

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BERKELEY HUMANE SOCIETY TO FOCUS ON  
RESCUES, CEASE PRIVATE VETERINARY SERVICE**



BERKELEY – After 50 years of service to the community, the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society (BEBHS) Veterinary Hospital is closing its doors to the public on February 1, 2009. Thousands of family pets have been seen in the BEBHS hospital since the 1950s.

The primary reason for the closure is that BEBHS is focusing its resources on caring for its own shelter animals and those at Berkeley Animal Services. BEBHS Executive Director, Mim Carlson, explains, “The Board and I did a lot of analysis and came to the conclusion that running a private veterinary hospital at the same time as giving high quality medical care to shelter animals is not cost-effective, and prevents us from increasing our capacity to shelter and care for more homeless dogs and cats. Our strategic planning process this year has helped us reach the conclusion that we must focus our attention and resources on our mission of caring and finding homes for abandoned animals.”

BEBHS veterinary staff will continue to provide medical care for BEBHS shelter animals as well as those at Berkeley Animal Services. The Tuesday low-cost spay/neuter clinic will also continue to serve the community. The money to support the hospital will come from the current BEBHS restricted funds as well as from an increase in public donations to offset expenses of those animals with critical medical needs. Carlson says, “We’ve always relied on the community to support our programs. Donations are needed now more than ever as we see a rise in abandoned animals in both Berkeley shelters, and many need immediate medical attention.”

The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society has served Berkeley and surrounding communities for over 80 years. Programs provided include an adoption center, K-9 College, Humane Education, a low-cost spay/neuter clinic, and the PAWS/East Bay Program. For more information, visit the BEBHS website at [www.berkeleyhumane.org](http://www.berkeleyhumane.org).

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