced the incidence of cat flu from 15 percent to just 3 percent.”

– DR. GRAME SMITH

Background

Founded in 1910 and located in North Melbourne, The Lost Dogs' Home was originally established to provide a temporary home for Melbourne's lost and starving dogs.

Today, The Lost Dogs' Home cares for over 31,000 dogs and cats every year and is Australia's largest animal shelter. We provide a wide range of animal welfare and community services.

The Lost Dogs' Home is very active in fighting for a better deal for animals without owners. We are a voice for Australia's unwanted, stray and lost dogs and cats. The Lost Dogs' Home plays a crucial role in the promotion of responsible pet ownership programs and is a strong lobbyist for fair animal laws that will decrease the number of abandoned and stray animals being admitted to animal pounds and shelters in the community.



Solution

The Lost Dogs' Home in North Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, was originally founded in 1910 to provide a temporary home for Melbourne's lost and starving dogs. Since 1986, it has been attending to the needs of stray and unwanted cats, and the cat shelter needed to be updated.

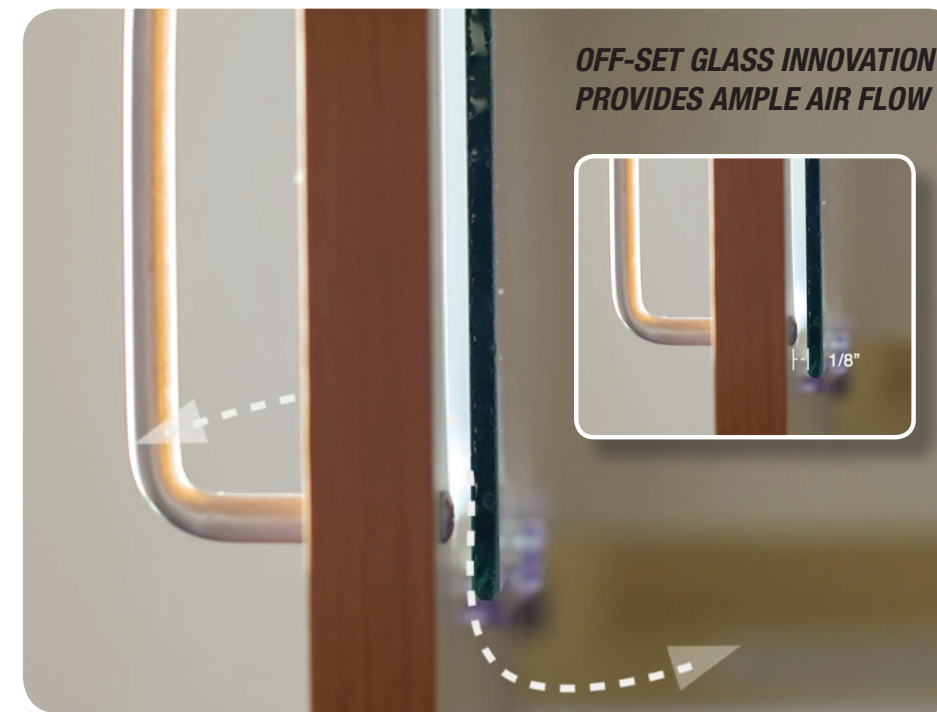
“We installed 32 Cat Condos as a test towards creating a better facility,” said Dr. Grame Smith, Managing Director of The Lost Dogs' Home.

Dr. Smith was particularly interested in how the Cat Condo's design incorporated a pane of off-set tempered glass that was mounted inside the door's “window” and extended approximately ½” past the opening. This design allowed for air to travel into the condo but stopped cat sneezes from getting out and spreading to other areas of the facility.

“The Cat Condos significantly reduced the incidence of cat flu from 15 percent to just 3 percent,” said Dr. Smith. “During this trial, we saw that the cats and kittens within the condos appeared happier, more relaxed and content than those in the ‘traditional’ cat cages. The condo's en-suite bathrooms gave them the chance to hide while they settled in, while the separate air space was significant in reducing cat respiratory disease. Because of the success of the trial, we decided to build something that would meet our needs for the next 20 years.”

Smith continued, “After purchasing an empty building next door, we set about planning and building the new Lost Cats' Home. We have 150 Cat Condos and a new examination and treatment area, along with an isolation ward. The Lost Cats' Home doesn't feel like a shelter. When you enter, you see the three story condos and beautiful artwork on the walls. It gives one the feeling of being at a zoo. The condos are really enclosures - not cages - for cats and kittens. There are four U-shaped ‘pods’. The public view from the outside and our staff feed and clean from the inside of the U. The condos are air conditioned to provide cats with more comfort during their stay. On the mezzanine level of the building, above the pods, is the call center of our National Pet Register, which is a brilliant use of the space.”

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Beautiful and Roomy!

