



# THE CO-SHELTER PROJECT

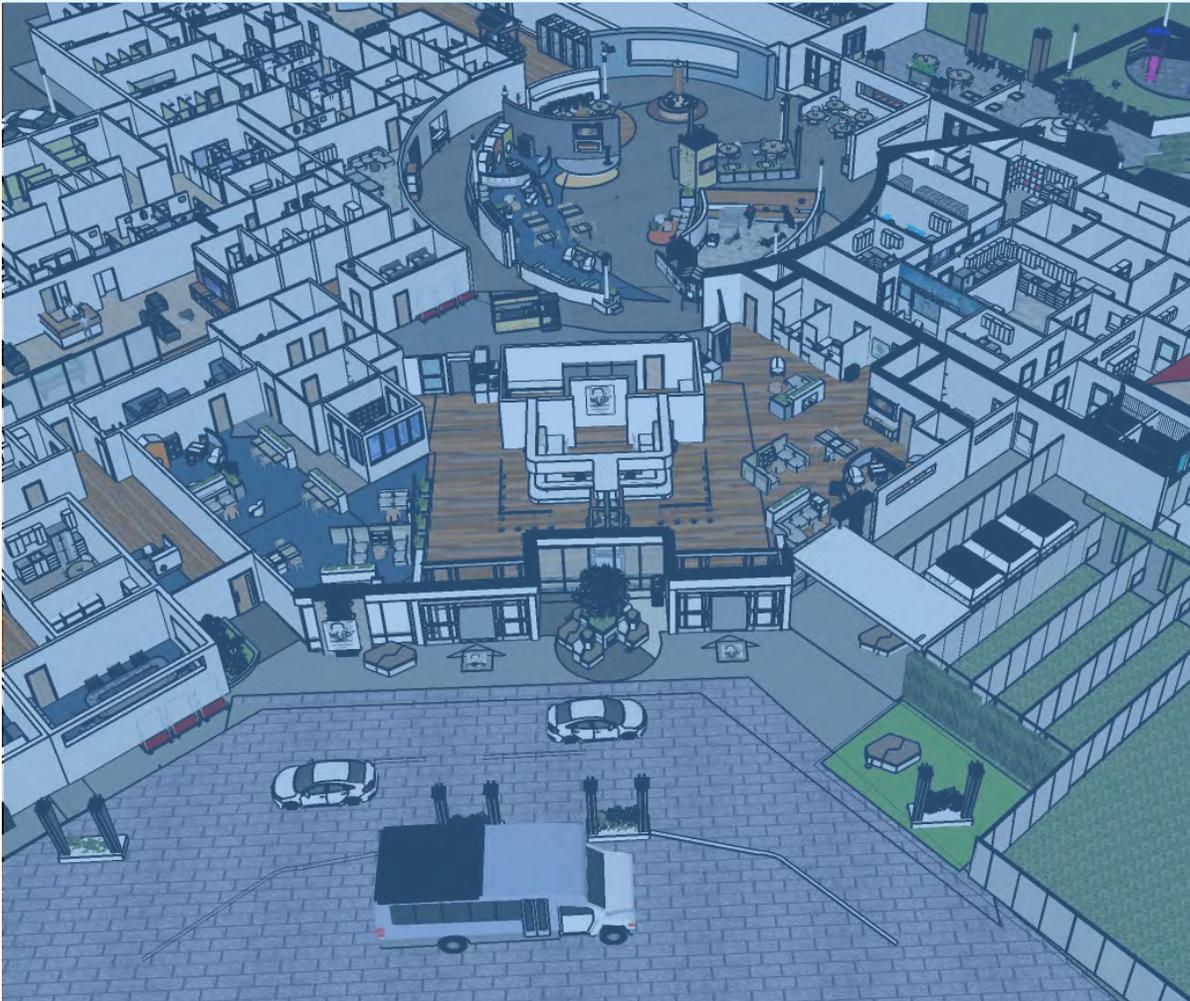
## A TRAUMA-INFORMED SHELTER DESIGN FOR PEOPLE AND COMPANION ANIMALS

Prepared by Jill Pable & Becky Stuntebeck

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# INTRODUCTION & GOALS



## The problem

People often live with companion animals and gain great comfort and joy from community with them. When people lose their housing, they seek alternative shelter and often highly prioritize staying with their animal family members. Many shelters do not provide accommodations for companion animals, and so some people choose to reject their shelter services, delaying and complicating their exit from crisis. There are many reasons to reconsider the exclusion of animals from shelters.

For a full discussion of this issue, see the part one report of the Co-Shelter Project located [here](#).

Some shelters are beginning to offer companion animal accommodation. The U.S. legislature may consider a bill soon that would provide HUD grant funds for shelters that include animal housing with their people. Due to need and the anticipation of this funding, shelters may seek to augment their facilities to accommodate companion animals. To date, there is little guidance or

discussion of architectural best practices to logically house people in a congregate setting with a variety of companion animals, despite a growing body of evidence from veterinary, psychology, trauma and other areas of knowledge that might be brought to bear on such an endeavor.

## Project overview

This project seeks to provide a hypothetical, best-case architectural solution option for shelter providers to consider when they think about renovation or new construction to accommodate people and animals. This project references ideas and empirical research evidence from fields including social work, veterinary medicine, animal sheltering, psychology and trauma, interior design and architecture to inform its choices and design. Operationally, this project intends to describe through visual graphics and text a new, unbuilt shelter that would showcase positive ideas. The purpose is to showcase ideas large and small that would offer a high-quality living experience for clients, their support animals, and staff as well as visitors and prospective donors.

## What to expect in this hypothetical design

This project offers ideas for how to construct an emergency shelter that prioritizes the psychological state of mind of its clients, their animals, staff, volunteers and visitors. It is not the only possible solution for such a space. However, its ideas spring from a collection of ideas, imperatives and research findings derived from writers and researchers that explore trauma and

wellbeing for people and companion animals (found in the idea to action grid and references sections).

## Certain policies were assumed that shape the functioning and physical design of this shelter

- The shelter accepts single adult men, single adult women, families with either a male or female head of household, and adults with special needs. It assumes that some of these residents (but not all) will have companion animals in their family that they intend to be housed with them. People with diverse gender identities, people recently released from hospitals in convalescence, and similar special circumstances are also housed here. 70 clients can be housed along with 25 animals, a ratio supported by surveys of frequency of unsheltered persons living with animals.
- Companion animals can be dogs, cats, small contained mammals such as rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, and reptiles. Other large animals are not accommodated here such as horses, llamas and other farm animals, but this should not be construed that such accommodations are not important should the circumstances be present. Modifications to the shelter shown here would be necessary and would seem feasible with the exterior areas presented here.
- The shelter does not permit the consumption or use of alcohol and drugs on its property. This decision was made because of the increased complexity and variables present in a shelter with both people and animals.

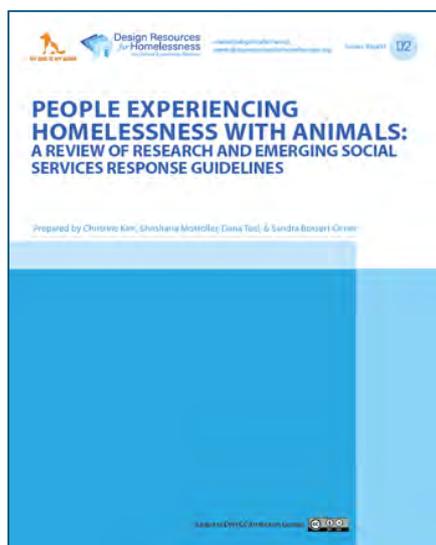
## How this report might be used

At first glance, this project will seem a ‘Cadillac’ design that is financially out of reach for shelter providers. However, the

design has usefulness even if the entire floor plan is not considered. That is, it can be effectively used as a resource, extracting ideas of corridor features, sleeping pod designs, the animal care clinic, or the animal feeding area. Other ideas abound here, such as navigating the relationship of the animal care clinic to the main public shelter area. Some applied ideas of trauma-informed design are very inexpensive to implement, such as signage near each bed for clients to provide their first names to their neighbors.

The visual nature of this design report is designed to provide tangible examples to inform and educate designers, shelter organizations or policy makers about the realistic application of trauma principles serving both humans and animals. This shelter could also inform thinking leading to eventual voluntary guidelines that serve to shape future grant criteria or provide shelter operators tangible goals to aspire to in their own facilities.

## This is part two of a two-part project



The first part of this report entitled *People experiencing homelessness with animals: a*

review of research and emerging social services response guidelines is a joint endeavor of the My Dog Is My Home and Design Resources for Homelessness non-profit organizations. This report can be accessed at the [MDIMH](#) and [DRH](#) websites, and addresses the nature and need of thoughtful places that serve people and their support animals.

This second part launches ideas from research into a test case of application to serve as a brainstorm source for building and renovation projects.

## Project goals

Certain ideas served as north star principles that guided this project's design and priorities.

1. To the extent possible, the project references certain expert recommendations, translating these



The eight fundamental human principles of trauma-informed design ([Design Resources for Homelessness](#))

ideas into built space. See the Ideas to Action grid for details.

2. Unlike many architectural case studies, this project activates and includes ideas at both a large and small scale. Large ideas such as placement of rooms and windows are present, just as details of furniture placement, lighting, and even electrical outlets are showcased in key areas. This is because trauma is experienced by people in both a general way and in a physically local, even intimate way. Wide corridors are important but so is having a place to hang your backpack in your bedroom and having a place to obtain dog toys.
3. The design described in this report centers the psychology of human and animal experience in its choices, and this idea affects decisions ranging from corridor placement and widths, sightlines, and adjacencies of functional spaces to room sizes, windows and doors, and architectural details. The experience of various spaces- how it feels to enter them, traverse them, and arrive at the destination matters for both people and animals.
4. The project activates the elements of trauma-informed design in the space's design, and uses the eight fundamental human principles identified and described in a [report](#) by Design Resources for Homelessness. In these authors' opinion, these principles are also assistive to animals and therefore are relevant to this project's goals.
5. The overall building plan is designed to be expanded as requirements change through time. This adds flexibility to the plan and takes a long-range view of functionality.
6. The project holds specific goals for people and their animals' experience:

### The building

1. assists people to reside with their animals for mutual support.
2. allows people to leave animals in the facility for short periods in order to engage in activities beyond the shelter such as work, accessing services, etc.
3. manages multiple animal species in a single facility through sightlines and separations.
4. creates animal home places grounded in animal psychology to support a calm and positive emotional state.
5. provides people without animals needed separation to ease concerns.
6. supports staff's goals of both interacting with and protection from animals.
7. provides high-quality preventative veterinary care to support individual animals and the population overall, as well as medical and surgical treatment if needed.

See the Ideas to Action Grid and the References sections for more specific details of concepts that guided the design.

### What this project does not emphasize

An architectural design that best serves people in trauma, their animals and others must be a comprehensive and holistically thoughtful space. This means that a multitude of elements must be carefully considered including interior and exterior building color and materials, lighting, and art, to name but a few. However, so that this project might remain clear and easy to understand, the following considerations are not prioritized in the design shown here.

- Ceiling heights and details
- Color and materials/finish

- Art and vegetation beyond basic ideas
- Lighting
- Detailed site features
- Environmental graphics and wayfinding signage
- Construction documentation-level details

It is hoped that this project will show the feasibility of imparting trauma principles into built spaces and suggest that their inclusion is reasonable and can assist people and animals to a better future.

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# Site, entrance and reception

Setting the right emotional tone for the shelter is an important goal in site planning and orientation to the access road. The intent is to minimize clients' resistance to services by demonstrating the shelter's attention to security, human scale, and privacy from the neighboring city.

## Site plan

The site plan uses an example location in Kitsap County, Washington\*.

The main entrance lies interior to the site away from the main road to provide more privacy and security for residents and staff.

\*Thank you to Judy-Rae Karlsen for her assistance and guidance.



## Monument signage and security gate at client entrance

The gated entrance is placed toward the rear of a dedicated secondary road to promote the sense of separation and security from the main arterial road and street scape. Signals of quality such as a monument style sign, stamped concrete and vegetation set the tone.



This entrance is located off of the main arterial street to provide a gradually increasing sense of privacy and human scale.

## Parking lot design

- Client parking
- Staff parking (gated)
- Clinic staff parking (gated)
- Delivery truck loading dock (gated)
- Animal clinic staff parking (gated)

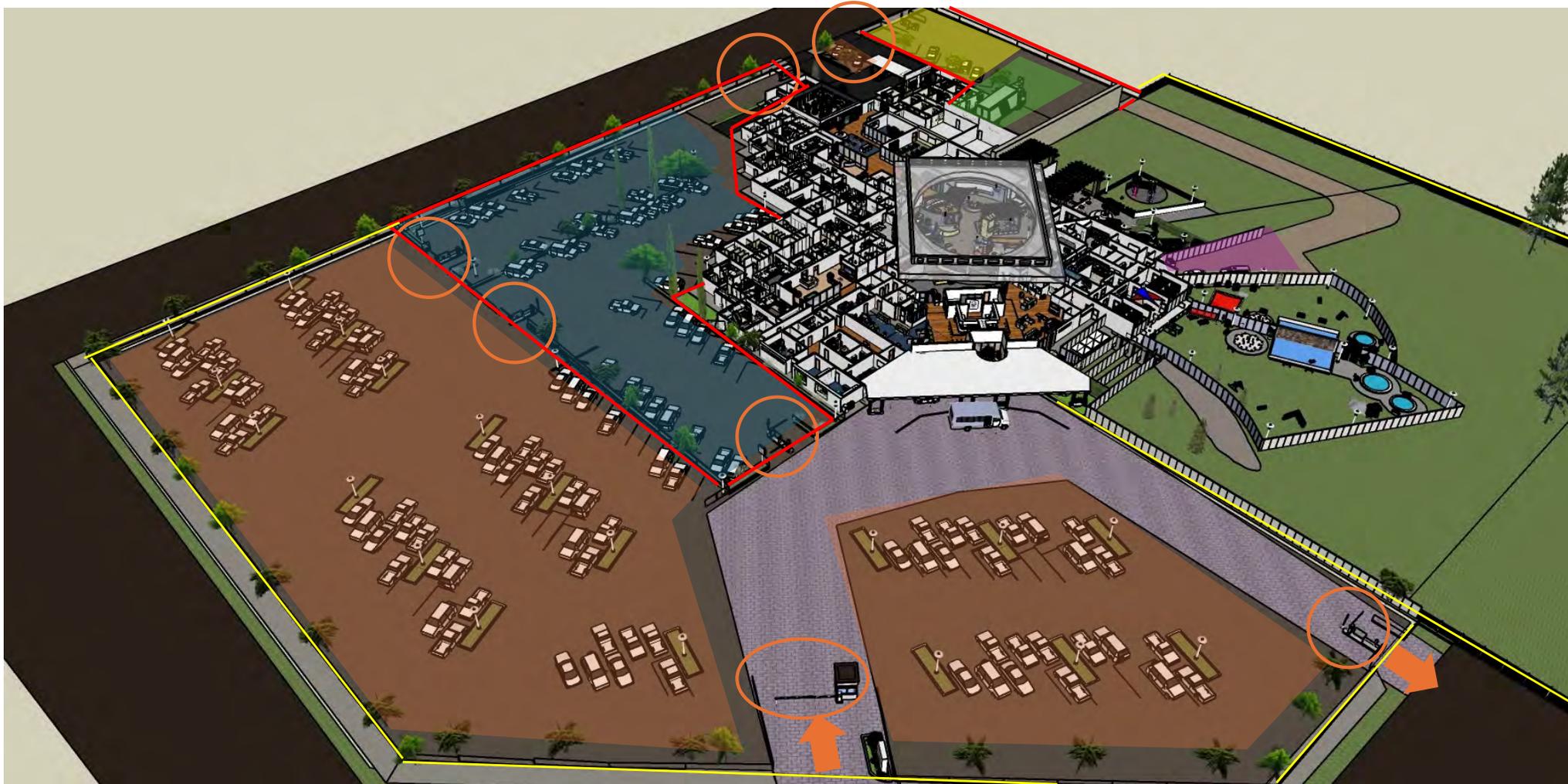


Card swipe controlled entrance

42" security fence protected

80" security fence protected

The entrance experience is important to clients so that they feel the facility is private and secure. A staffed security gate supports this intention, as does a parking lot clear of visual obstructions between clients' cars and the entrance. Staff parking is gated for further security, as is the entrance for delivery trucks at the rear servicing the kitchen and facility generally.



## Exterior client entrance

Roof overhang hidden in this view.



Confidential  
weapons  
dropbox

Luggage  
carts

Administration  
offices entrance

Entrance for  
clients without  
animals

Transparent  
glass lets client  
preview before  
entering

Entrance for  
clients with  
animals

Covered car  
drop off for cars  
and busses  
(here hidden)

Exterior waiting  
for clients with  
animals

Grass for  
waiting animals  
to relieve  
themselves

This entrance is located off of the main arterial street to provide a gradually increasing sense of privacy and human scale.

## Client view in arriving vehicle



The entrance prioritizes reducing stress in arriving clients by maintaining a human proportion in ceiling heights, natural materials and ability to preview spaces with lots of windows. The façade offers a gradual, layered appearance to invite exploration extending out in welcome, taking queues from hotels.

## Exterior waiting areas



People without animals waiting

Animal supplies (for after hours pickup)

Waiting area for clients with animals

Entrance for people with stressed animals (directly to animal clinic pods)

## Waiting area for people without animals

This area is for people waiting for processing to enter the facility or waiting for transportation to arrive. It is separate from the waiting area for people with animals to minimize anxiety. There is a direct pathway to counseling as a part of the intake process and an area for parents waiting with children. The security office here is injected into the middle of the room to maximize sightlines and provide a noticeable, reassuring presence.

Digital screen providing queue and lodging approvals for waiting clients

Variety of seating types to provide choice and support community building. Small groups lessen anxiety. Digital device charging is supported here.

Child and parent waiting

Path to counseling

Security and video surveillance positioned to maximize sightline and availability

Path to rest of facility from reception

Metal detector



# Reception desk for people without animals

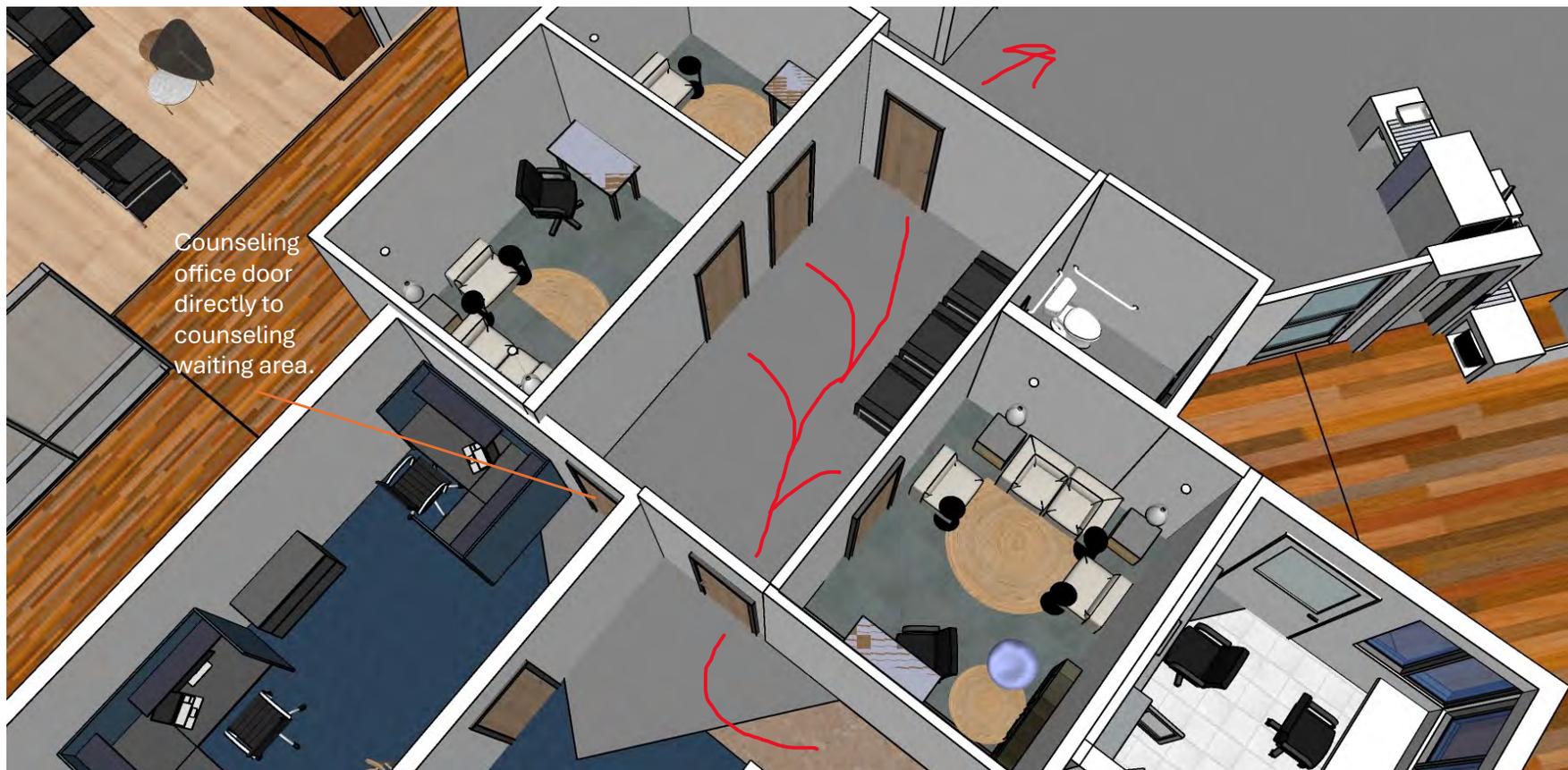


The reception desk is designed to prioritize efficient, quick movement through the queue, meet with a receptionist, optionally have a private conversation, and then exit to sit and await call by a counselor for interview. Printed policies are placed in the queue to help prepare clients for staff interaction, and puzzles for children help keep them engaged so important adult conversations can occur.



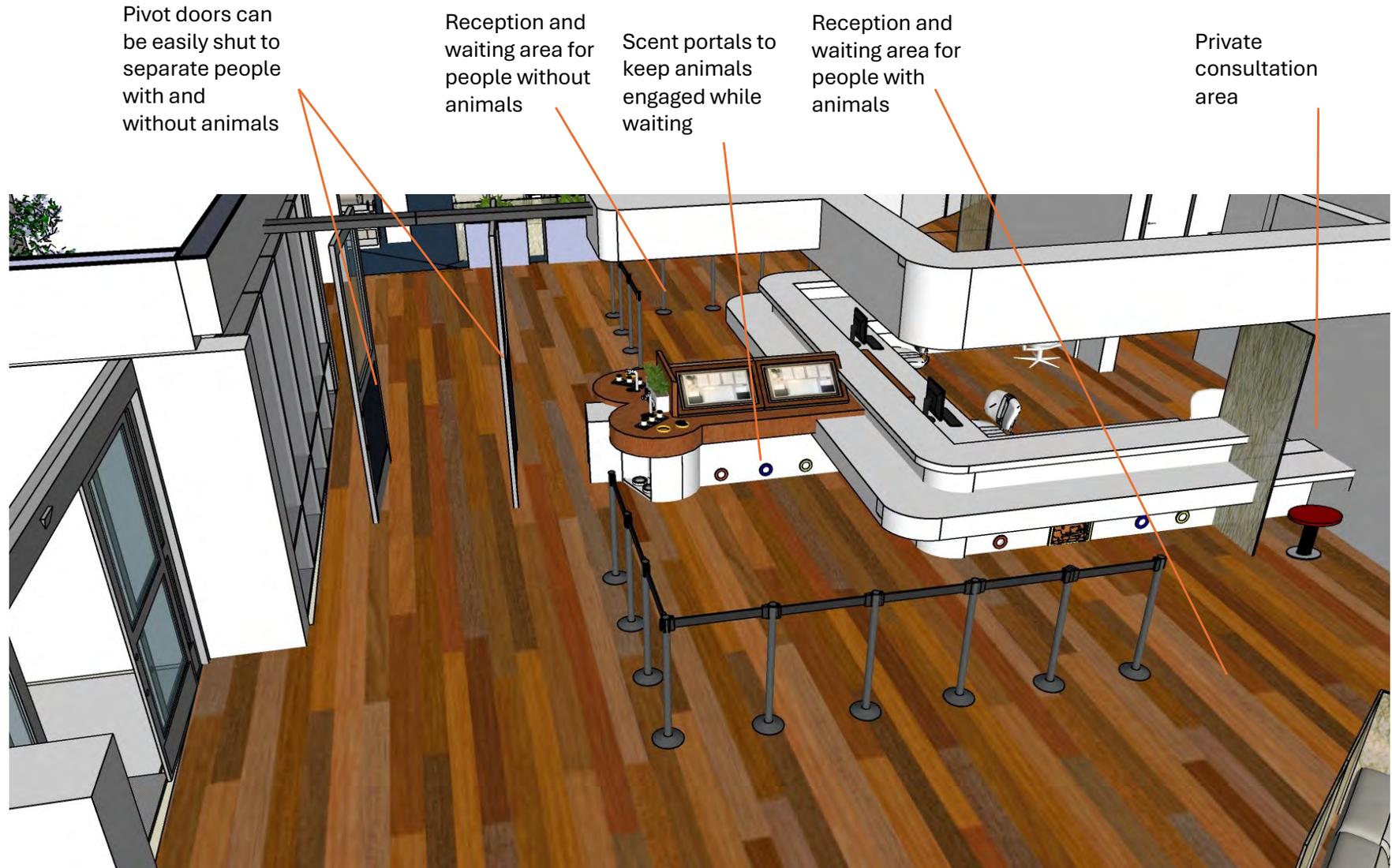
## Counseling area for people without animals

The intake counseling suite supports the process for entry and is located directly off the intake waiting area. Three counseling rooms support differing client group sizes. A small child engagement area is positioned in the largest counseling room. Counselor desks/seating are located near the doors for safe exit in an emotional situation. The counselors' offices have direct access to the counseling waiting corridor or to the waiting room so they can invite waiting clients in. The reception restroom is nearby if drug testing is necessary.



## Waiting area for people with animals

This area is for people with animals waiting for processing to enter the facility or waiting for transportation to arrive. It is separate from the waiting area for people without animals to minimize anxiety. Pivot doors enable staff to separate the two populations should an anxious situation present itself to waiting clients.



## Waiting area for people with animals

This area is for people with animals waiting for intake processing to enter the facility or waiting for transportation to arrive. It is separate from the waiting area for people without animals to minimize anxiety. The waiting area offers a variety of seating/surface types, opportunities to charge devices and is next to the entrance to the animal care clinic. Water dishes built into millwork allow animals to be comfortable and a cleanup station with wipes and spray help clients clean up animal accidents. The animal pods are directly next to this area for animals that need to be removed from visual view of others while waiting.

Water dishes

Shelves for  
belongings and  
device charging

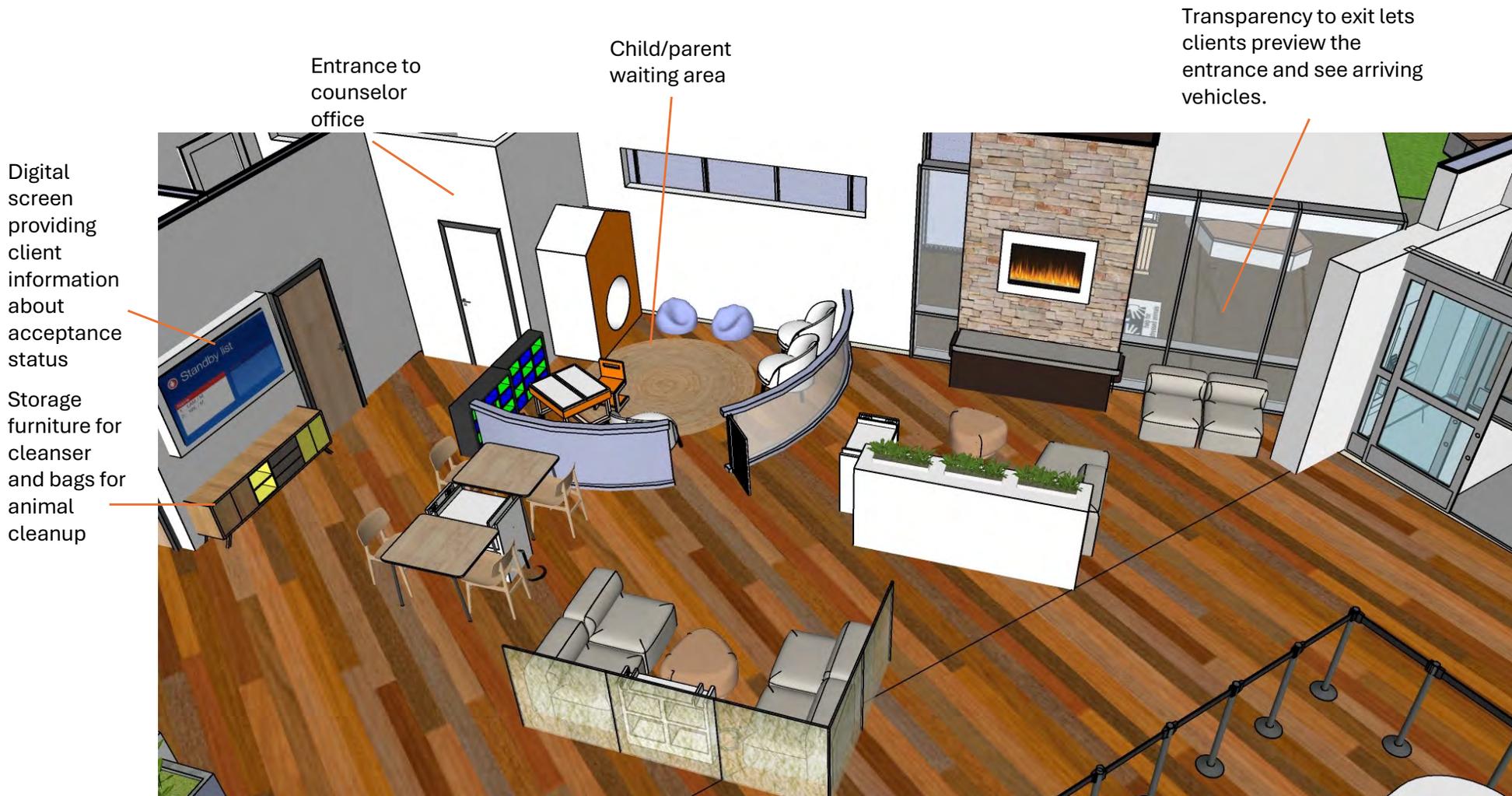
Water dishes

Animal pods for  
secure,  
removed  
waiting



## Waiting area for people with animals

This view of the reception waiting area looks back toward the entrance doors on the right. A fireplace anchors the area, and children/parent waiting area provides activities for waiting. Seating has a 'protected back' arrangement, providing subtle comfort for clients who are wary of others.

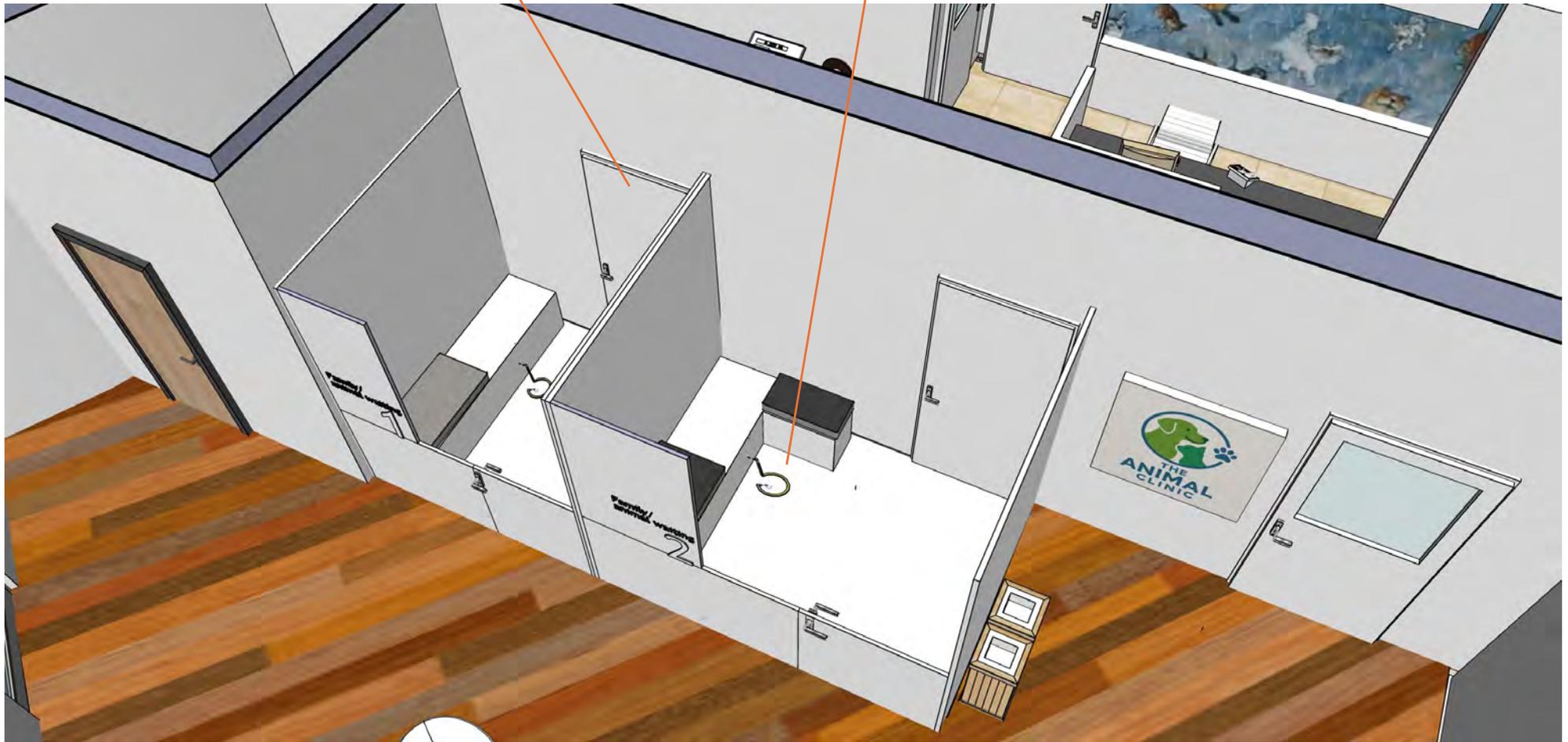


## Animal waiting pods

For times when an animal is anxious and disruptive during the waiting process, these animal waiting pods permit visual separation from the reception area. Seating is present for both people and animals. Leash connections let a client keep an animal in one place if necessary and each pod has a direct door into the animal care clinic to simplify movement through the area.

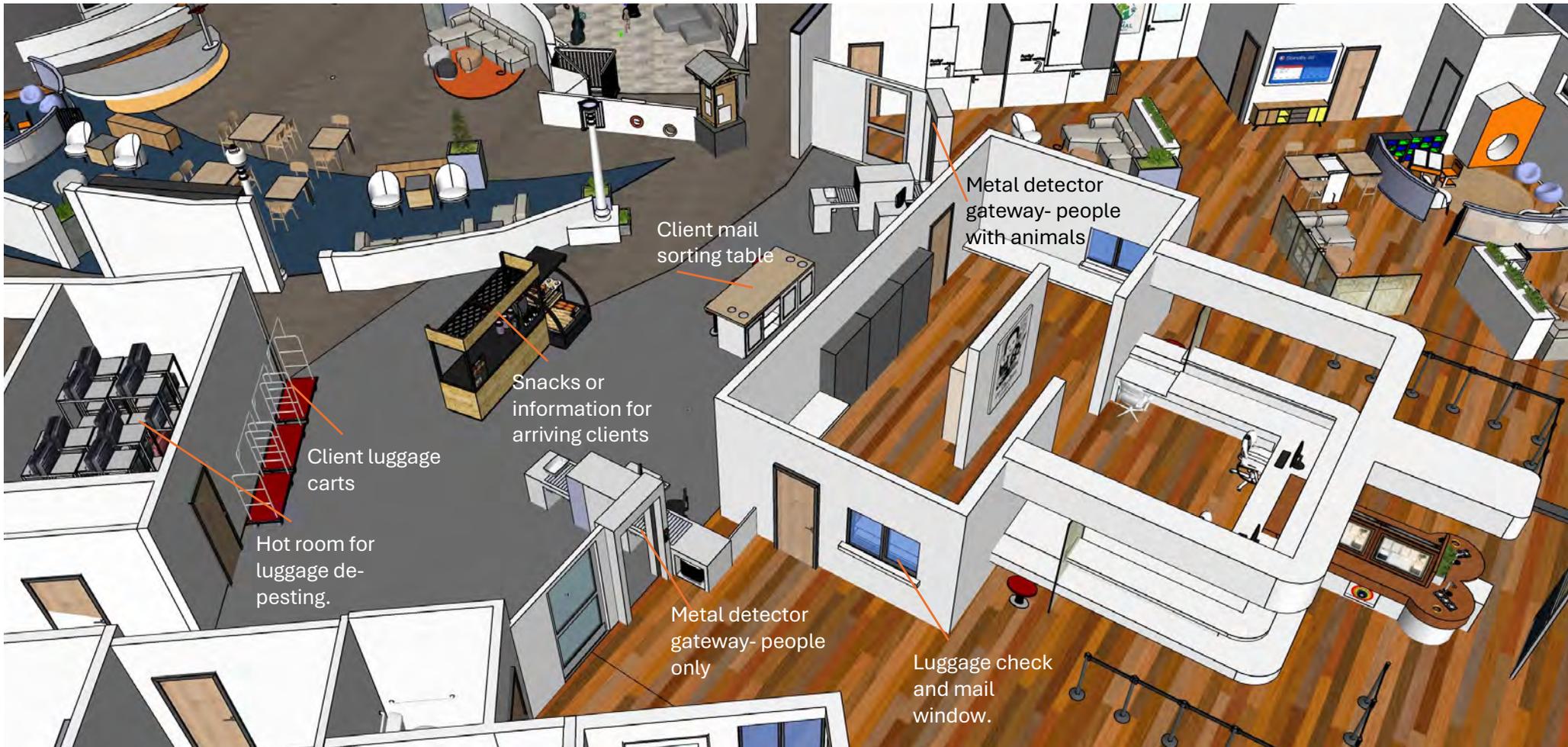
Direct door to the waiting area of the animal care clinic.

Leash connection can help restrain a chaotic animal



## Beyond the metal detector gateways- living room preview

After confirming entry to the facility and passing through the metal detector gateway, clients enter a preview spot with the community living room directly beyond. This is an area clients can retrieve their mail, post messages on the community board, and grab a snack or learn about an opportunity at the kiosk. Arriving client luggage is placed in the hot room to arrest the spread of bedbugs. Staff functions are centralized to allow efficiency with staffing positions.



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A message board supports client information sharing and general announcements

Metal detector gateway for clients with animals

Client mail sorting area and seating promotes chance encounters among clients

Client mail boxes

Metal detector gateway for clients without animals



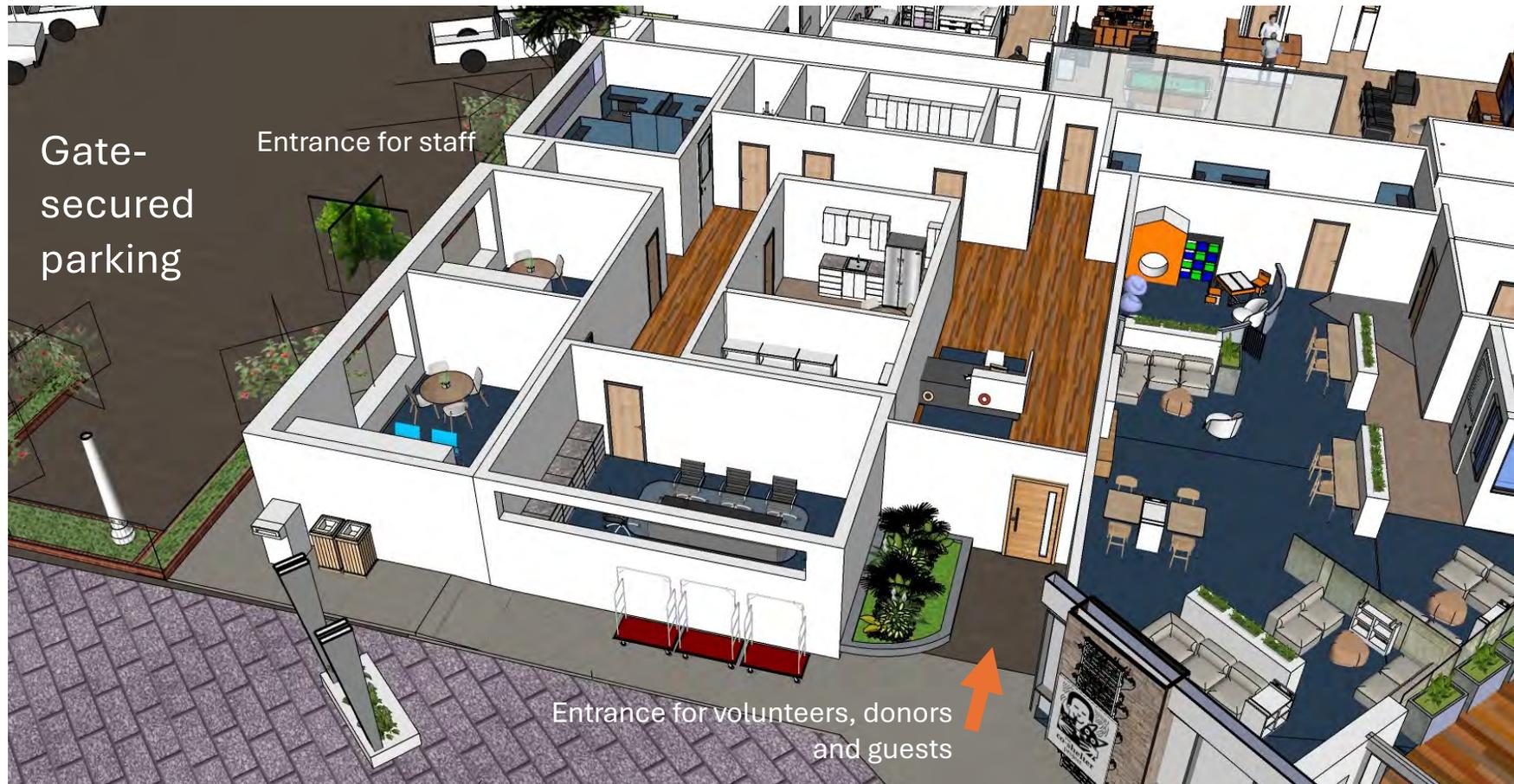


# Administrative offices

Administrative offices at the shelter need to be well placed to provide aid and support, nurturing to staff to reduce turnover, and orderly to support the work of volunteers. The goals of these offices include convenient, secure staff parking nearby, multiple points of access to the shelter for efficient movement, and adequate storage and office spaces for necessary work.

## Location within the shelter

The administrative offices are located near the main client entrance to the shelter to make the layout intuitive. The entrance is less prominent than the client doors and also recessed so that this is not the primary door clients will notice and access. The receptionist desk has a clear view to arrivals and an intercom and door lock system addresses security needs. Side doors provide administrative office access from the secured staff parking lot without encountering clients for staff.



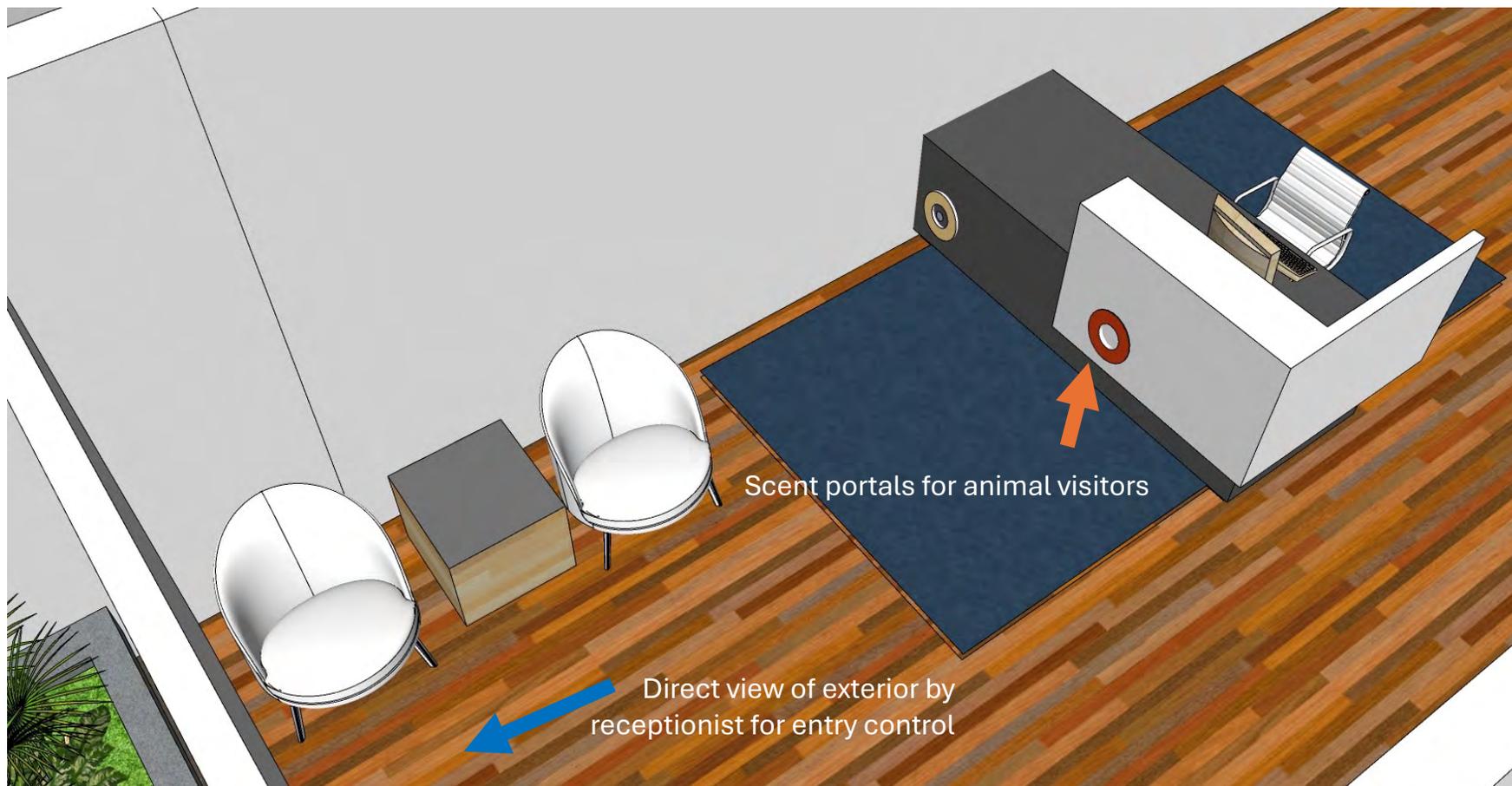
## Plan view

Multiple entrances help the administration office remain separate from the shelter to minimize distraction for work, but also very available to clients and shelter staff when necessary.



## Administrative offices reception space

The receptionist desk provides an important gatekeeping function for administrators, previewing, monitoring and approving guests for entry. This desk is situated in a corridor by itself, protecting sightlines for administrators away from guests' view.



## Respite room

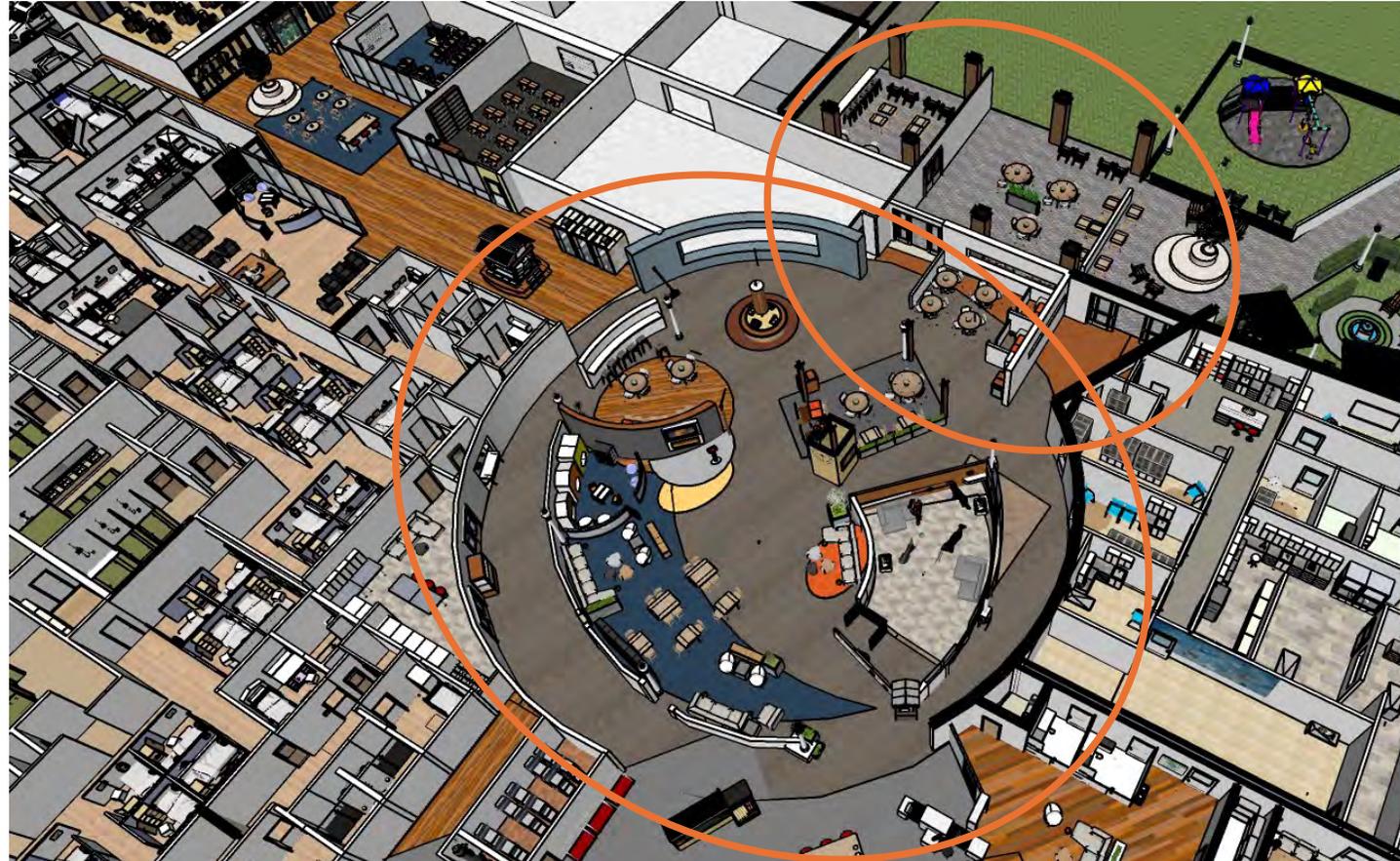
Staff and volunteers will participate in stressful moments with shelter clients. A respite room gives someone a moment to collect themselves, control lighting, music and other sensory stimuli so they can feel recharged.



## Administrative offices staff spaces

Staff and volunteers need both functional work areas and places to step away for a breather from the stress and activity of their tasks. A lounge, kiosk for special thank you gifts or other information, and protected access from the parking lot can help provide relief and reduce turnover.





# Living/Dining Room

The living/dining room is the heart of the facility, providing a place for clients with or without animals to relax, read, have conversations or simply people watch. It is designed to be a central hub through which other pathways travel to the sleeping areas, the animal care entrance, the laundry, and the main exit. Its unique shape and ceiling design helps make it memorable for newly arrived clients for wayfinding orientation.

## Location within the shelter

The living/dining room is centrally located directly behind the main entrance and acts as a wheel and spoke hub to many other areas of the facility. To respect clients' various levels of comfort with others, it can be walked around or through. The space is the largest public area in the facility and also serves as a community meeting space with the support of a stage and lectern.



## View of the living/dining space from the main entrance

The space is designed to be layered and reveal itself to arriving clients with multiple points of interest. These include the dog play area to the right, the dominant clock tower, stage to the left and the presence of 'street lights' that contribute to its public character. Dining lies at the end of the area. A message board to the right in this view helps clients communicate and staff announce upcoming events. Clerestory windows above an elliptical soffit keep the space light and open.

View of the room from above showing the roof design.



## Living room seating

A variety of seating and table types support clients' diverse activities within the space including reading, games, and conversation. Often seating is situated in a 'protected back' configuration to provide subtle psychological comfort. Conversation groupings seat 4-6 people.



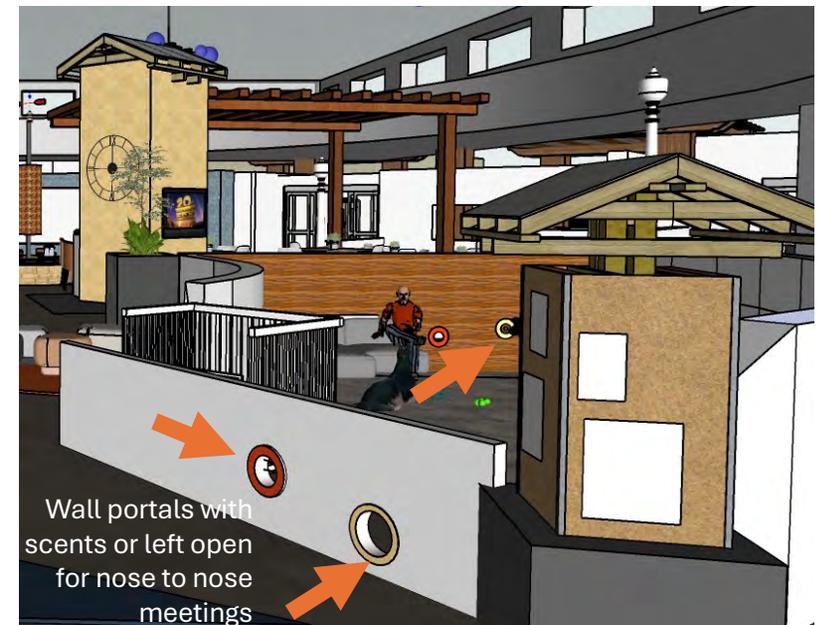
## Child play area and public speaking stage

Next to the main lounge seating area is a child/parent protected area for play in the living room, and also a stage and lectern for public gatherings here. When not in use, clients can gather close to the fireplace in this area or show movies.



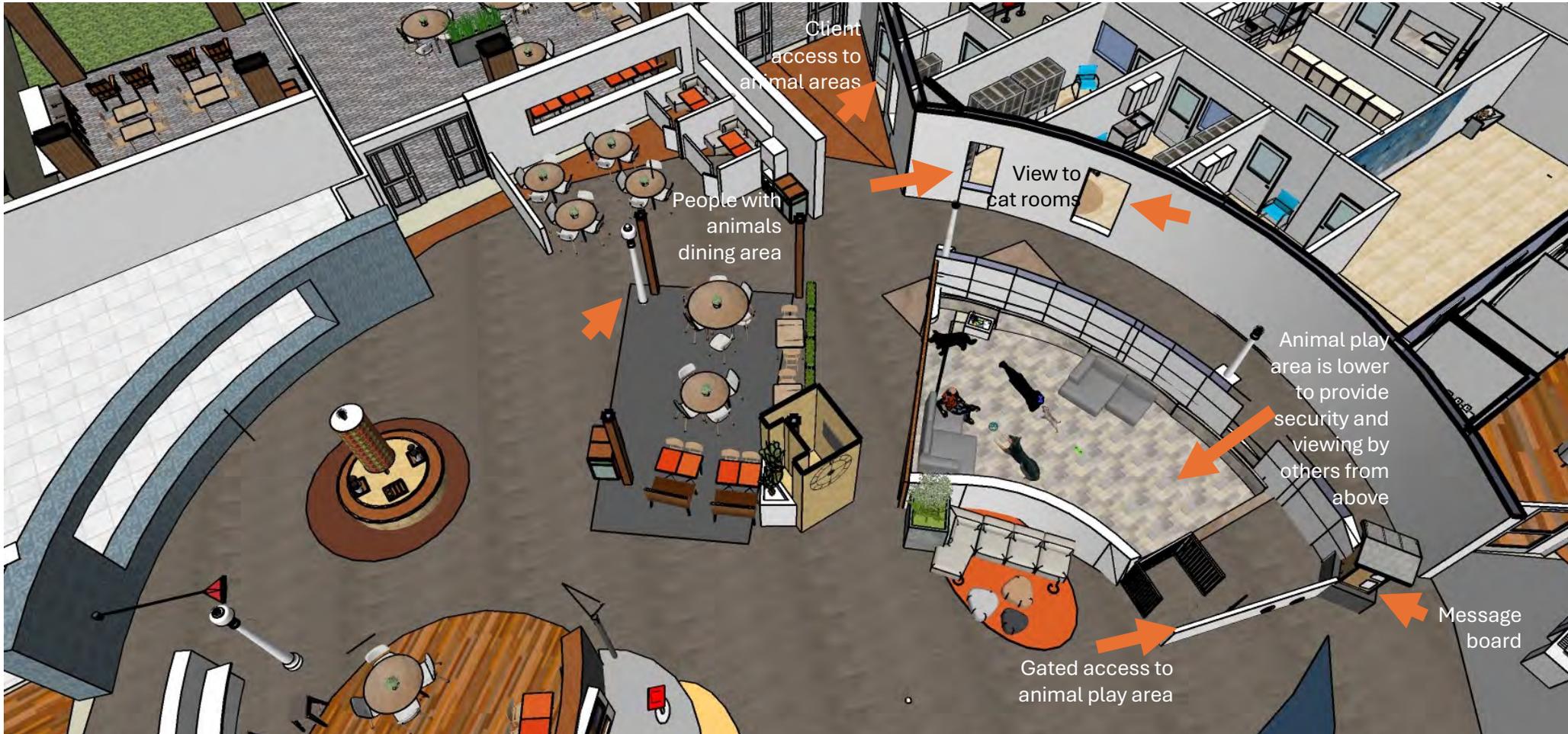
## Animal-supportive details

The living/dining room is designed to provide support to clients with animals and those without animals. Leash lines give staff the ability to permit clients to have animals in various areas should they wish.



## Rear of living/dining

The back of the living/dining space exits to the rear, accessing the exterior sitting areas and natural zones beyond. The living/dining room has a direct connection to the animal care suite here, both with views of cats through windows and client access to the animal feeding, bathing and boarding areas.



## Layering of features and sightlines

The living/dining space is intentionally designed with a multitude of materials and features to humanize this voluminous space. The clock tower provides assistance with wayfinding for the many new visitors and serves as a soft dividing line between living and dining areas. Vegetation is built in to soften the space.



## Dog play area

A client with an animal should not be excluded from communal areas. This recessed dog play area can help these clients feel a part of things, while providing a safe area for socialization. Other clients can safely observe from the raised half walls, prompting conversations leading to friendships.



## Dining area

Dining is broken up into several smaller zones to help clients feel less scrutiny as they find a place to sit. Plenty of moving around space is provided to prevent a sense of crowding. A variety of seating is provided including “away seating” suitable for single clients who want to dine alone (but be within hearing distance of others so they can choose if and when to engage).



## Dining area for people with animals

A dining space is softly sequestered from other areas for people with animals. Tables are bolted to the ground with leash lines to secure an animal while their friend is dining. For excitable animals, fully enclosed dining pods can allow clients to enjoy the dining room with their friend.



Dining pergola roof is not shown here.

## Exterior dining and playground

The co-shelter also provides exterior dining for projects in climates that permit it. This dining is directly out the doors from the buffet line and places the children's fenced playground nearby for the ease of parents.



## Exterior dining and playground- looking back toward the interior dining room

The exterior dining spaces also provide a courtyard with tree for chance meetings and friendship building along the main path to the exterior. The entrance to the cat grove with 'catios' for safe cat-client play and outdoor enjoyment provide both privacy and also accessibility to this public area.



## Smokers' dining

Because people of all diversities need access to outdoor spaces, a smokers' dining room and patio is also provided, located behind a barrier wall for smoke separation.

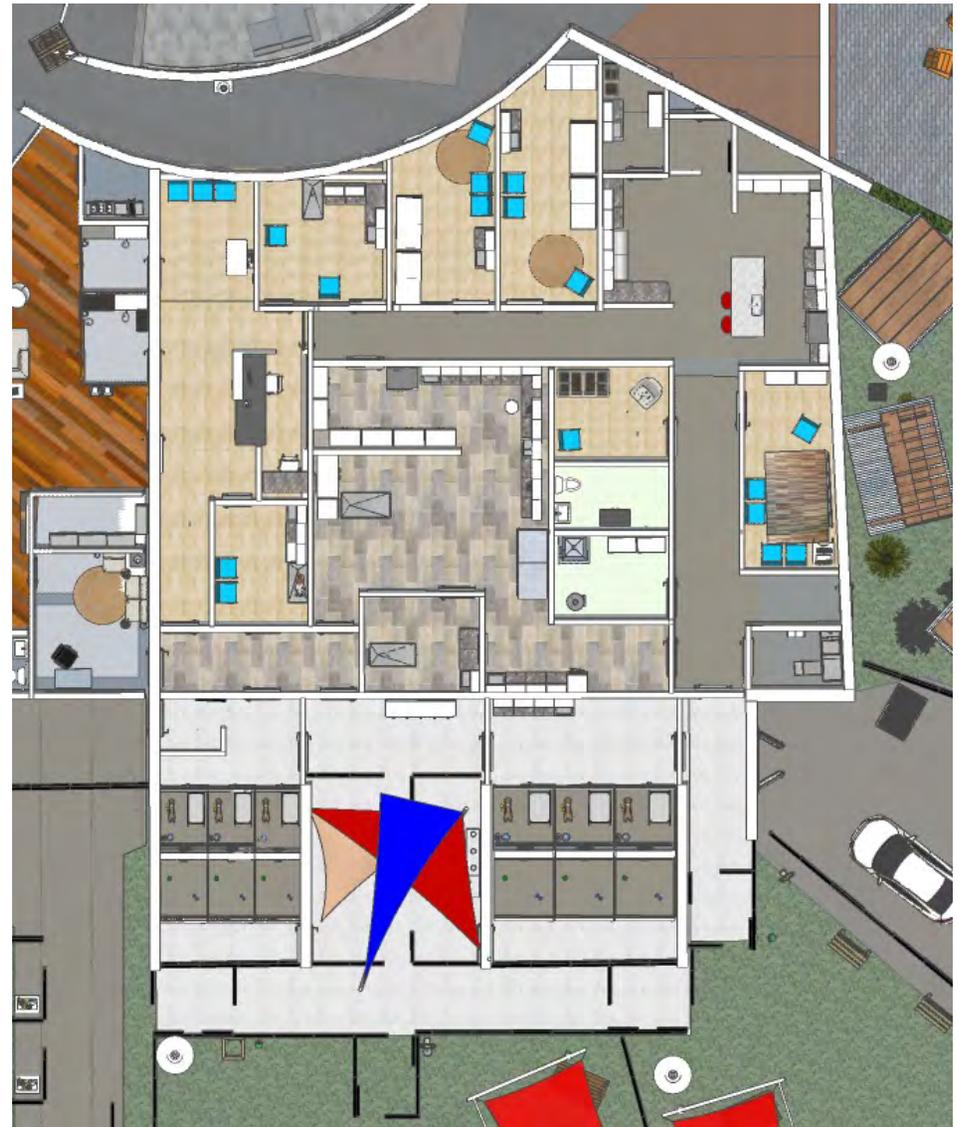


↑  
Smokers'  
dining room  
and patio

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The animal care suite provides clients and staff with in-house animal veterinary care as well as a place for clients to feed, wash and temporarily house animals. Its location next to the reception also allows the suite to minister to walk-in clients with animals if desired.



# Animal care suite

## Site plan

This plan shows the exterior animal zones that are physically adjacent to the animal care suite. (but not the walking grounds that lie beyond this at the bottom of this plan).

Animal areas are separated in distinct zones for cats, other animals and small and large dogs. The dog areas are sequestered from the exterior people areas as well as the cat courtyard to mitigate noise.

The dog plazas are curved to present a more gentle form for people and animals.

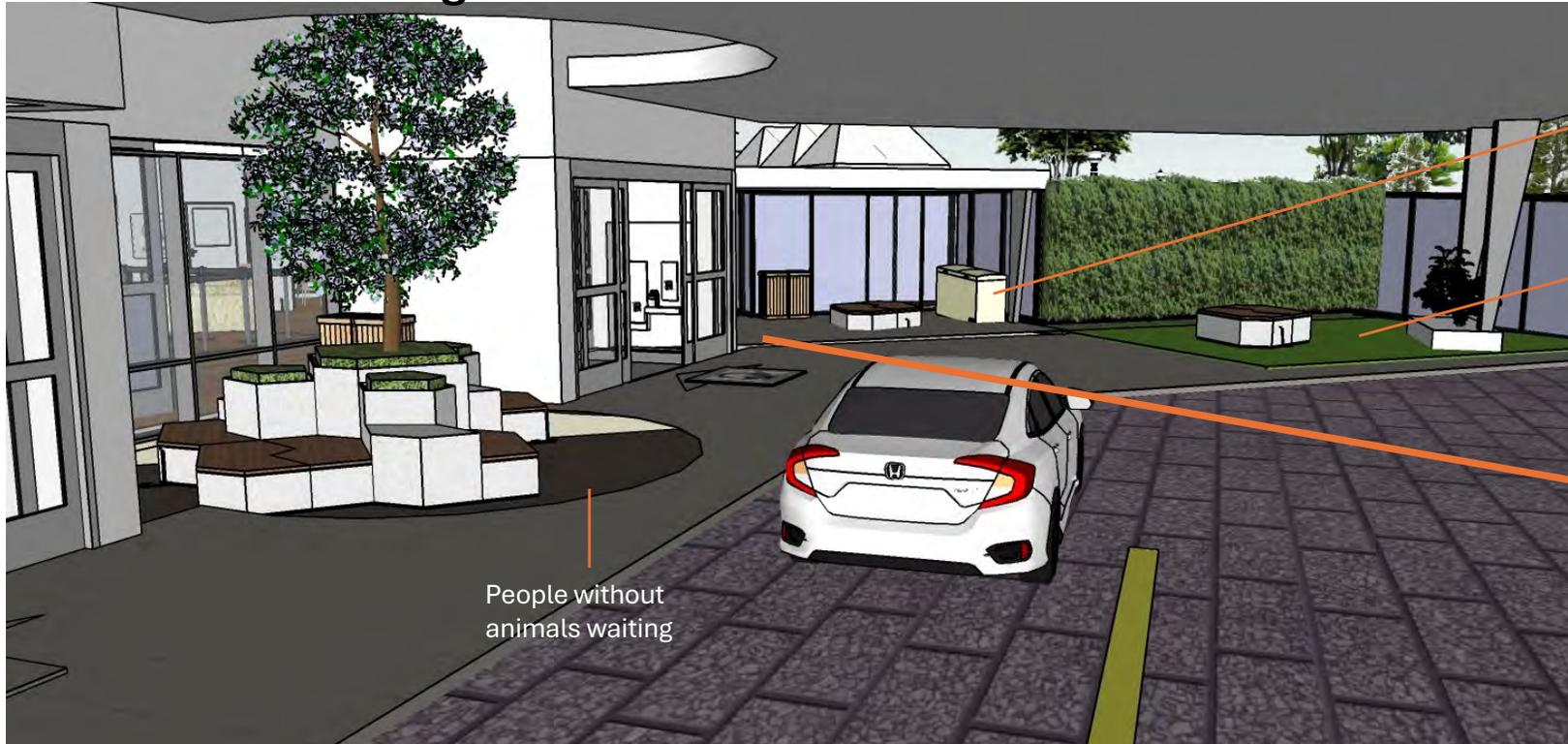


# Anxious animal entrance



A separate stressed animal arrival area leads from the exterior entrance directly to the animal care clinic. An intercom tells staff to meet clients and their animals at the door.

# Exterior waiting areas



After hours animal supply pantry

Waiting area for clients with animals

Entrance for people with stressed animals (directly to animal clinic pods)

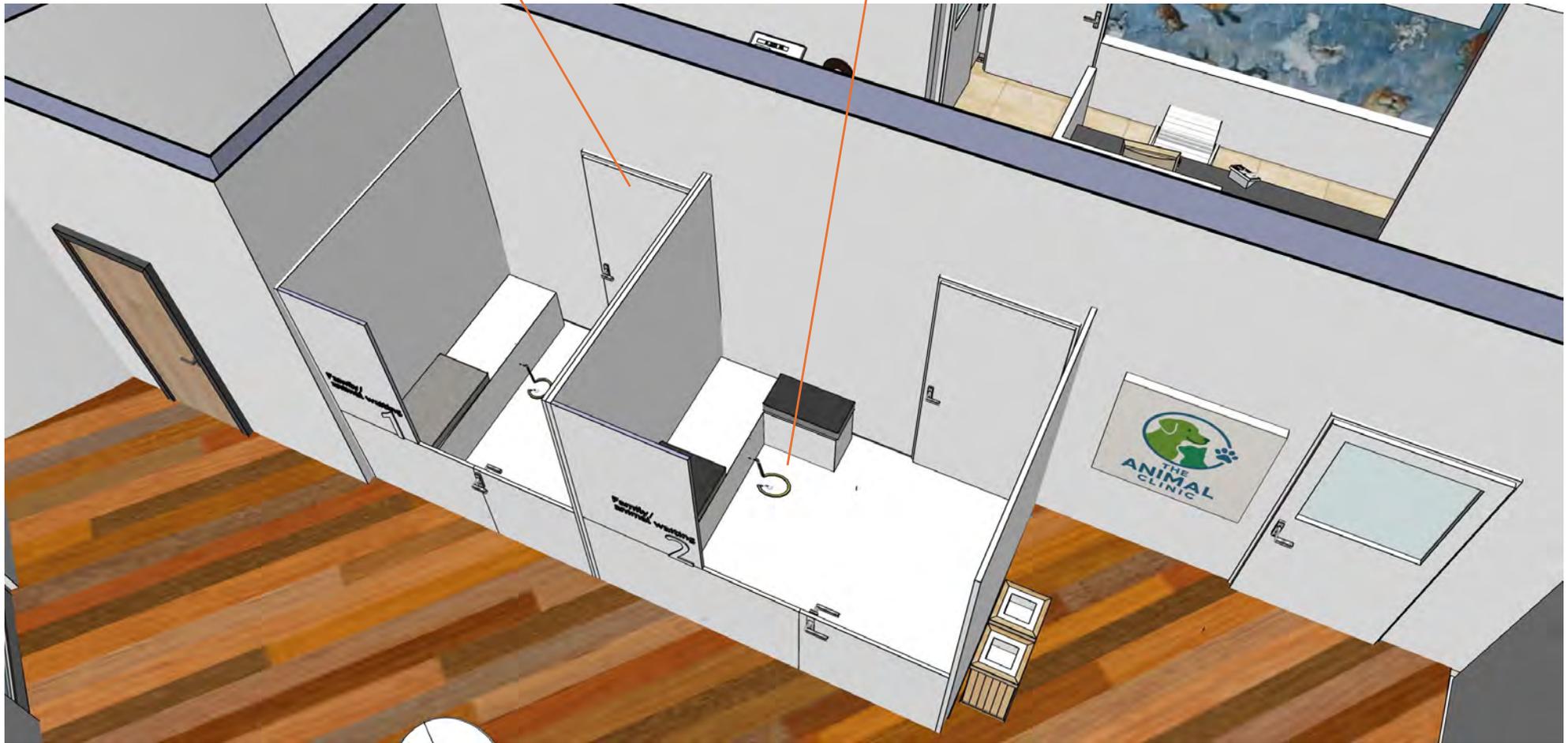
People without animals waiting

## Animal waiting pods connect the reception space to the animal care clinic

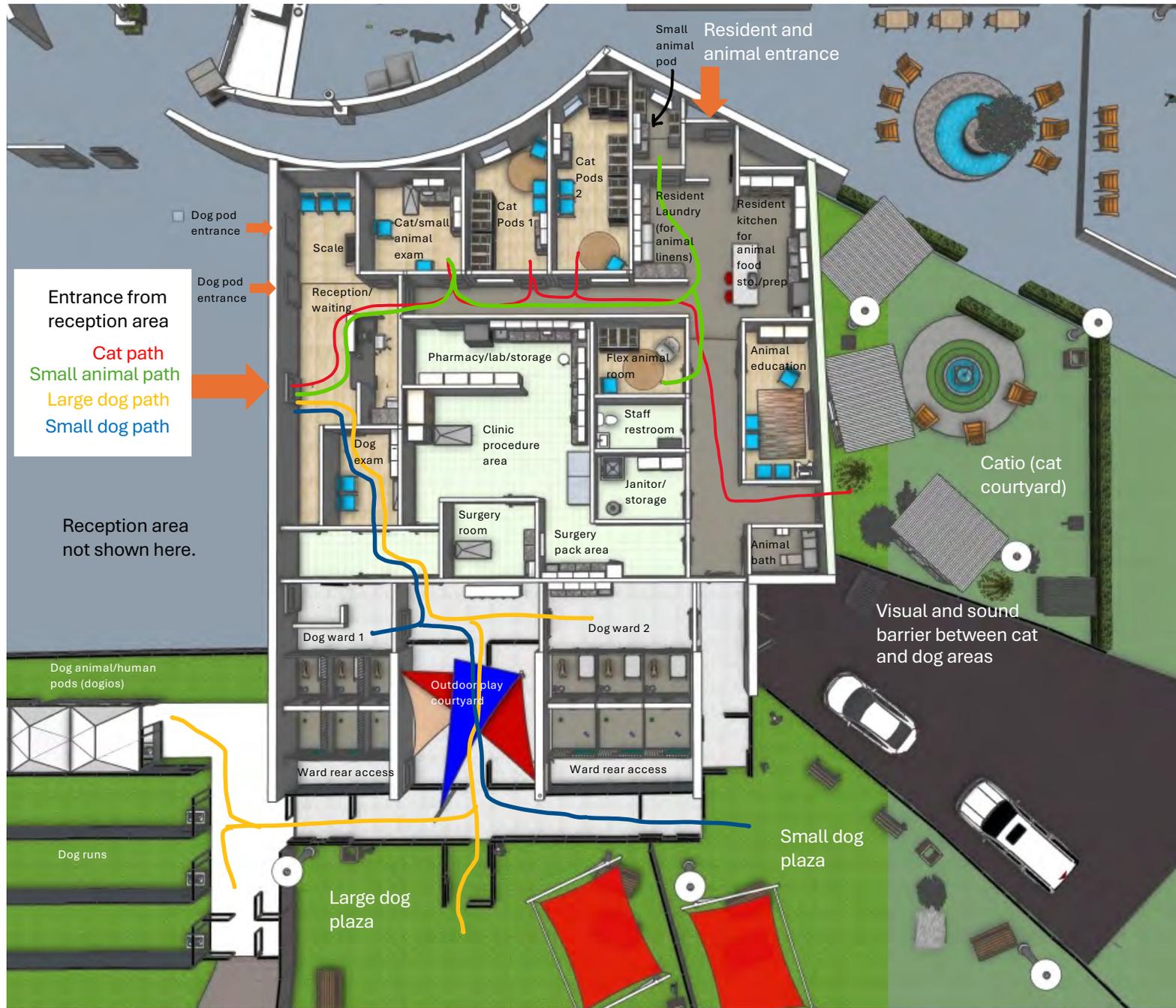
For times when an animal is anxious and disruptive during the waiting process, these animal waiting pods permit visual separation from the reception area. Seating is present for both people and animals. Leash connections let a client keep an animal in one place if necessary and each pod has a direct door into the animal care clinic to simplify movement through the area.

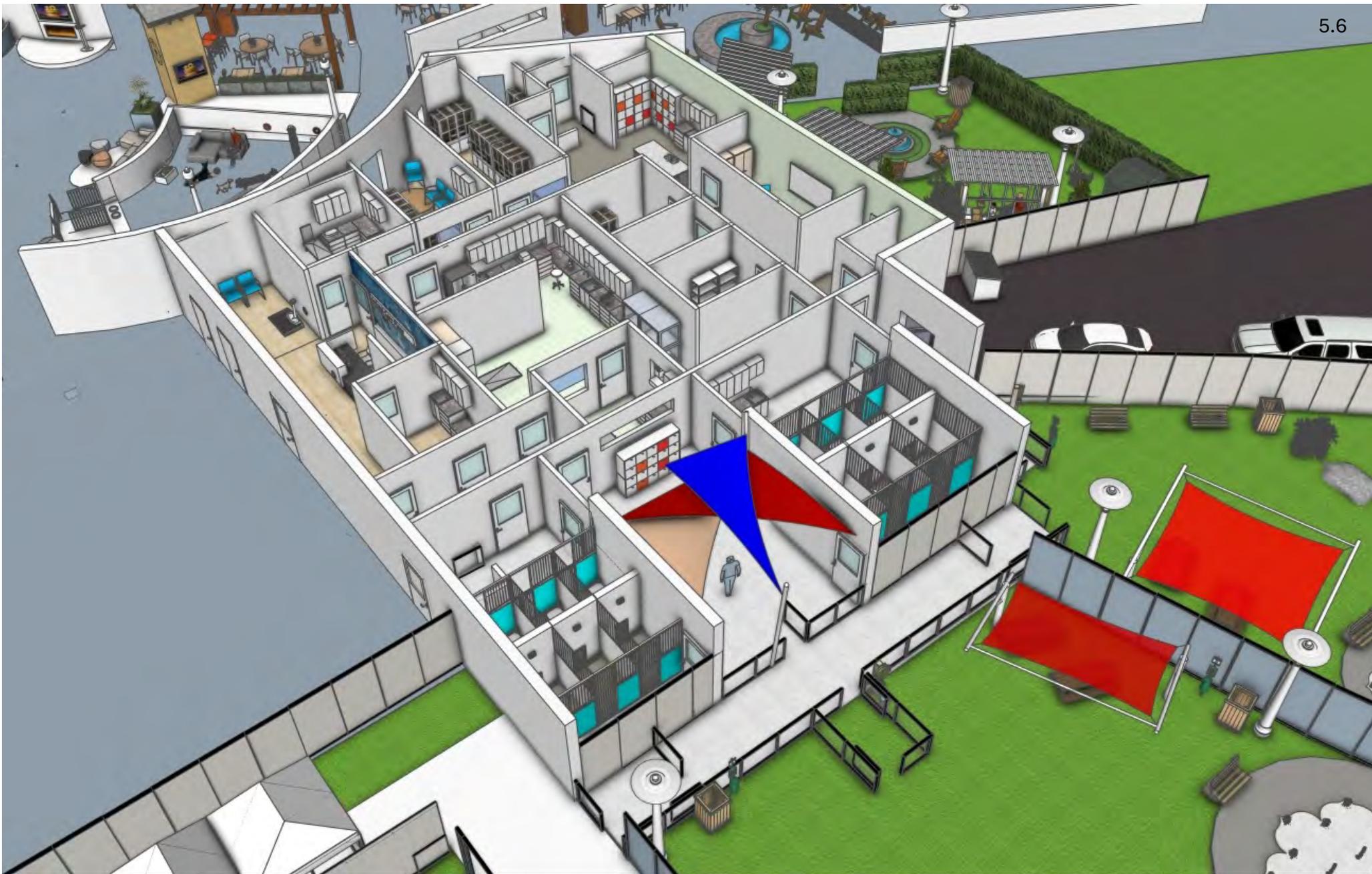
Direct door to the waiting area of the animal care clinic.

Leash connection can help restrain a chaotic animal



# Floor plan and circulation for animal groups





## Bird's eye view of animal care suite

Reception area not shown.

## Reception/waiting area

The reception/waiting area provides residents and animals orientation as they arrive. Scent zones provide interest to animals as humans check in with the receptionist.

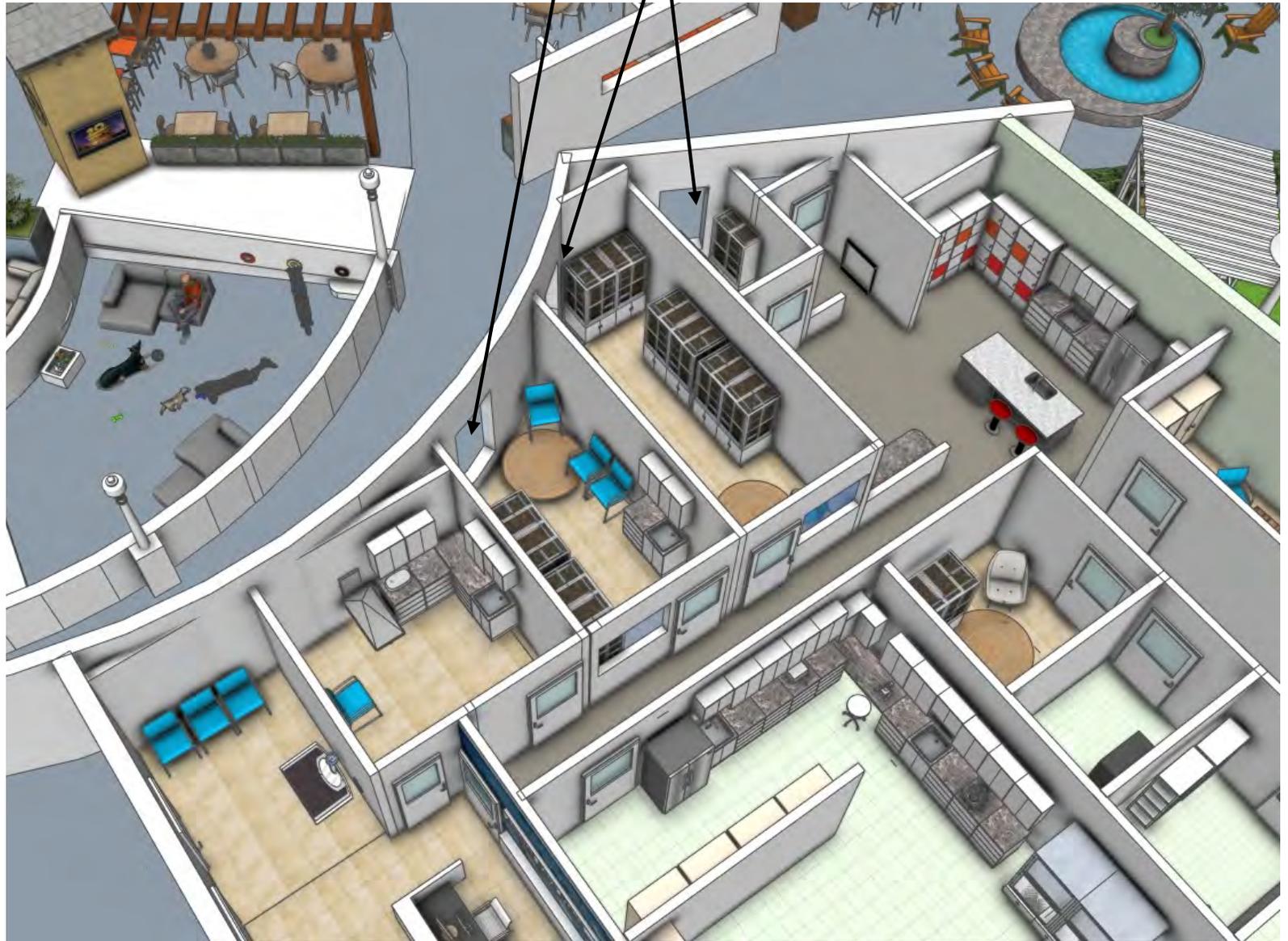


## Plan detail 1

This view shows the reception/waiting area, cat/small animal exam room, and the two cat pod rooms.

Resident access to the pharmacy/lab and other staff only areas is restricted.

Windows into cat pods 1 and 2 and small animal pod let residents in the living room enjoy the animals.



## Plan detail 2

This view shows one of the two cat pod rooms, The small animal pod room, laundry and kitchen compose some of the resident support areas in the animal care suite and area clustered near the main animal care suite entrance area for residents.

Cat pod rooms have areas for cat/resident interaction.

Small animal pod provides rabbits, ferrets, etc. a haven separate from other animals.

All entrances have a gated enclosure to ease animal control when moving about.

Lockers for residents' animal food secure storage

Kitchen/laundry area lets animal parents build community



## Plan detail 3

The training room provides a place for staff to assist residents with animal care strategies.

Access to the catio (cat courtyard) directly from the animal care suite.

An animal bath station is located convenient to all animal species' areas in the suite.

The flex animal space provides residents with cats, other small animals or dogs a private space to interact with their companions, or as an infectious disease isolation ward.



## Plan detail 4

Access to the trash and staff parking area

Dog ward 2 offers larger inside/outside accommodations for times when residents are away.

Dog ward rear access eases cleaning and animal control. Visual barriers between the kennels and the walkways and plazas are present to limit barking/stimulation.

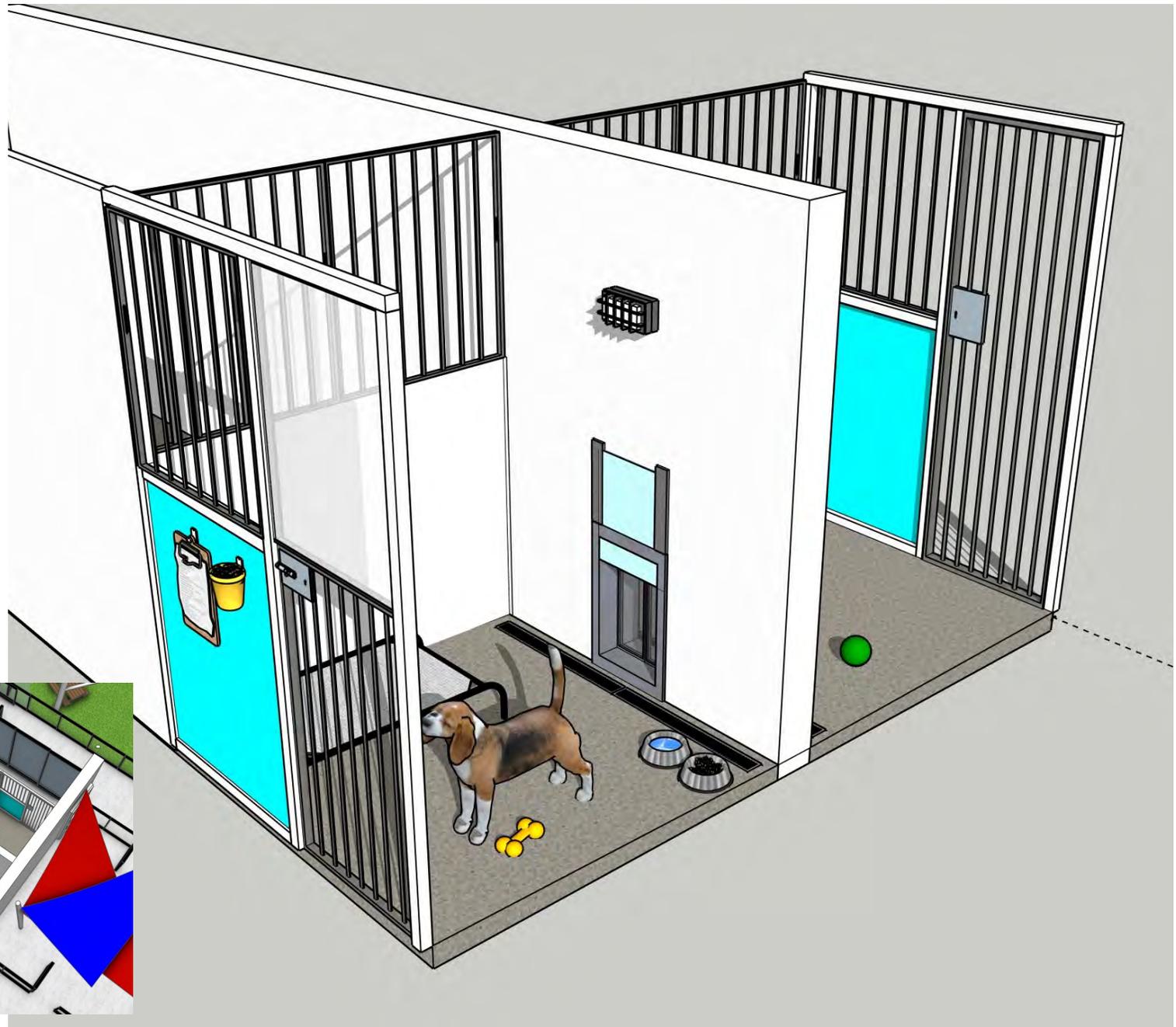
An exterior courtyard is a transitional space for play and feeding between the dog ward enclosures and the exterior dog plazas.



## Dog pods

(exterior right wall is not shown)

The dog pods provide two zones for animals so that they can experience the outside as well as inside for comfort and choice. Staff can enter either side through gates for cleaning and animal retrieval.



## View from outside the building

(exterior left wall is not shown)

The floors of all areas gently slope towards the middle to enable rain and water runoff from cleaning to clear the area. Perforated doors enable animal a view.



## Detail of outer wall on the interior

Treat bucket  
(fits 3 treats)

Information  
about the  
animal

Locking door  
with optional  
glass panel  
above



## Detail of inner dividing wall

(exterior right wall is not shown)

Manual guillotine door to divide the space for cleaning, animal management.

Saloon style door manages energy and air conditioning exchange. Warm and cold air is managed.



**BiteGuard KennelPlex**  
**Commercial Dog Doors**

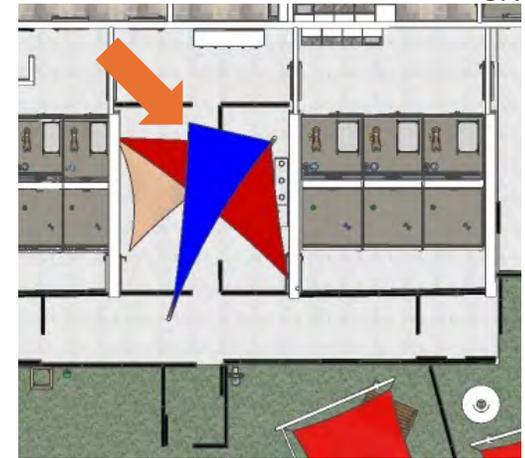
K9door.com

# Outdoor courtyard view to dog plazas

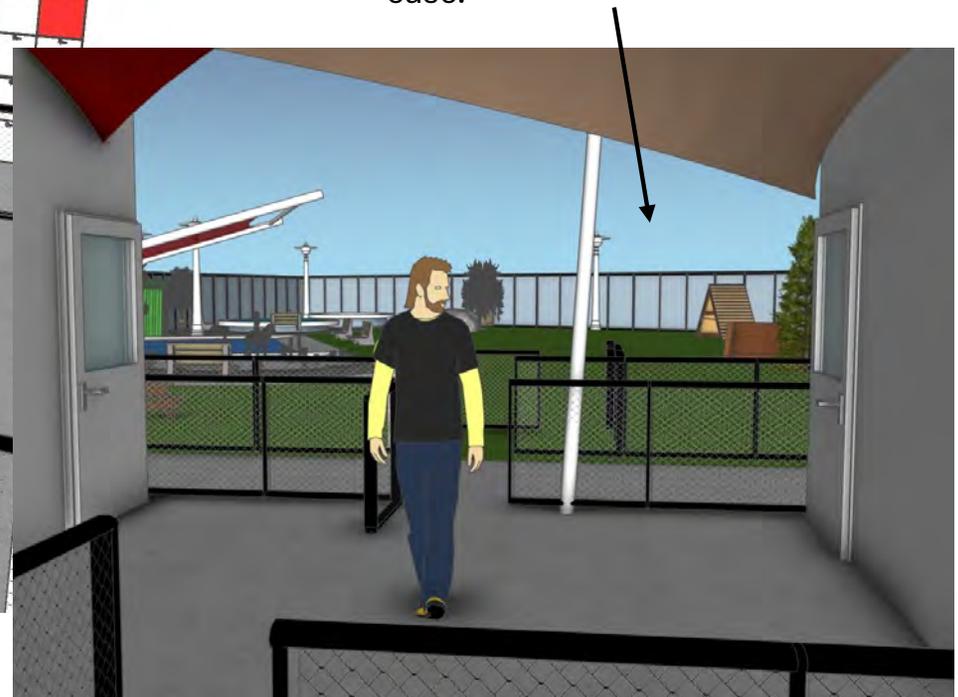
The exterior courtyard is a nearby place to provide dogs with monitored play. It also acts as a buffer transition to the exterior dog plazas and a monitored place for feeding if needed.

Exterior roof coverage extends usefulness of area if weather threatens.

Leashes, toys, treats, waste bag and garbage



View provides animals a visual preview of the outside area for psychological ease.



Gated enclosures help manage dog interactions as they move through different spaces.

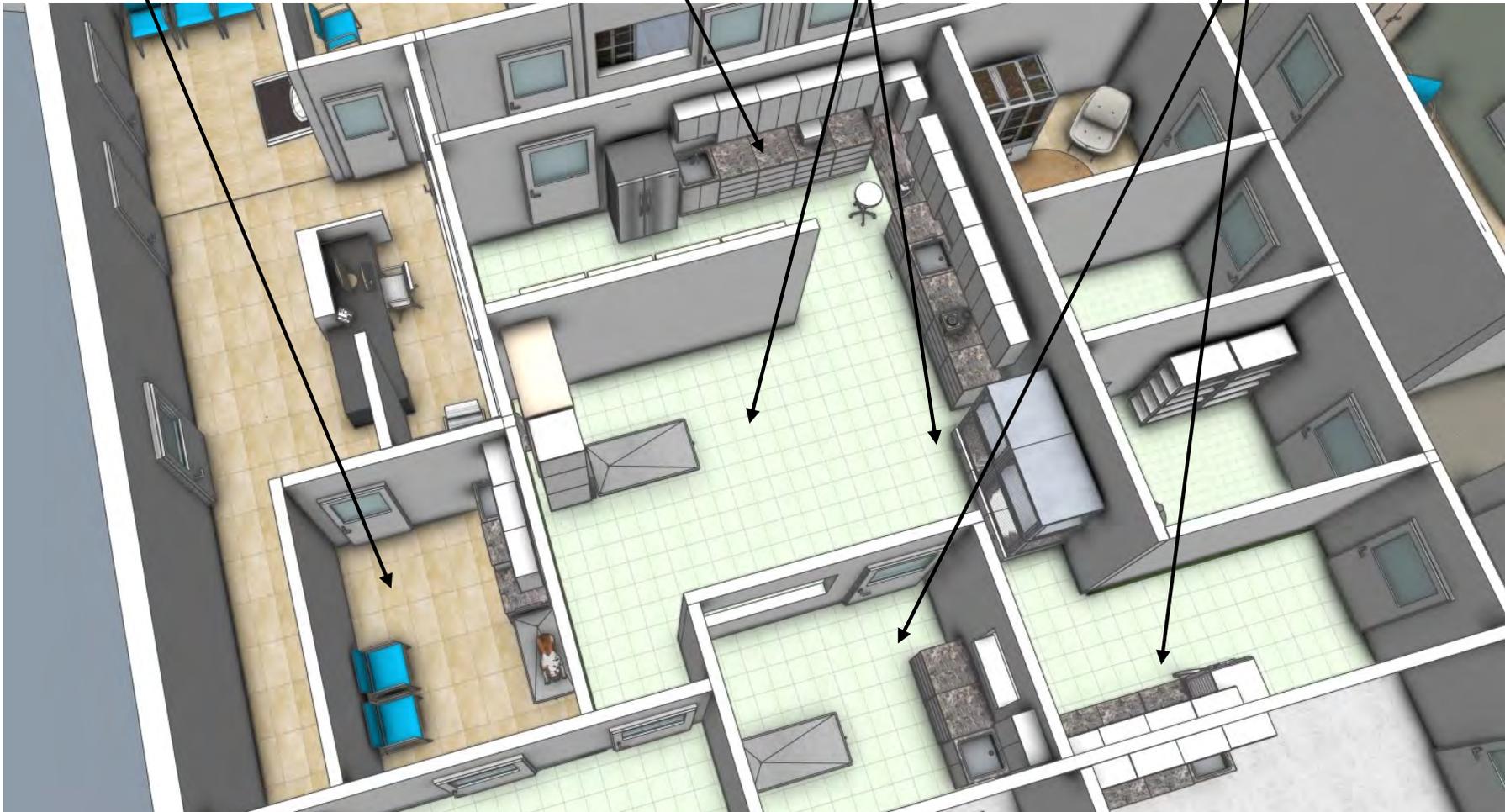
## Plan detail 5

Dog exam room is directly off the reception/waiting area.

The lab/pharmacy is centrally located and secure for staff use. Millwork permits use of microscopes, blood analysis equipment and centrifuge.

The clinic procedure area provides sufficient room for multiple staff and nearby storage and recovery area.

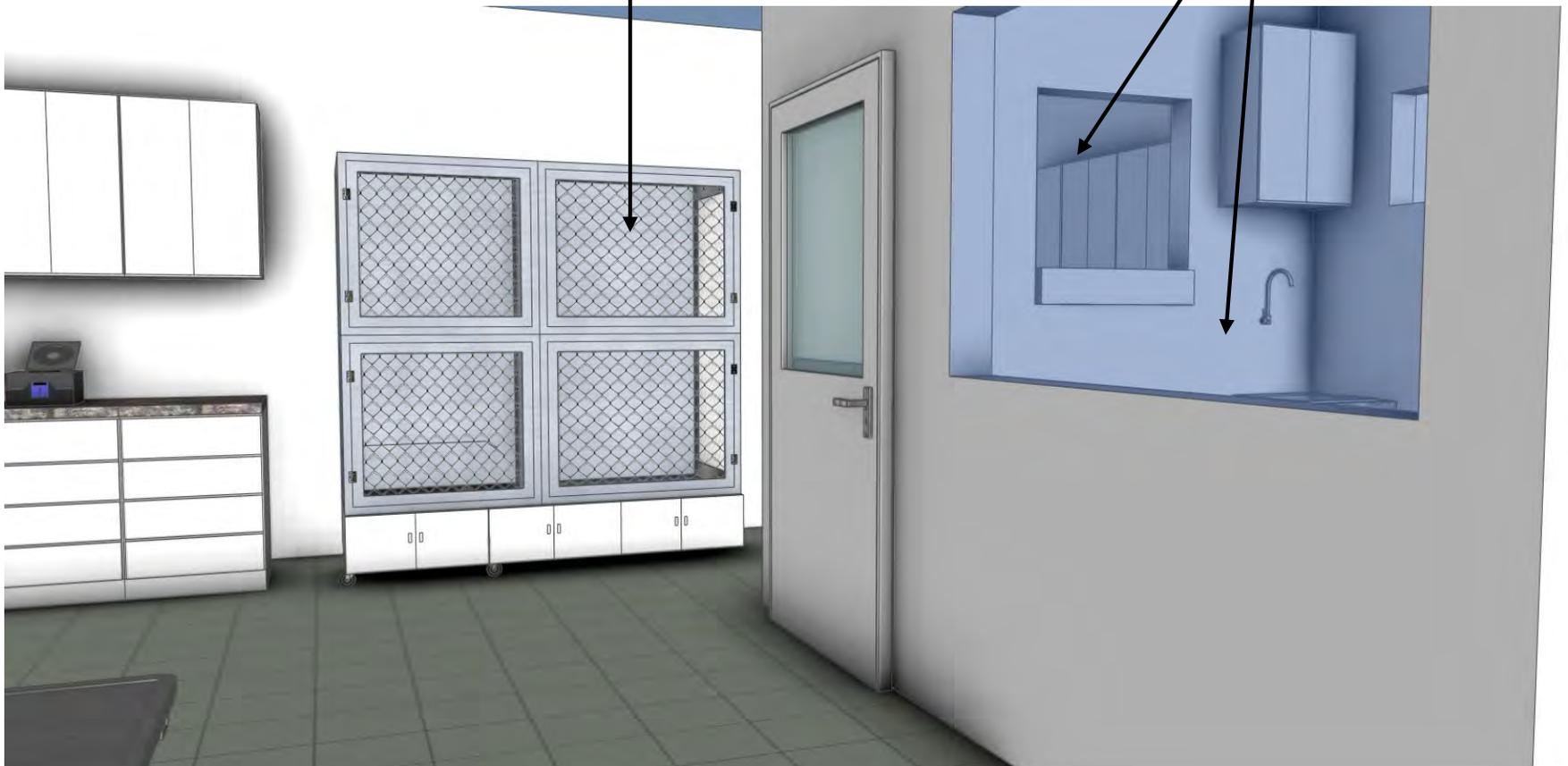
The surgery room has a pass-through window linking it to the surgery pack area. Laundry equipment is also located here.

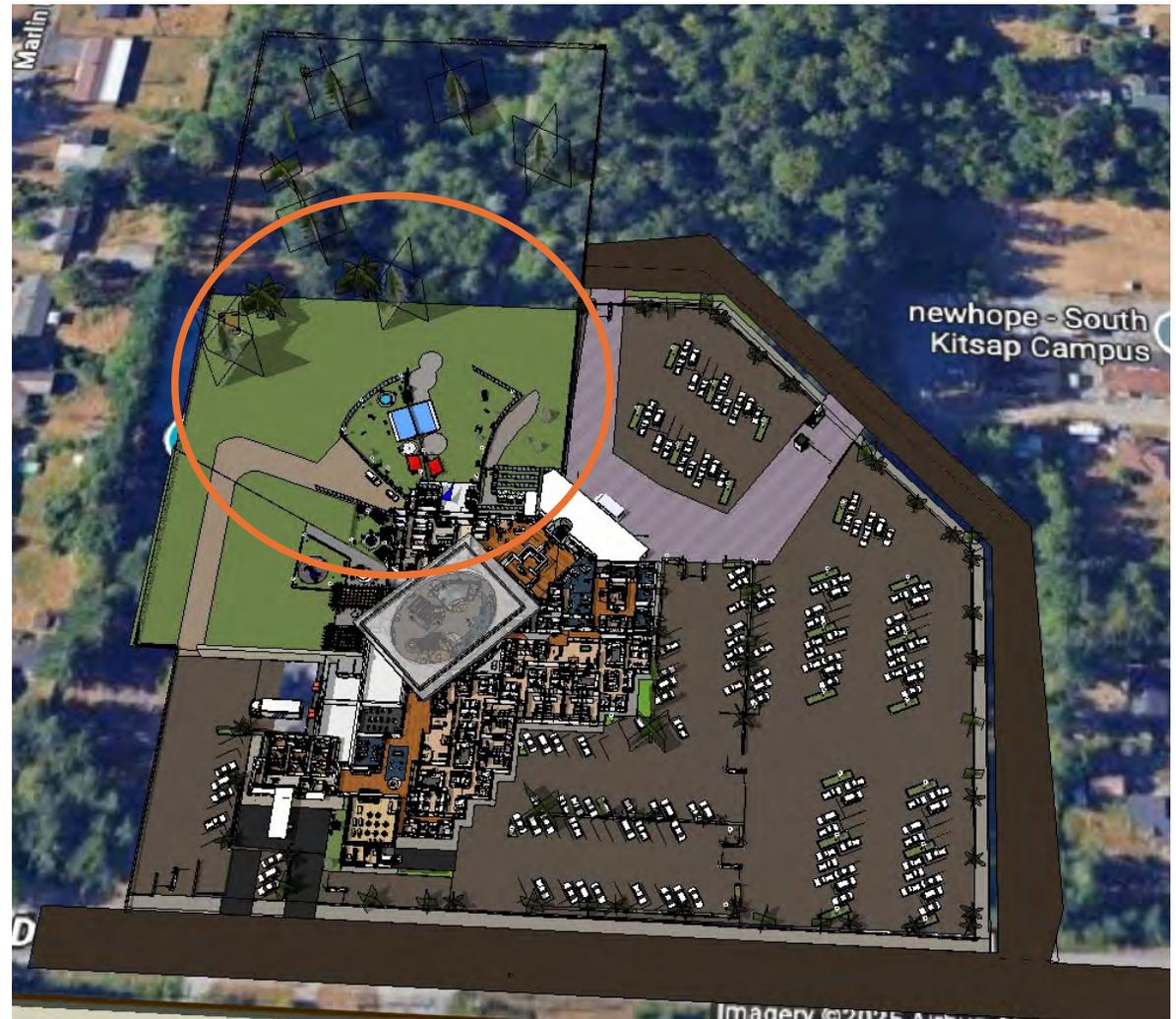


## Clinic procedure area and surgery room

Animal recovery pods are on lockable wheels to aid cleaning or relocating if necessary.

The surgery room has a window to the clinic procedure area and the surgery pack area with a pass-through window.





# Exterior animal spaces

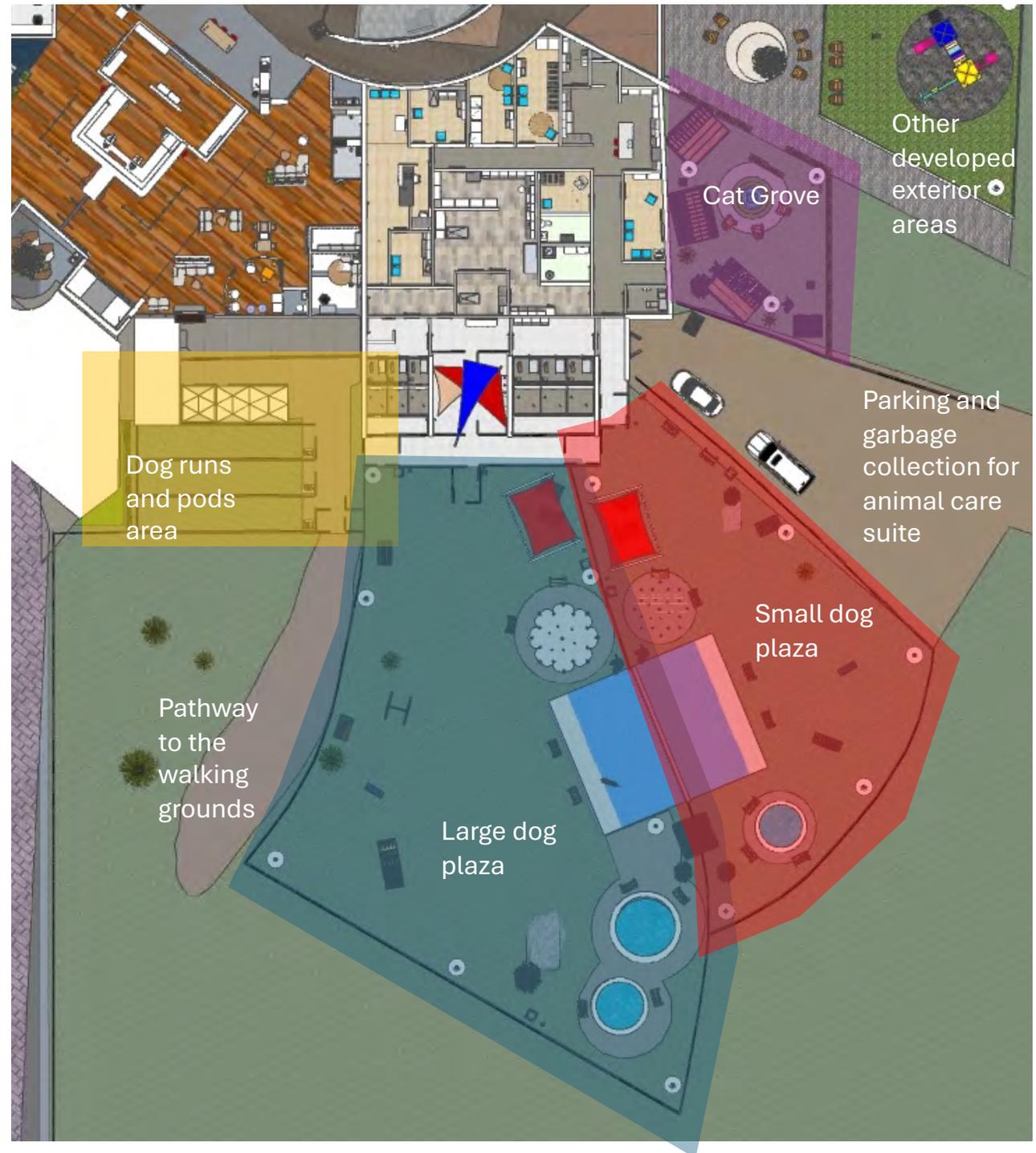
Exterior areas for play and exploration are important to animals, and a vital release from the congregate living experience inside the facility. An animal that is exercised is more likely to be calm, and gives animals a chance to maintain their bond with their humans.

## Site plan

This plan shows the exterior animal zones that are physically attached to the co-shelter building (but not the walking grounds that lie beyond this at the bottom of this plan). The animal care suite is located at the top.

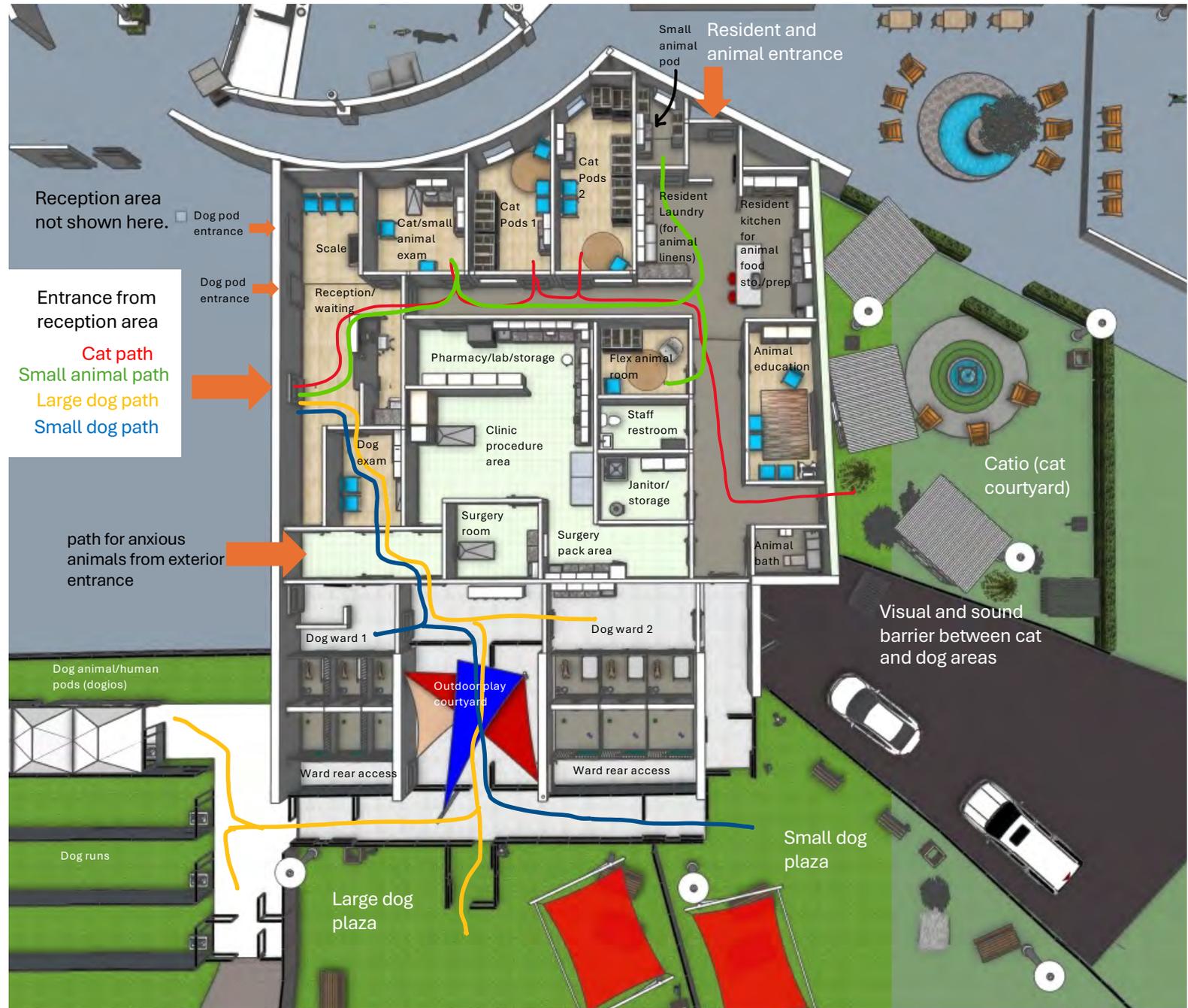
The dog areas are sequestered from the exterior people areas as well as the cat grove to mitigate noise.

The dog plazas are curved to present a more gentle form for people and animals.



## Floor plan and circulation for animal groups

The animal care clinic design supports the exterior animal areas and prioritizes the minimization of stress to the various animals it serves. This is partly achieved by managing the paths animals would take through the space to the interior and exterior areas.



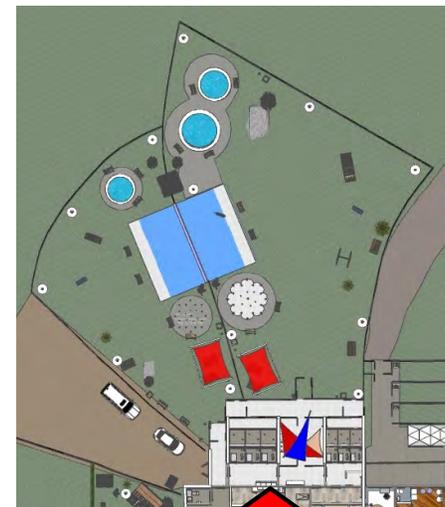
- Areas that require visual separation have eight foot tall fences with an opaque insert.
- Water areas are gathered in the middle for efficient maintenance and cleaning purposes.
- Exterior lighting make these areas usable at night.

**Site plan**



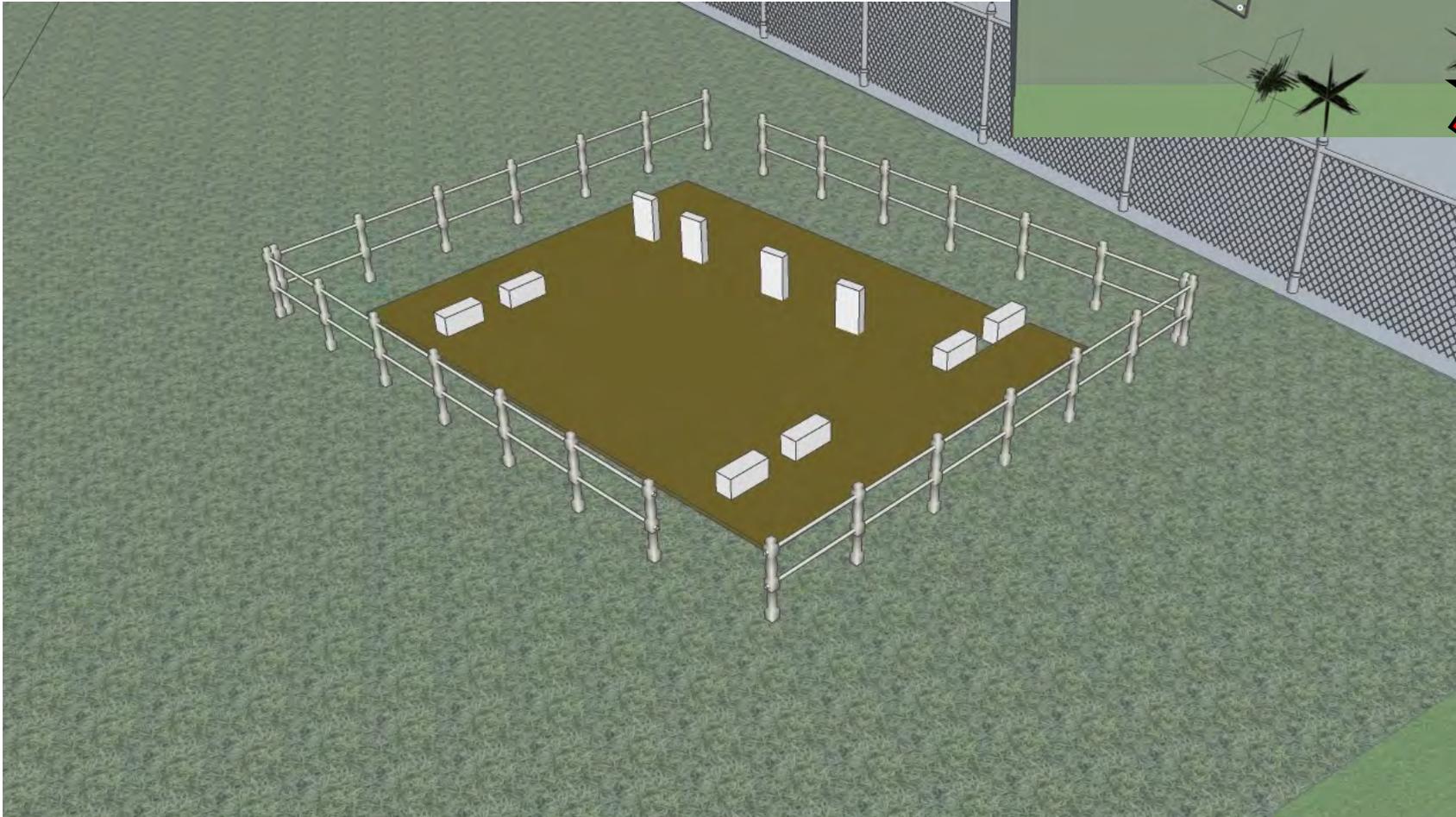
## View from outdoor courtyard of the animal care suite

The animal suite outdoor courtyard adjoins to the dog promenade path that accesses both the large and small dog plazas and also the pod and run areas.



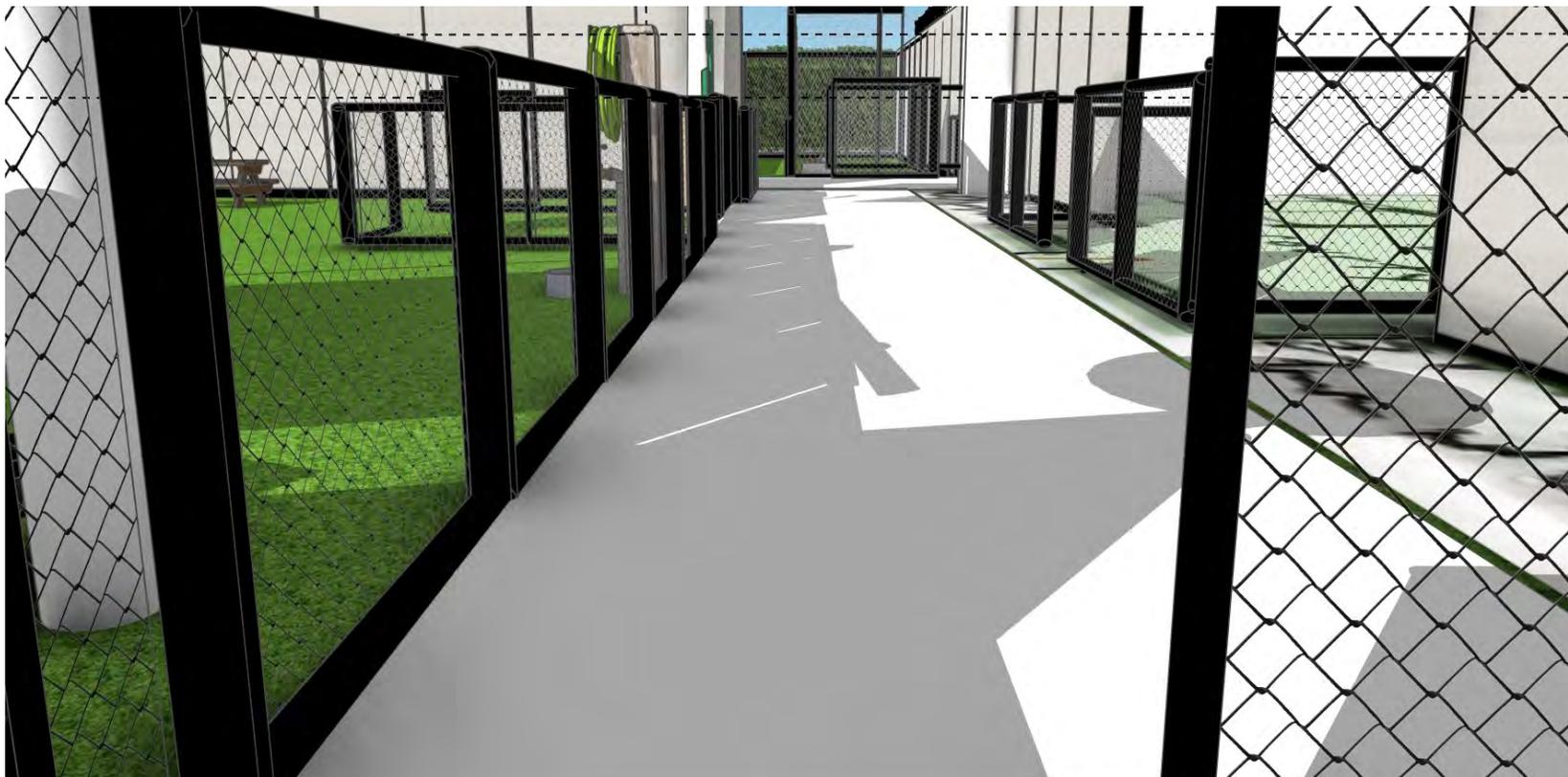
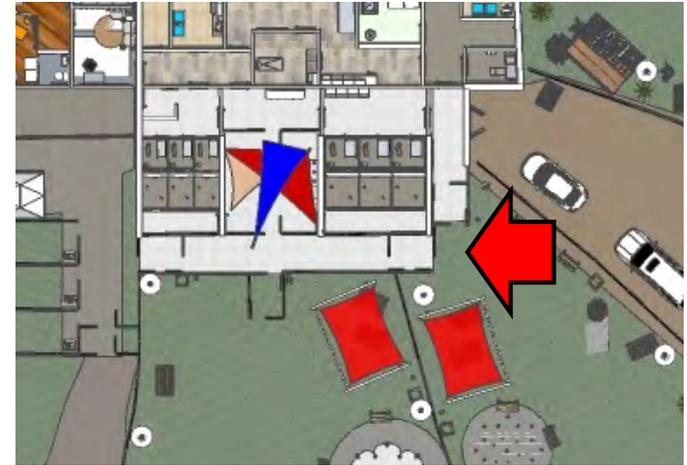
## Animal memorial garden

Providing an animal memorial area is a suggestion from researchers and advocates for animals. Set in the quiet back area of the property amongst the trees, this amenity allows clients to honor the passing of their animals and provide them a place to return to visit their graves. It is also a place for others seeking respite and a quiet place to pause.



## Dog promenade

The dog promenade pathway lets animals preview the plazas and also provides a secured area prior to entering these new zones. To avoid a feeling of lock-down, these fences are 42” tall.



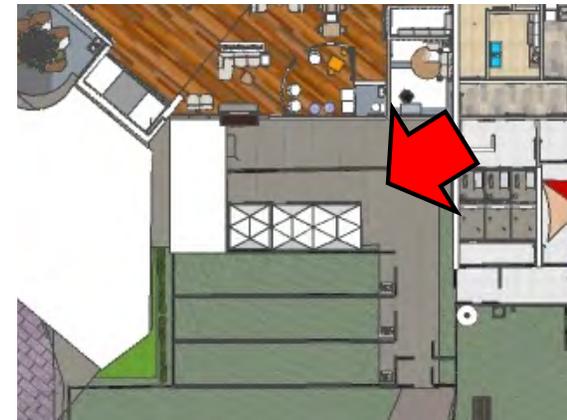


## Runs and pods area

Dogs need an area to interact with their humans in active play or cuddling. The runs and pods give people an opportunity to be away from other residents while building their relationship with their animals and provide fresh air and exercise areas for dogs who may not interact well with other dogs.

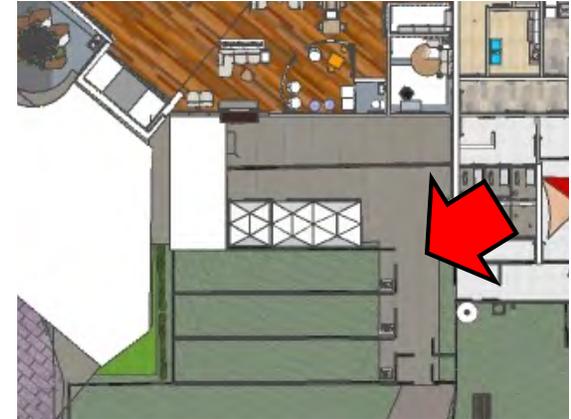
## Dog runs and dogpods

This zone is located off to the side from the dog plazas and has eight foot tall opaque boundaries to discourage fence fighting. Bins of balls and toys are provided. This is also near the entrance to the walking grounds.



## Entrance to the dog runs

The dog runs have opaque fences on the long sides of the enclosures. Measuring 10' x 40' long, this gives clients the opportunity to throw a ball for their dogs without other dogs or people around.



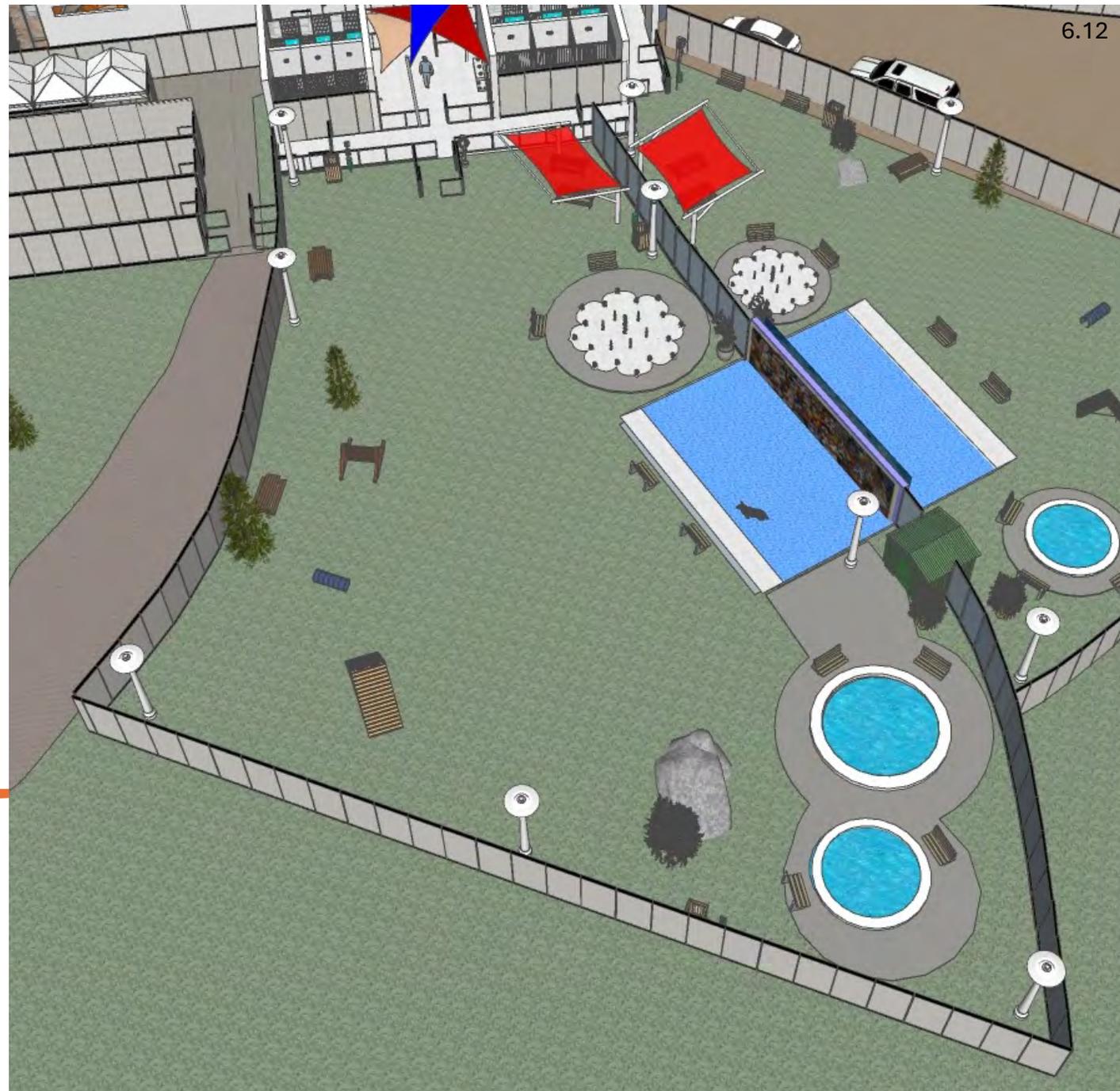
## Dog play pods

The dog pods are small areas to interact with one's animals without the distraction of others nearby. These are covered to provide use during rainy weather. Opaque fences keep each pod visually separate.



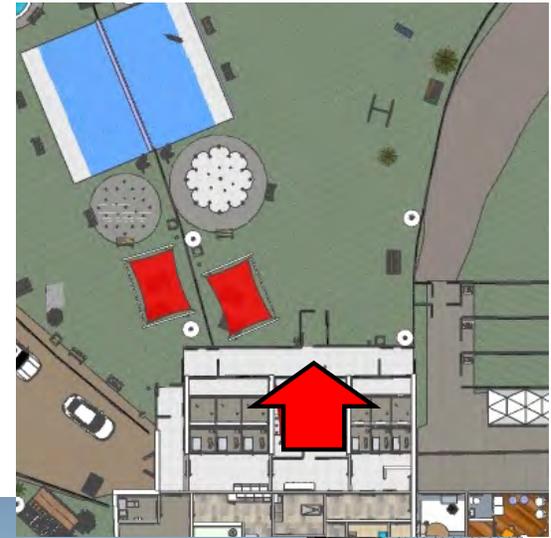
# Large dog plaza

The large dog plaza is a secured area for residents and their animals to run, play, swim, wade and build community.



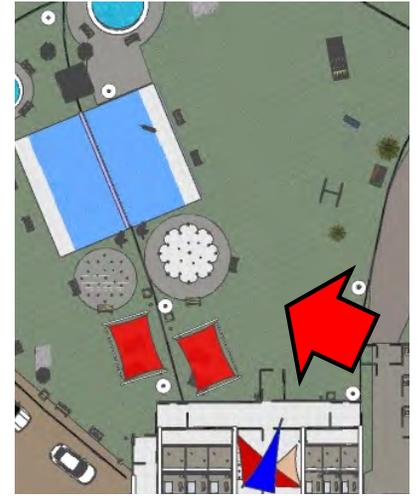
## A Great Dane's view of the large dog plaza entrance

A large dog can preview the plaza from the entrance gate. Consideration is provided here for easy viewing of the areas' extents for a sense of security. All fences are eight feet tall and opaque in finish. A double-gated vestibule entrance allows for controlled entrances and exits.



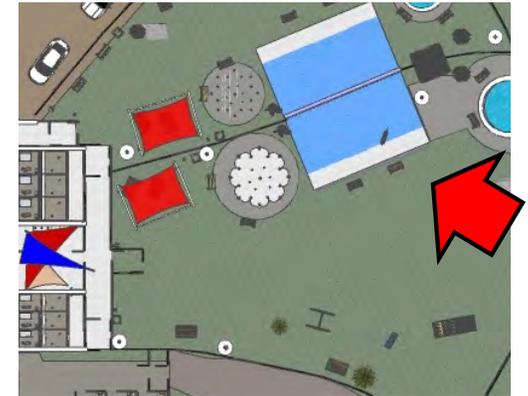
## Splash zone and pond

A splash zone with random water spray provides positive distraction. This is next to a larger calm pond for wading. Ample people seating is provided to enjoy time with animals and build friendship with other dog people.



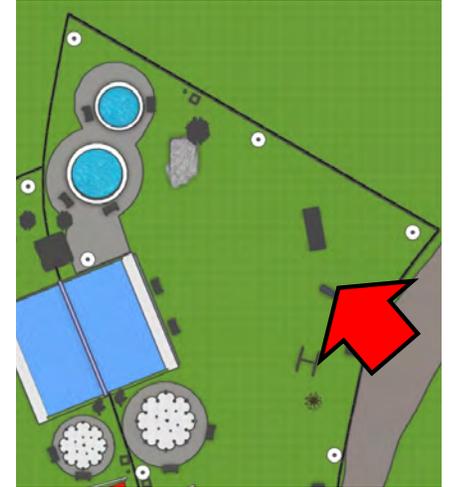
## Waterplay Pond

The wading pond has a sloping bottom so that dogs can feel comfortable in its use to a maximum depth of 3 feet. A whimsical mural by artist Bill Bell provides a backdrop. If desired, this backdrop could be changed to a white screen for movie nights. A nearby utility shed provides staff a place to store maintenance and cleaning items and provides a staff cut-through to the small dog plaza.



## Wading pools and dog coursing features

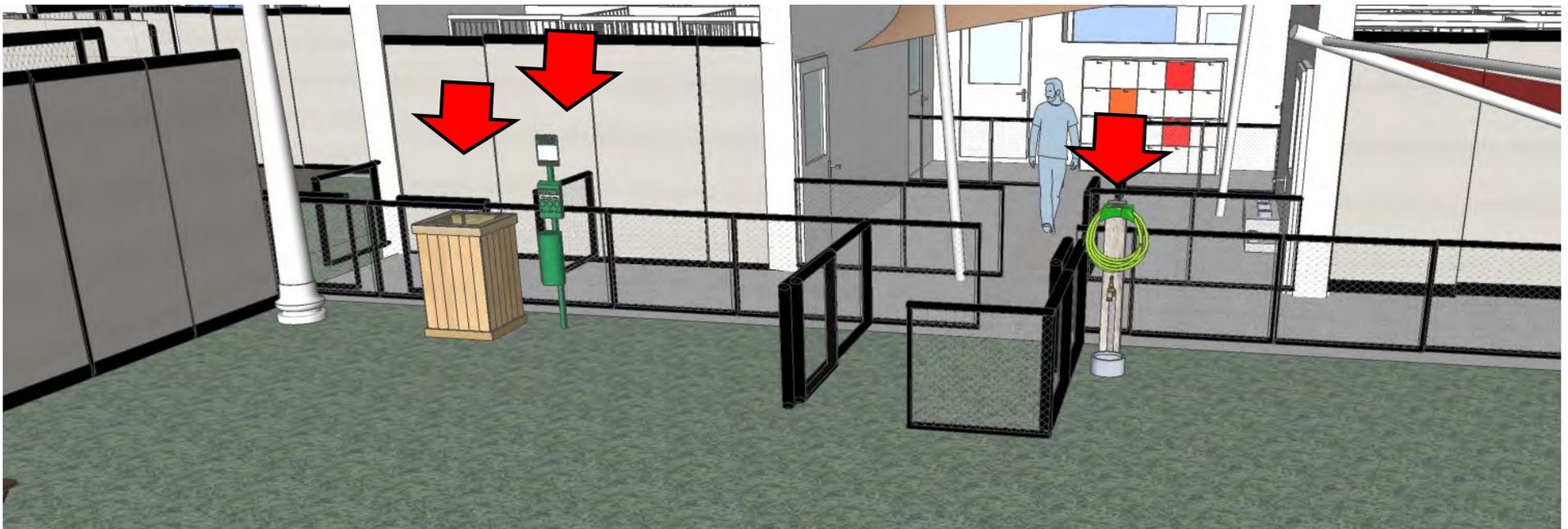
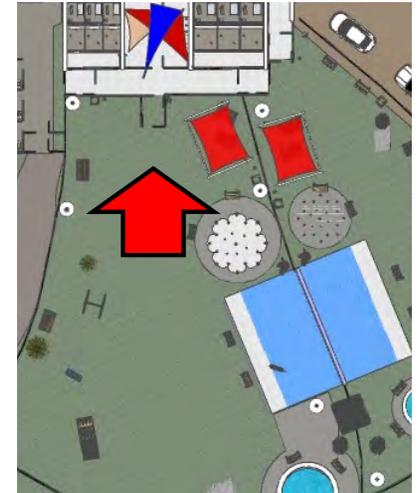
Two wading pools give dogs and residents another chance for water play away from the larger pond area. These are 18" deep and give residents a chance to sit on the edge as their animals frolic. Animal coursing obstacles are located in this back area of the large dog plaza, as well as a large rock for 'prospect and refuge' gazing.



## Dog amenities

Trash cans for dog waste and other refuse, a dispenser for waste bags and a hose for washing dogs off are located near the entrance. A dog water bowl is also located near the hose outlet.

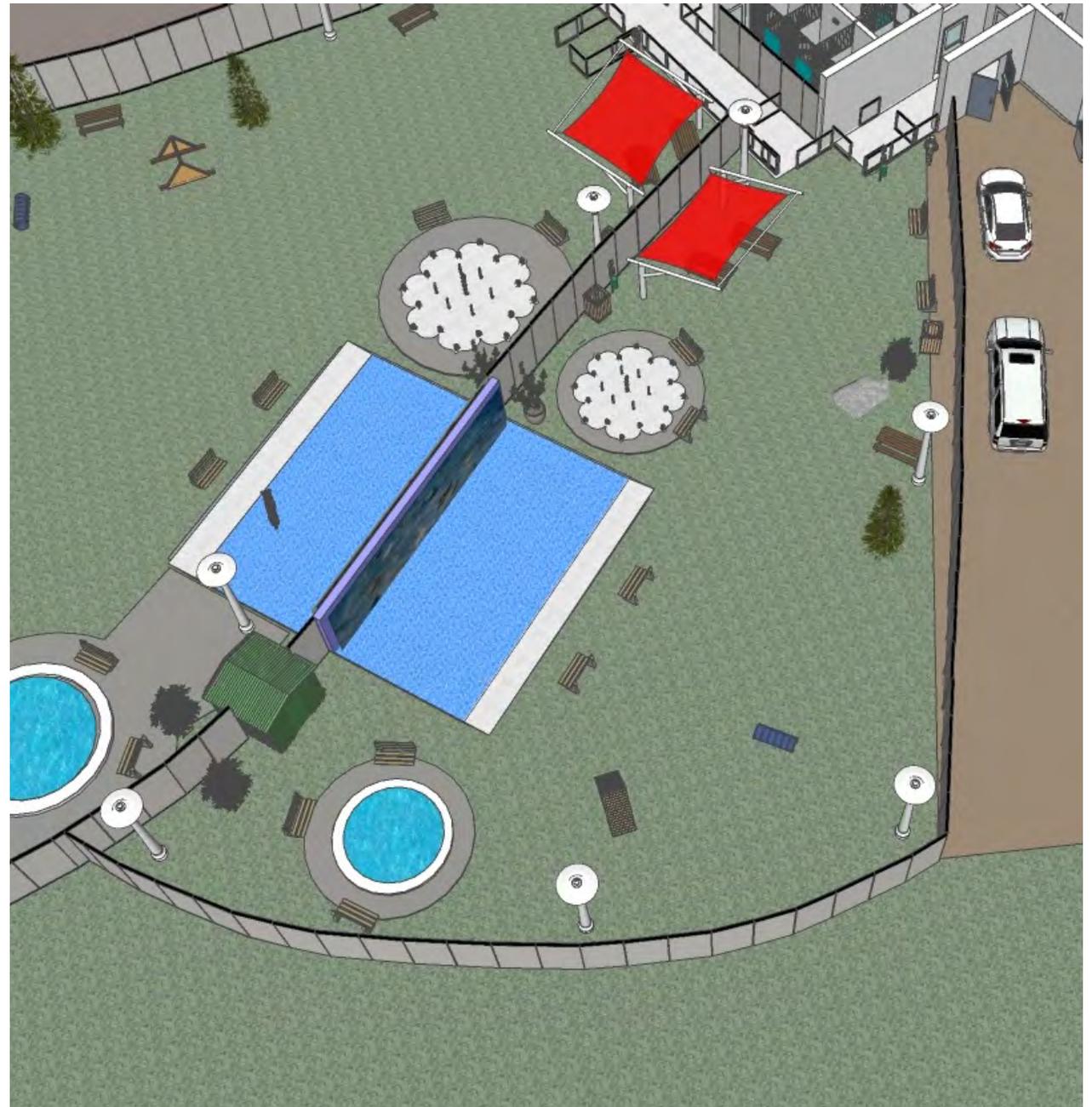
A sun structure (to the right) provides respite from heat with picnic tables for hot months of the year.



# Small dog plaza

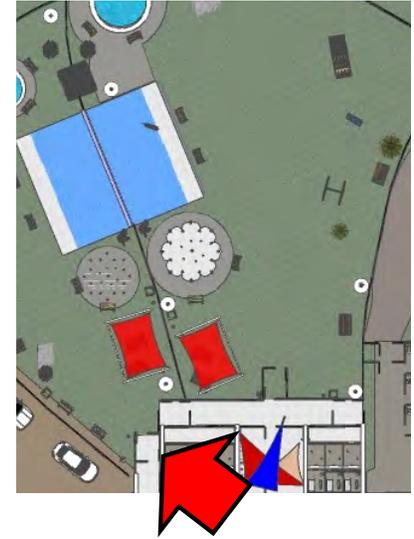
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The small dog plaza is a secured area for residents and their animals to run, play, swim, wade and build community. This area is separate from the large dog plaza but can be opened up between the two by installing a gate in the fence if desired.



## A chihuahua's view to the small dog plaza

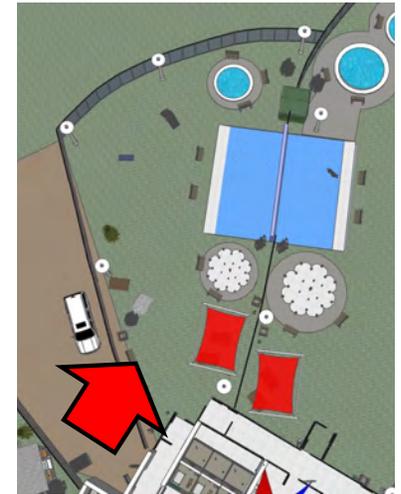
The small dog plaza has two entrance gate areas. Each provides a small dog a clear view of the extents of the zone for their sense of security. Eight foot opaque fences make this area separate from the car access zone and the large dog plaza on each side.



## Splash zone and pond

The small dog plaza mirrors the features and amenities provided in the large dog area. Its smaller scale makes efficient use of space for its more modestly sized users.

The dog pond floor slopes down to a maximum depth of 16”.



# Cat Grove

Cat Grove is a separate outside recreation place for residents with cats or other small animals.



## Relationship to nearby areas

Sequestered from the dog areas by a service path, this area has a stronger affinity with the people areas of the co-shelter than the dog areas– but is still visually separated by hedges to make it a separate zone. An eight foot opaque fence also separates this area from the service area behind it.

A back door also connects Cat Grove to the animal care suite so that residents can collect their cat from the cat ward rooms to take them here.



## Cat Grove entrance by the exterior walkway

This view shows the gated entrance to the Cat Grove from the people areas. A sign providing the identity of the space is coupled with art from Bill Bell. These hedges can be grown taller to provide more of a sense of separation if desired.





## Catio pods within Cat Grove

- Cat Grove features three Catio pods for residents to interact with their cats or other small animals in safety. These have fully closing doors and a roof to prevent animal escape.
- Cat Grove also has a small fountain/seating area, making this small refuge a place for family members to gather away from hustle and bustle and take a breath. Birdfeeders provide interest for cats.

# Catio pod features

The Catio pods are raised above ground level to prevent flooding. Each features a screen door for security. Each includes a multi-level cat climbing platform with scratching posts and a place to take refuge (in the bottom area). A litter box and bin of cat toys under a seating area provides residents with a full-service experience. Other small animals might visit this space with their humans too.





# Sleeping Spaces: details

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This report explains an important place in a shelter-- the individual spaces where residents and their animals sleep. As the only private space in a shelter, sleeping spaces can help support privacy and identity objectives in powerful, tangible ways through visual sightline protections, acoustical separations, and opportunities for expressing oneself to others.

## Objectives and goals

These sleeping types prioritize fundamental human needs in their design. Many of them also support the experience of companion animals too:

**Privacy:** ability for people to feel they are separate from others to be themselves. The degree of privacy varies in the sleeping types, as some people may require more staff support than others.

**Individual control:** ability for people to control their immediate surroundings in ways such as ventilation, lighting, and desire to accept visitors at any given time.

**Dignity and self-esteem:** ability for people to retain their sense of self as a fully formed human being capable of interacting with others and deserving of others' respect

**Community:** ability for people to build relationships with others in a way that is comfortable for them.

**Safety:** ability for people to know they are physically safe, as are their children, animals and possessions whether they are present or not.

**Stress management:** ability for people to relax and take a break from being 'on guard' for experiences they cannot control.

**Beauty and order:** ability for people to manage and store their possessions in an orderly way, assist their children and animals, and be in the presence of meaningful expressed experiences such as art, photos or other mementos.

# Local features

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**Each person has local accommodations to provide a sense of environmental control and preservation of their identity.**



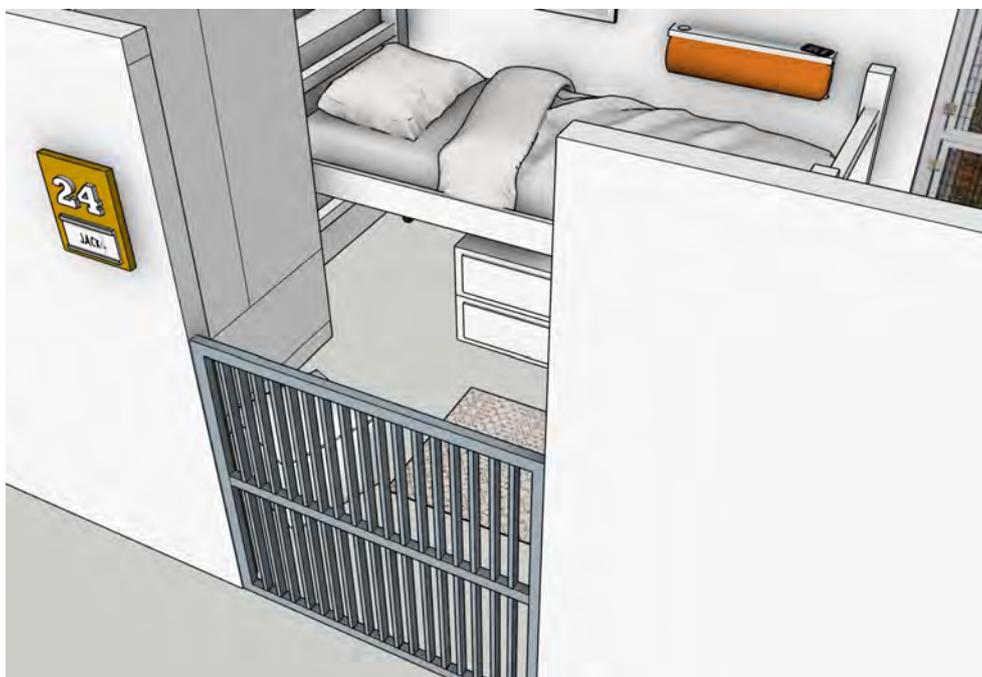
*Where possible, each bed area is equipped with a personal ventilation fan, an electrical outlet for device charging, and a personal light for reading. A nearby hook provides a place to store a purse or backpack.*

Where space permits, further local features enable residents to feel more accepted in their new, temporary environment.



*These features enable residents to use their bed as a sofa and personalize the space to encourage positive territoriality and identity preservation. The picture frames easily snap open to receive residents' own artwork.*

Other sleeping area features assist residents to manage their support animals while keeping them close by.



*Shown here is a swing gate to enable a dog to be contained within a sleeping pod. Note that a cat would need to be restrained with a leash or inside its enclosure. Also a sign outside provides residents the ability to state their name to retain their identity. This sign is also a place to place "stop" or "go" signs so that the resident can enable or restrict others' visits depending on how they are feeling. Signs can also indicate if an animal is present.*

Dogs, cats and other small animals have areas within select sleeping units for temporary restraint when a resident has to step away.



*This tower suits one cat or one or two small critters with storage beneath. The unit is on casters for easy movement and cleaning.*



*Based off this Aces Animal Care cat suite. Learn more at <https://animal-care.com/product/pet-enclosures/>*



*This dog crate is integrated into many of the pods near the bed areas. There is a door for containment. The unit is on casters for easy movement and cleaning.*



*Based off Chewy dog crate. Learn more at <https://www.chewy.com/frisco-ultimate-lightweight-heavy/dp/352686>*

# Taxonomy of sleeping types

Just as people vary in their backgrounds, needs and preferences, sleeping accommodations should be able to change to suit their needs in a reasonable way. Some people need more privacy than others, and some may or may not have children or companion animals. The needs of couples will vary from single people, as will the needs of those needing isolation recently released from the hospital or persons with safety concerns related to gender selection. With this diversity in mind, below is an overview of a variety of types of sleeping accommodations used in this project. Each are detailed in the sections below. Enclosures noted for cats also accommodate small critters.

## Types of sleeping quarters and their intended users

Type	Intended users	Suitable for animals	Person occupancy	Restroom access	Degree of privacy (1-10)
 <p><i>Bi-level group</i></p>	Families and familiar groups	Dogs and cats with removal of lower closet	4	Needs nearby restroom	5
 <p><i>Single pod group</i></p>	Single persons who desire communal contact	Not suitable for animals	1 per pod	Needs nearby restroom	4
 <p><i>Single pod-animal</i></p>	Single persons with one or two animals (cats)	Dog or cat	1 per pod	Needs nearby restroom	7

<b>Type</b>	<b>Intended users</b>	<b>Suitable for animals</b>	<b>Person occupancy</b>	<b>Restroom access</b>	<b>Degree of privacy (1-10)</b>
 <i>Group pod-animal</i>	Families and familiar groups	Dogs and cats	6	Needs nearby restroom	7
 <i>Single flex apartment</i>	Single persons including accessibility needs, health isolation and gender concerns	Dog or cat	1	Accessible restroom in apartment	10
 <i>Couple flex apartment</i>	Couples or parent with 1 child	Dog or cat	2	Accessible restroom in apartment	10

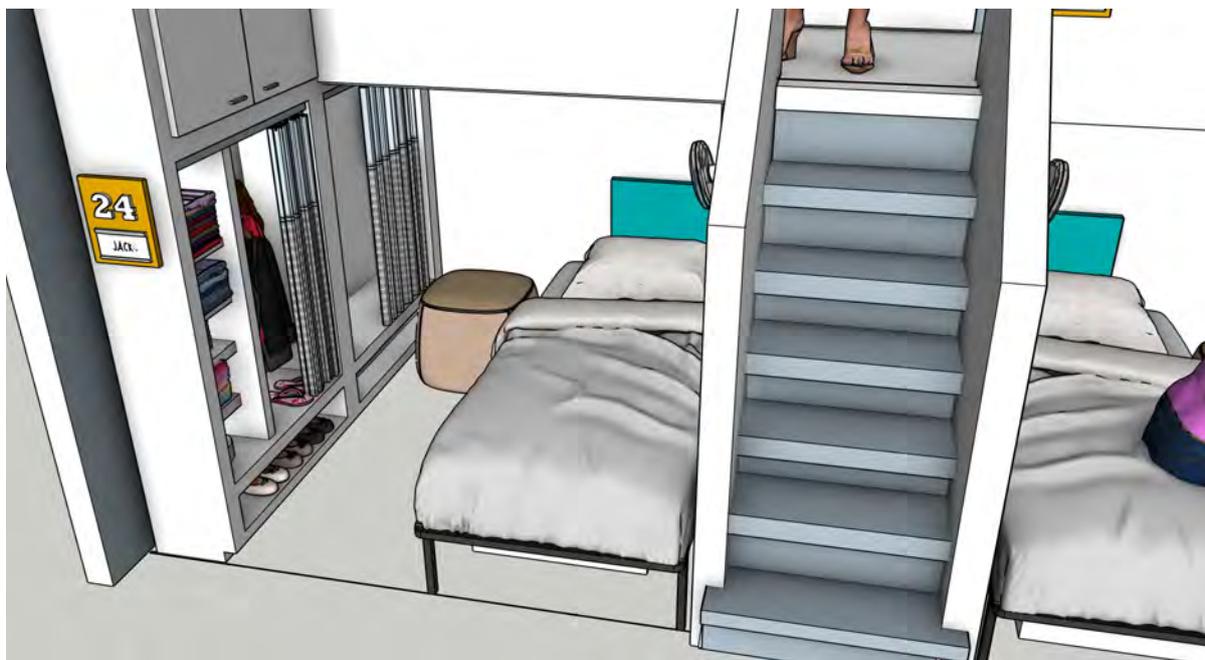
# Sleeping spaces in detail

## 1 Bi-Level Group Pod

The bi-level group pod leverages tall ceiling spaces that some shelters have. This style is intended for familiar groups such as families or friends and accommodate 4 people. Further options allow the addition of 1 or 2 dogs or cats/other critters in the lower level areas. This design provides each person their own niche for a sense of territoriality and ownership. This design provides auditory and visual connection to other nearby pods of this design, which may be comfortable for people who have experienced violence in the past and want the assurance of persons in similar circumstances nearby.



*The bi-level group pod uses vertical ceiling height to advantage. All residents share storage on the first level while upper beds have storage underneath the bed platforms.*



*The storage has permeable curtains to allow the free flow of ventilation to reduce odors.*



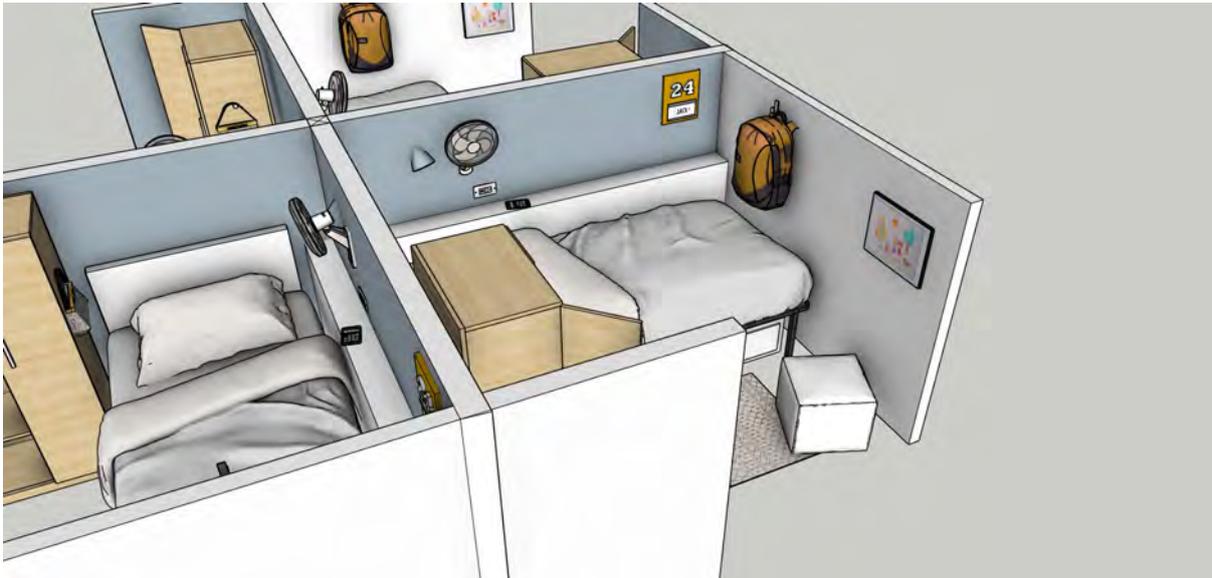
*This option shows the optional placement of a dog crate in the downstairs area. A cat/other critter enclosure would also be possible here.*

## 2 Single Pod Group

The single pod group uses floor space economically while providing a modest level of privacy and personal space for four single persons. The partial height walls are high enough to provide visual privacy but low enough so that residents know others of similar background are nearby, which can be comforting for people who have experienced past violence. This plan does not provide sufficient privacy for changing one's clothes, which would need to occur in the nearby group bathrooms.



*The single pod group provides personal storage, an ottoman for a visitor and an open doorway for staff bed checks.*



*A shelf for devices and personal belongings along with hooks and changeable art frame help the resident feel empowered in their space.*



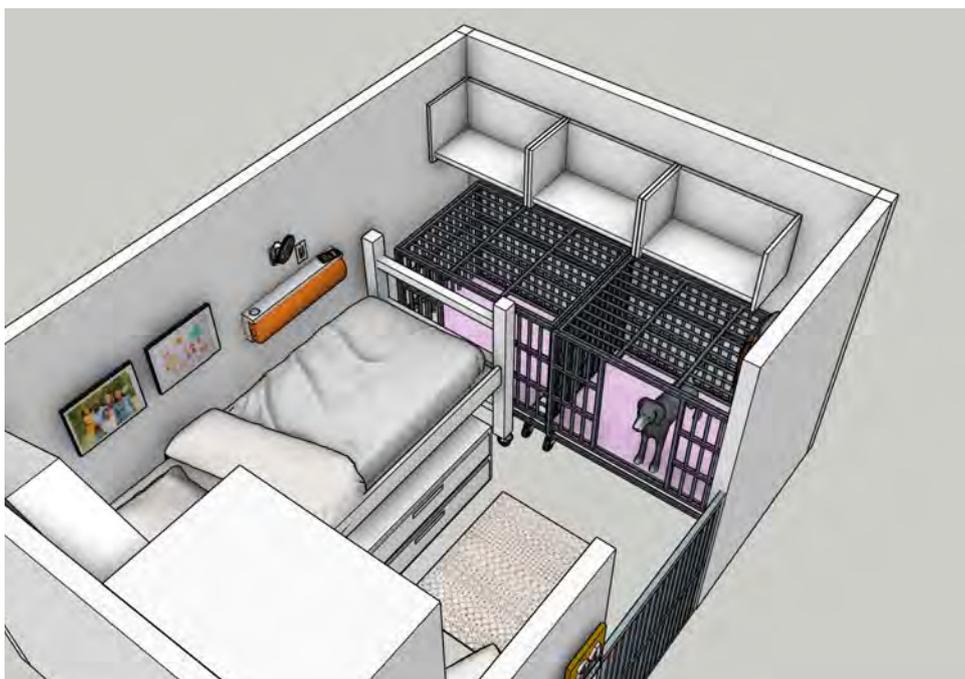
*The single pod group can also be reconfigured for a dog, cat or small critter by adding the animal containment unit and/or the swing gate. A slightly larger version of this can be seen in Type 3 below.*

## 3 Single Pod with Animal

The single pod with animal sleeping pod provides a roomier resident-with-animal option than Type 2 above. It preserves a fuller range of human storage, plus provides a chair for reading. These pods could be ganged together or used singly. A 6-foot wall height provides more privacy than Type 2 while permitting conversations with other nearby residents.



*The single pod with animal type showing the cat/other critter tower option. Storage for animal supplies is below. The swing gate is functional only for dogs and non-climbing/jumping cats and other animals.*

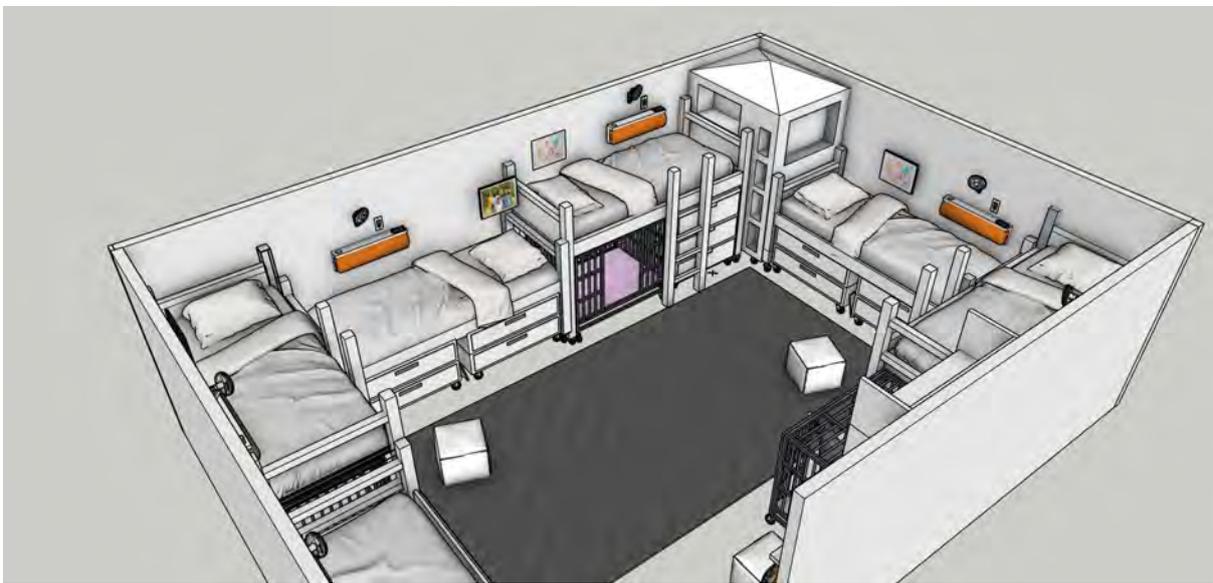
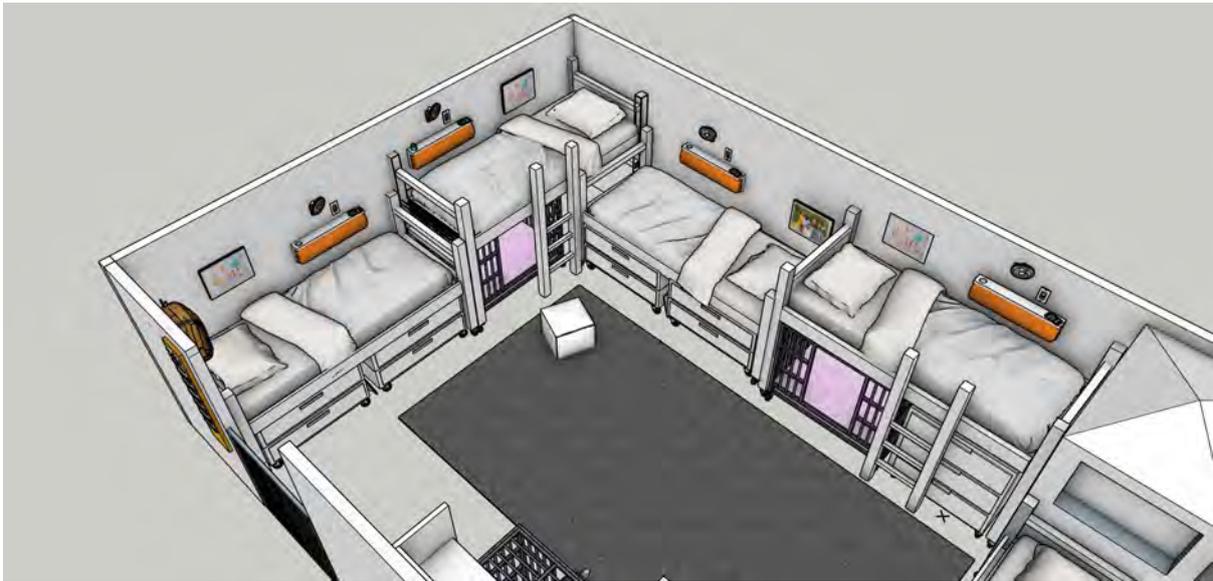


*The single pod with animal type showing the dog crate option. Two crates with a passage between can provide more room for a contained dog. Note that this dual-crate option is best for a small dog or a puppy.*

## 4 Group Pod with Animals

The group pod with animals provides familiar groups or people or families the opportunity to stay together in a shelter. Up to six people and three separately contained animals can be accommodated (and a cat/other critter tower is another option). The beds are staggered in height to preserve a sense of privacy and controlled visual sightlines. Child accommodations such as pack 'n play cribs and spaces for strollers are options here.

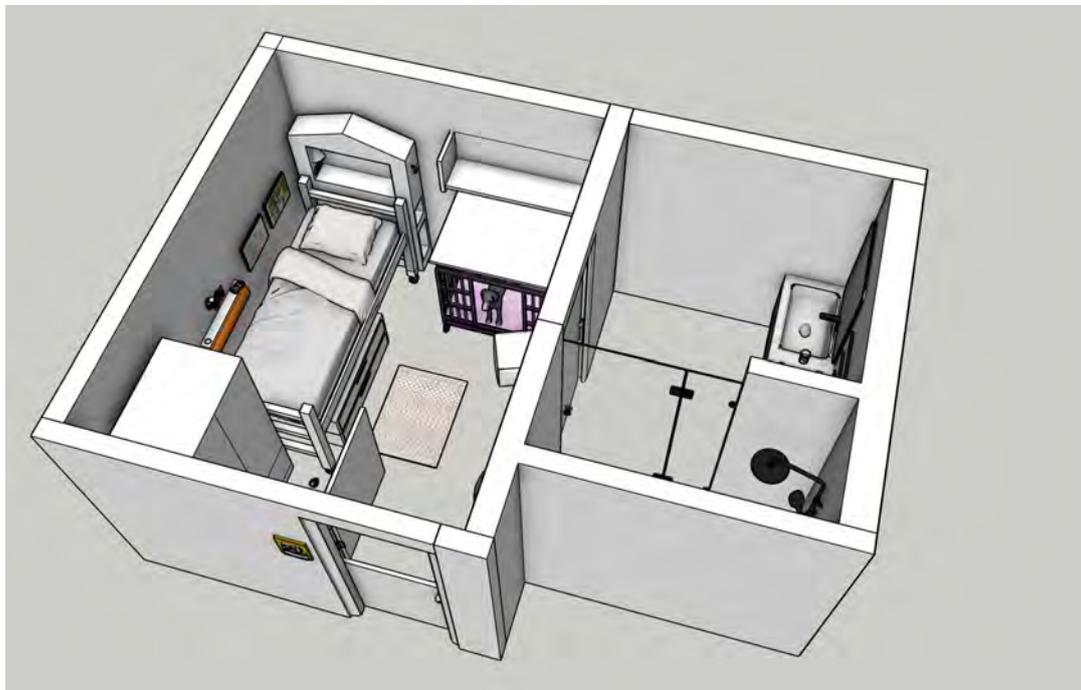


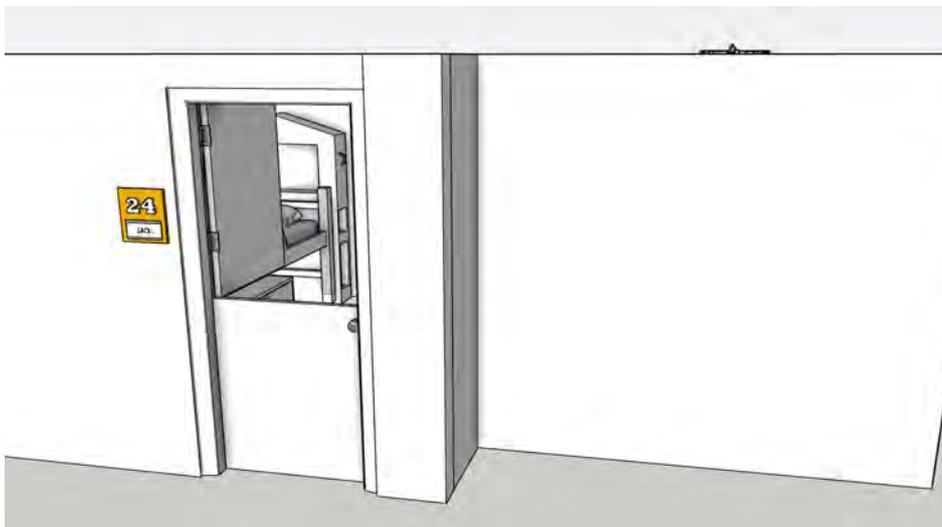


*The group pod with animals type provides move-around room for six people and three separately contained animals. A cat/other critter tower is another option. A mirror and 'drop zone' for keys and backpacks at the entrance supports daily functions.*

## 5 Single Flex Apartment

The single flex apartment is a fully walled/private space for a single person who requires visual and acoustical separation from others nearby. An animal (dog, cat or other critter) can also be housed here. This could include persons needing medical isolation, full accessibility, for behaviorally challenged persons, or persons with gender identities that would benefit from privacy and a dedicated bathroom.



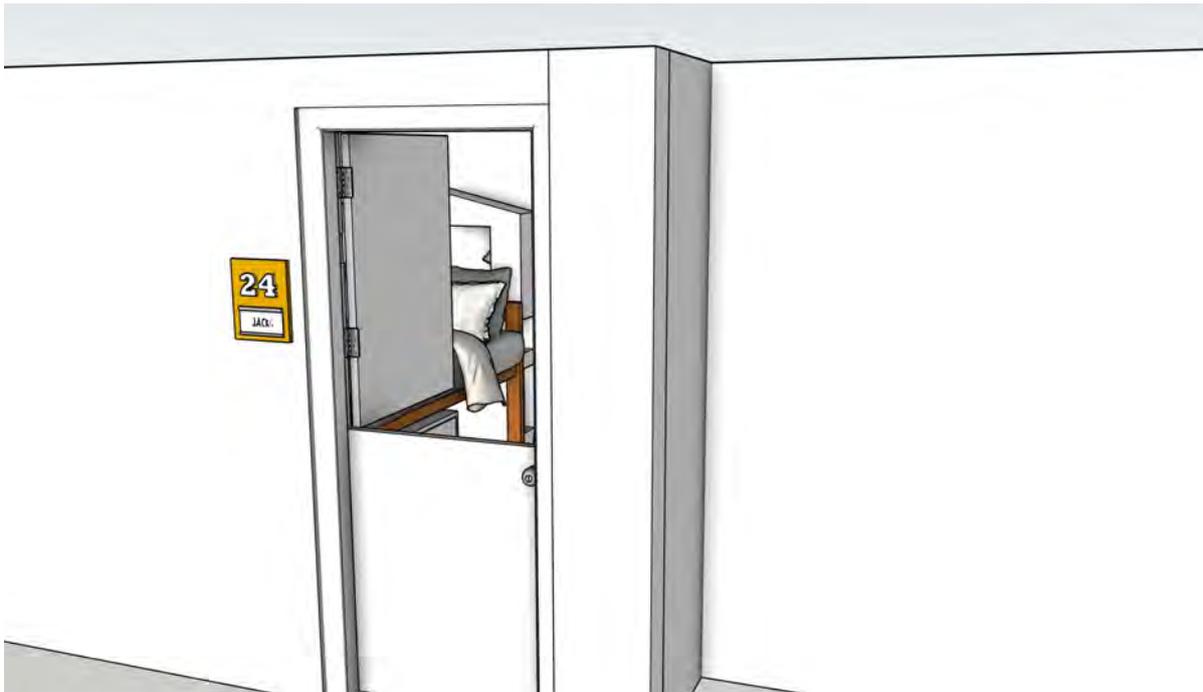


*This fully accessible, private apartment has a dutch door to provide a measure of visual access for chance meetings with neighbors or staff checks while still providing animal containment.*

## 6 Couple Flex Apartment

The couple flex apartment is a fully walled/private and accessible space for a two people that benefit from visual and acoustical separation from others. This unit can accommodate two relationship partners, or an adult with a child. An animal (dog, cat or other critter) can also be housed here.





*This fully accessible, private apartment has a dutch door to provide a measure of visual access for neighbor chance meetings or staff checks. The unit above shows the option for one cat or one to two small critters. A dog crate is another option.*

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## Men's sleeping area

This report provides a description of the men's sleeping areas. As the only private space in a shelter, sleeping spaces can help support privacy and identity objectives in powerful, tangible ways through visual sightline protections, acoustical separations, and opportunities for expressing oneself to others.

Three different 'neighborhoods' are present in this plan to permit the separation of 1. Men with animals and/or children; 2. Single men without animals; and 3. Men with special needs such as post-hospitalization situations, sickness, or men at risk of being scrutinized by others.

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# Objectives and goals

These sleeping types prioritize fundamental human needs in their design. Many of them also support the experience of companion animals too:

**Privacy:** ability for people to feel they are separate from others to be themselves. The degree of privacy varies in the sleeping types, as some people may require more staff support than others.

The ability for people with animals to be separated from people without them, and also children from single men.

The separation of dogs from cats to the degree possible with sightlines, noises and smells.

**Individual control:** ability for people to control their immediate surroundings in ways such as ventilation, lighting, and desire to accept visitors at any given time.

**Dignity and self-esteem:** ability for people to retain their sense of self as a fully formed human being capable of interacting with others and deserving of others' respect

**Community:** ability for people to build relationships with others in a way that is comfortable for them.

**Safety:** ability for people to know they are physically safe, as are their children, animals and possessions whether they are present or not. A part of this is the known presence of supportive staff members available to the three neighborhoods.

**Stress management:** ability for people to relax and take a break from being 'on guard' for experiences they cannot control. The presence of staff with sightlines and ease of accessing various areas is also a means of stress reduction for residents.

**Beauty and order:** ability for people to manage and store their possessions in an orderly way, assist their children and animals, and be in the presence of meaningful expressed experiences such as art, photos or other mementos.

# The overall plan

The men's suite has a shared lounge that diverges into four separate neighborhoods to accommodate the distinct needs of men, men with children, men with children and/or animals, and men with special needs.

## Men with children and/or support animals

Total occupancy: 20  
 (4) Single pods for 1 person/1 animals  
 (2) Pods for 6 persons/4 animals

## Single men without support animals

Total occupancy: 11  
 (11) Single pods

## Single men with special needs

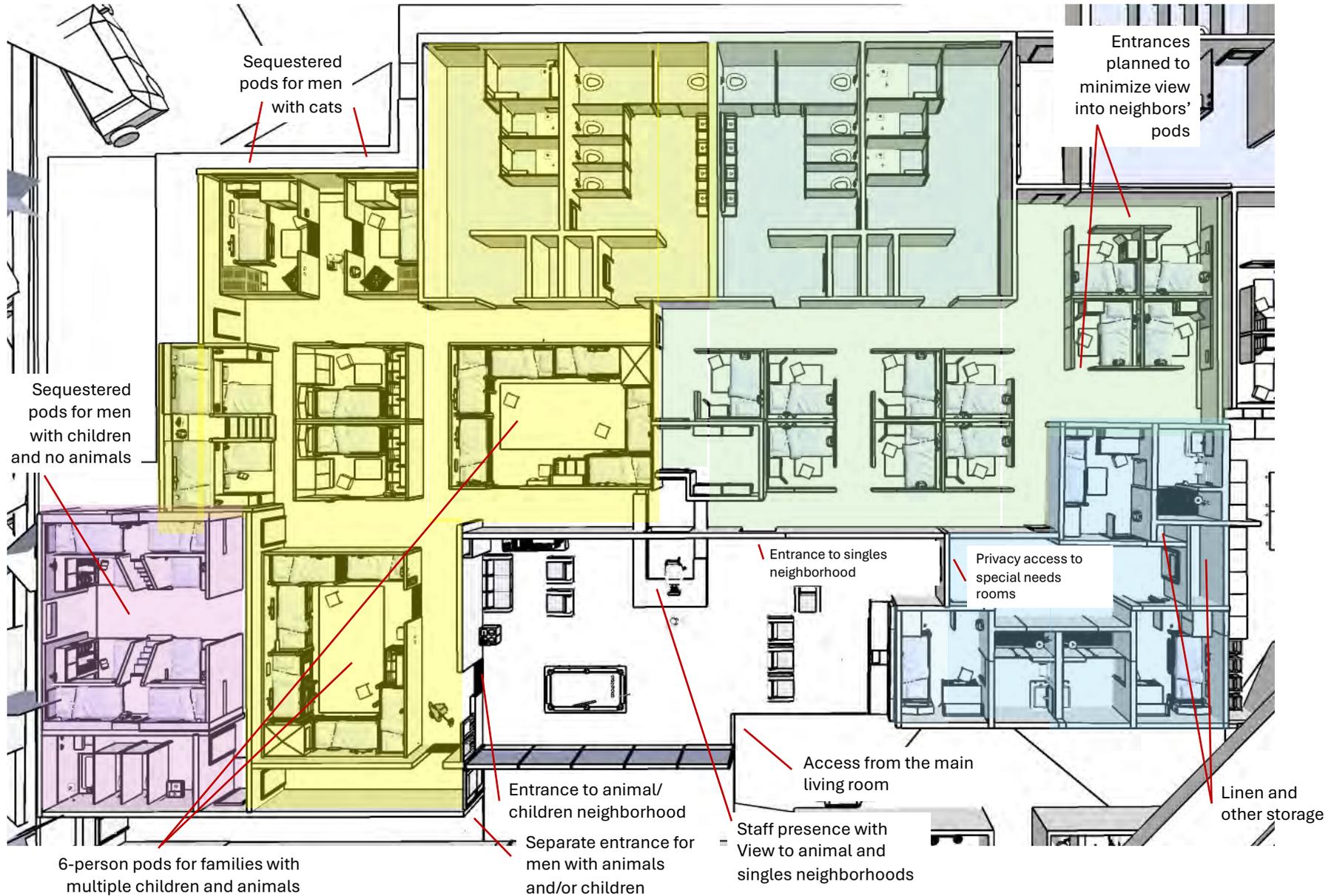
Total occupancy: 3  
 Post-hospitalization, isolation, at risk for ridicule

## Men with children

Total occupancy: 8  
 (2) Pods for 4 persons



# Features of the plan



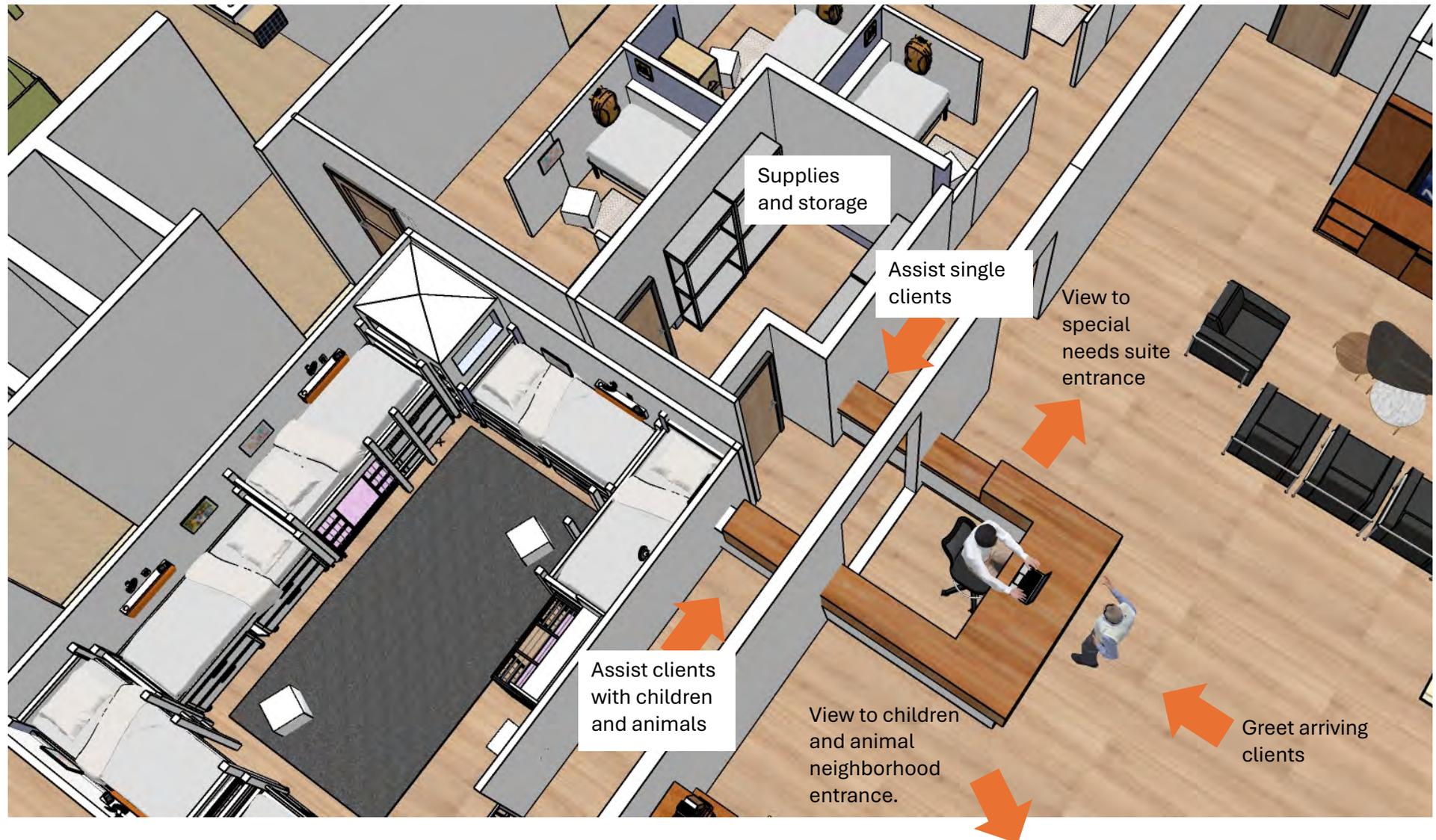
## The men's lounge

The lounge is the buffer space between the shelter's community living room and the sleeping spaces. This permits staff to monitor the men's sleeping area. Conversation and game spaces make this lounge a positive space to relax specific to men.



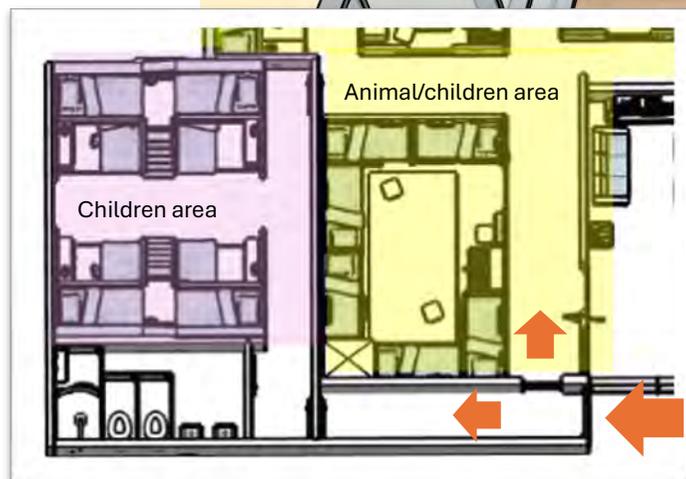
## Staff presence: the reception desk

The staff desk has visual, auditory and physical proximity to all three neighborhoods for a positive sense of monitoring. Connection with multiple neighborhoods may minimize necessary staffing. Walk-up desks are convenient for residents after hours.



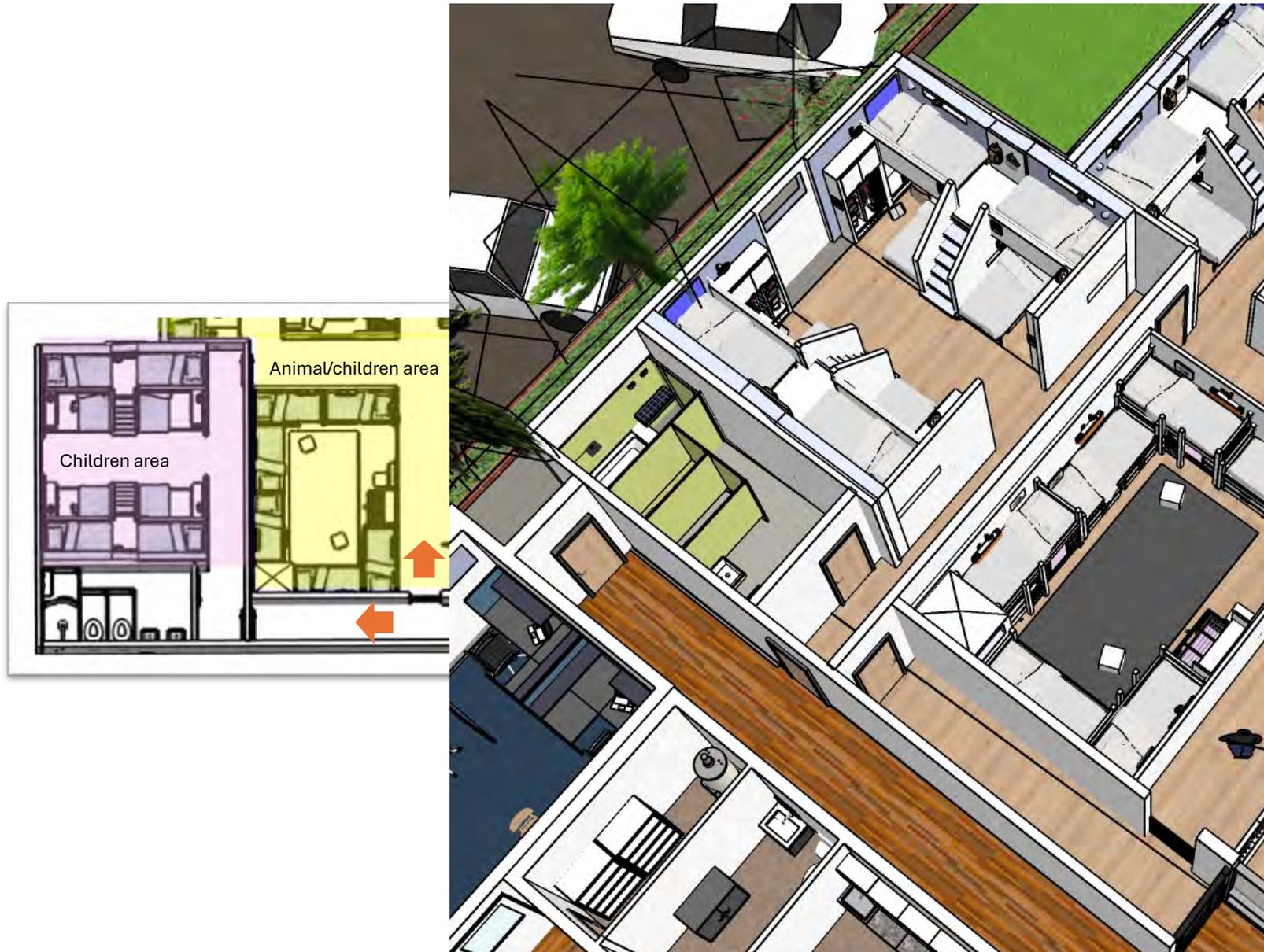
## The animal/children neighborhood entrance

There is a separate entrance to the space for men with children and men with children and/or animals visible from the reception desk. This helps manage concerns about the presence of animals from the general population and also keeps men with children separate from the other groups.



# The men with children only neighborhood

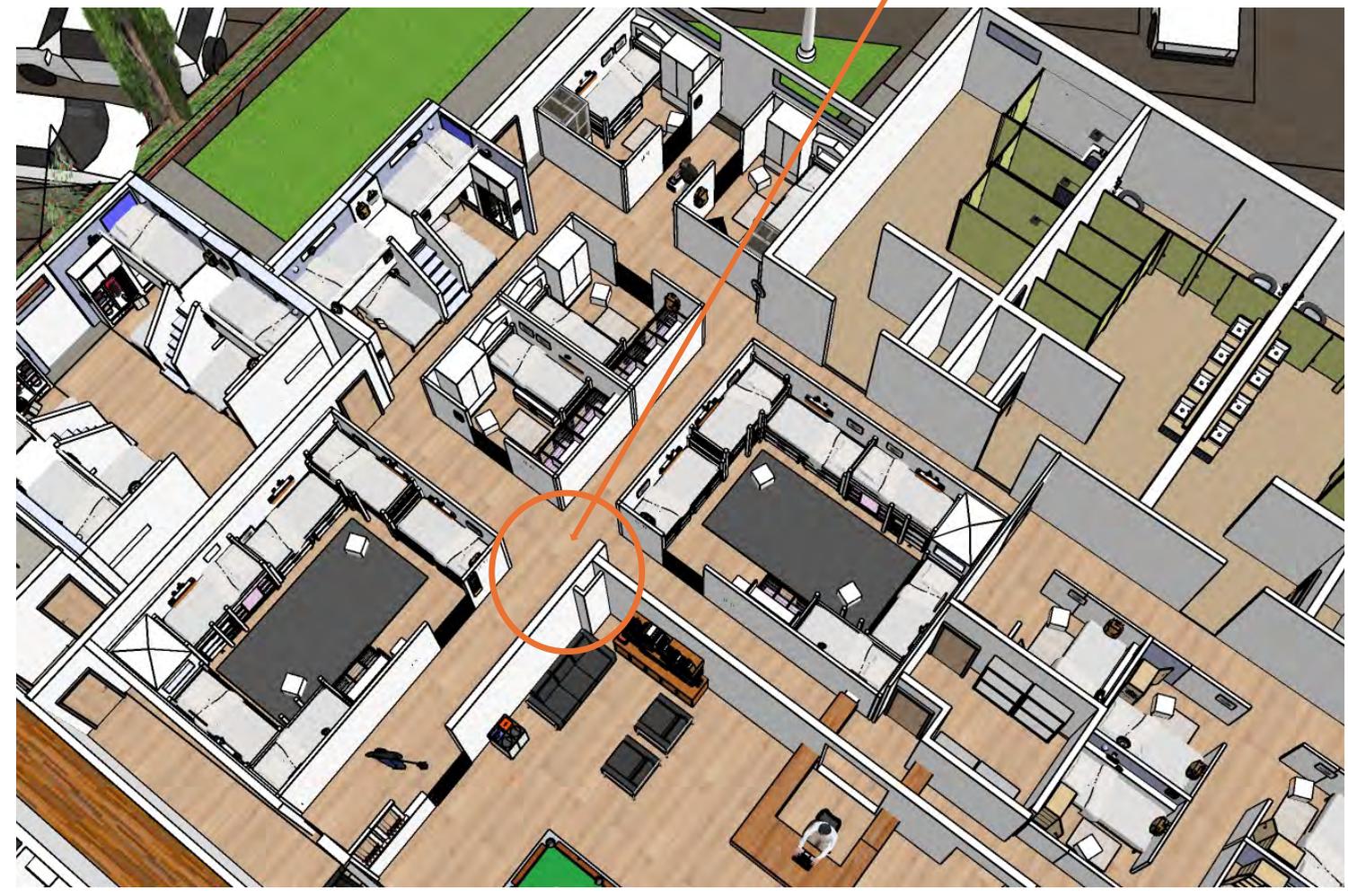
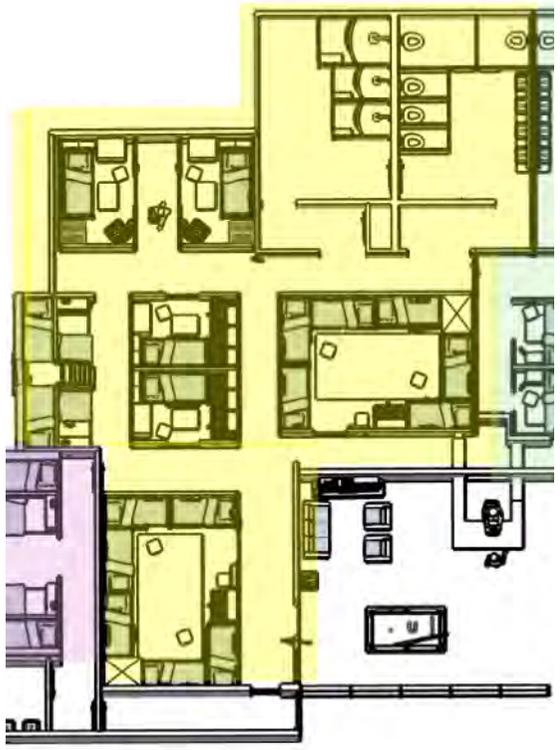
Recognizing that some children with a male parent will not be comfortable with animals, this small neighborhood minimizes contact with other men and their furred companions through its placement. This has its own dedicated bathroom.



# The animal/children neighborhood

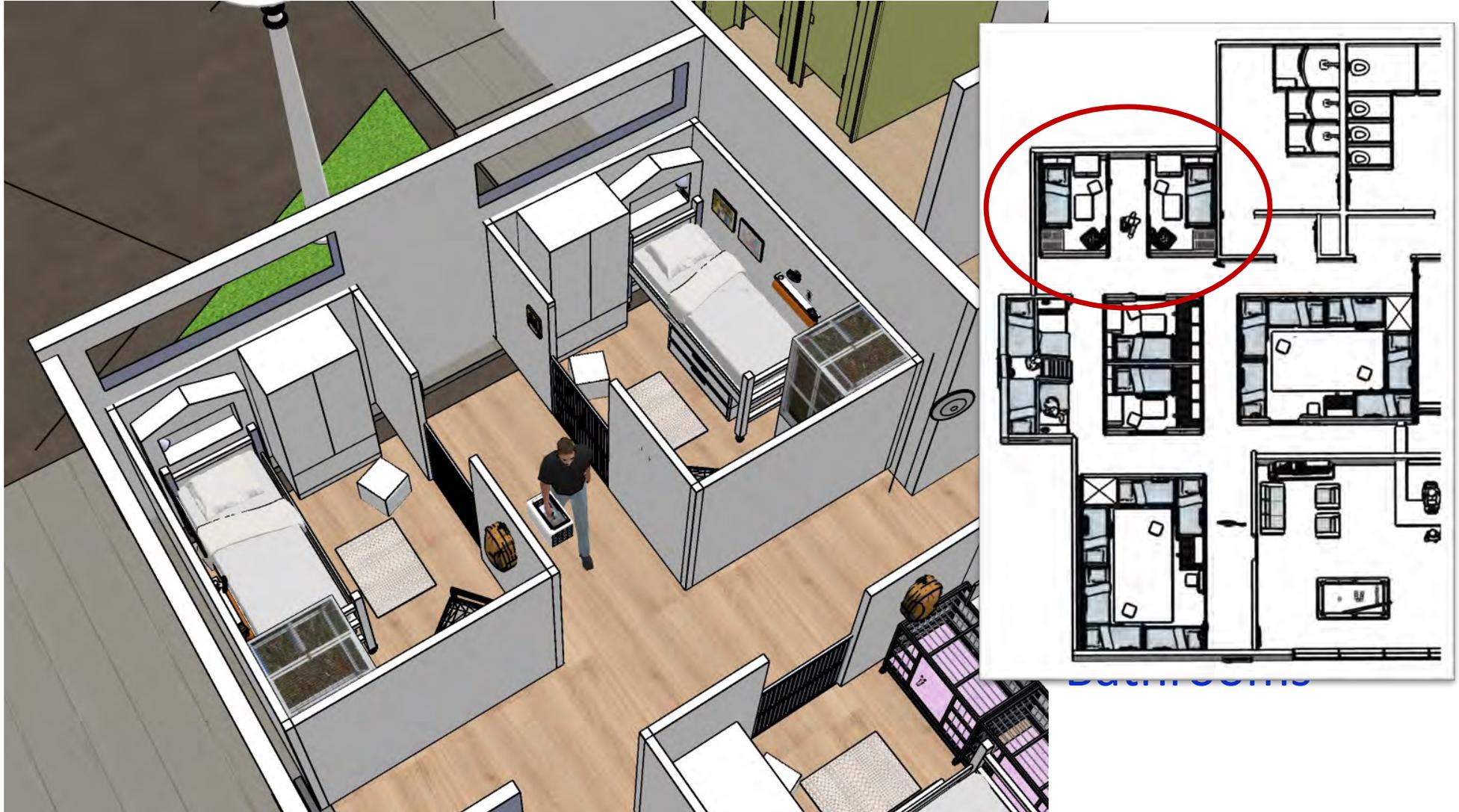
The animal/children neighborhood accommodates a total of 20 people and 12 animals. Sightlines into the pods are controlled to minimize animal interaction. Pods accommodate 1, 4, or 6 people for a variety of group sizes. The animal/children neighborhood has its own, separate shared bathroom so that the neighborhood groups can be separated for this amenity.

The corridor leading to the animal/children neighborhood provides a place for obtaining and depositing animal waste bags. It is stocked with spray and paper towels and serves as a pickup area for animal toys and food puzzles.

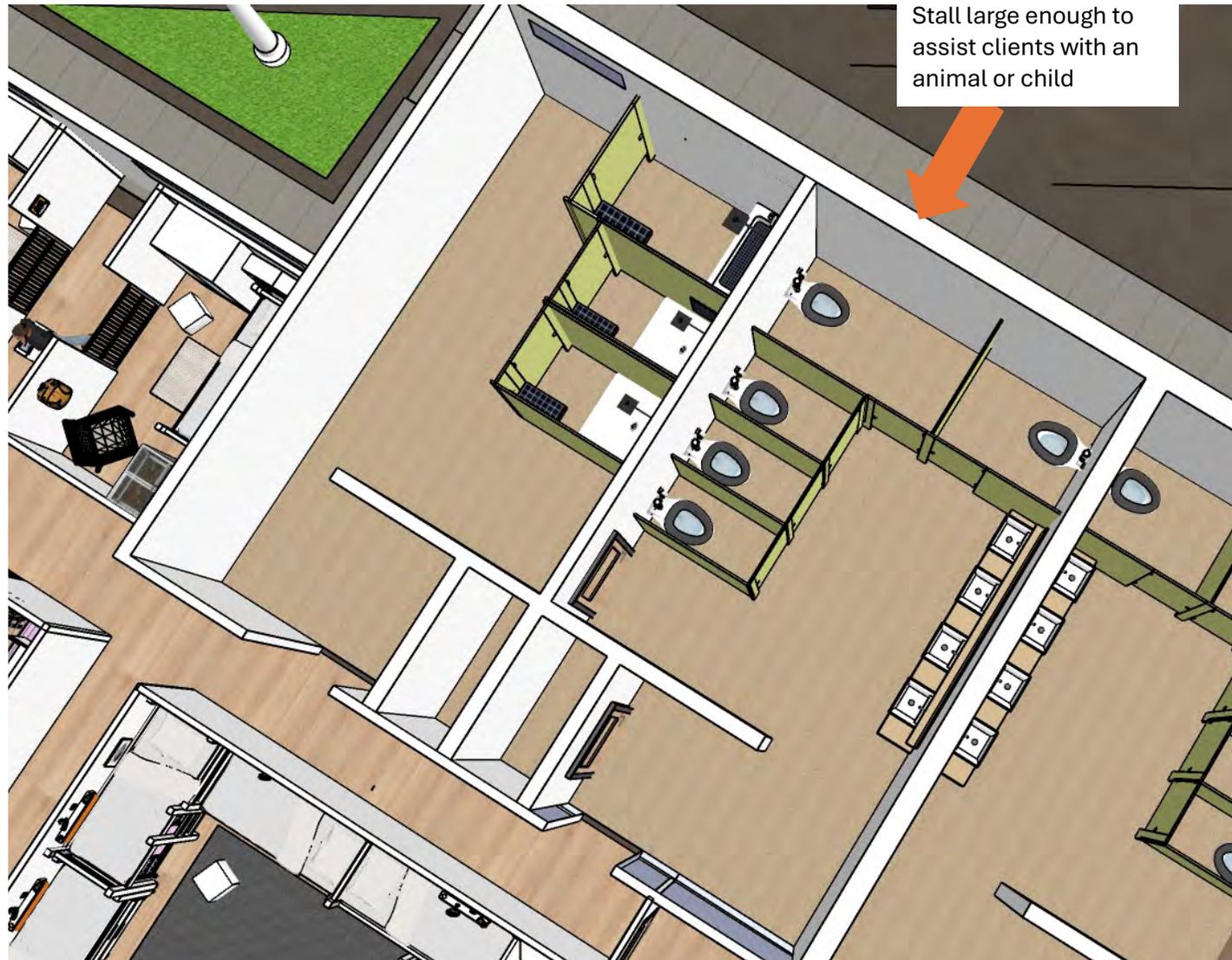


## Pods for cats

Two single pods in the rear of the neighborhood offer a more quiet area for men with cats. These pods do not have visual access to the other pods.



## Bathrooms



The animal/children and single men neighborhoods both have their own separate, shared bathrooms. As bathrooms can be a place of vulnerability for people, there are two entrances to the shower spaces to provide choice and avoiding others if desired. Two of the toilet stalls are large enough to permit a client with their animal or child inside with them.

# Single men's neighborhood



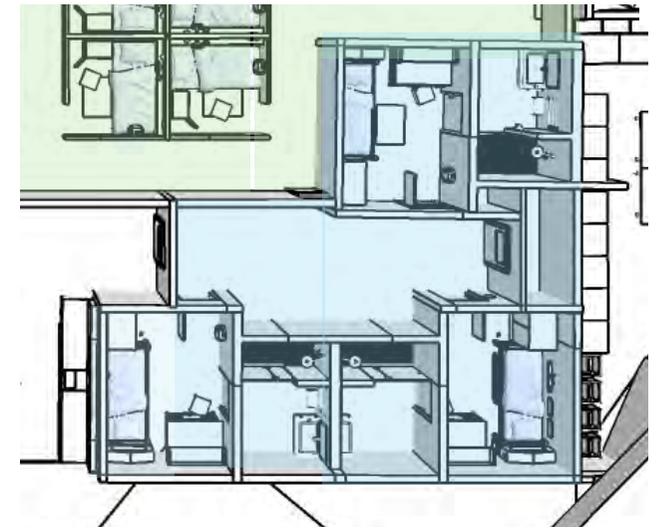
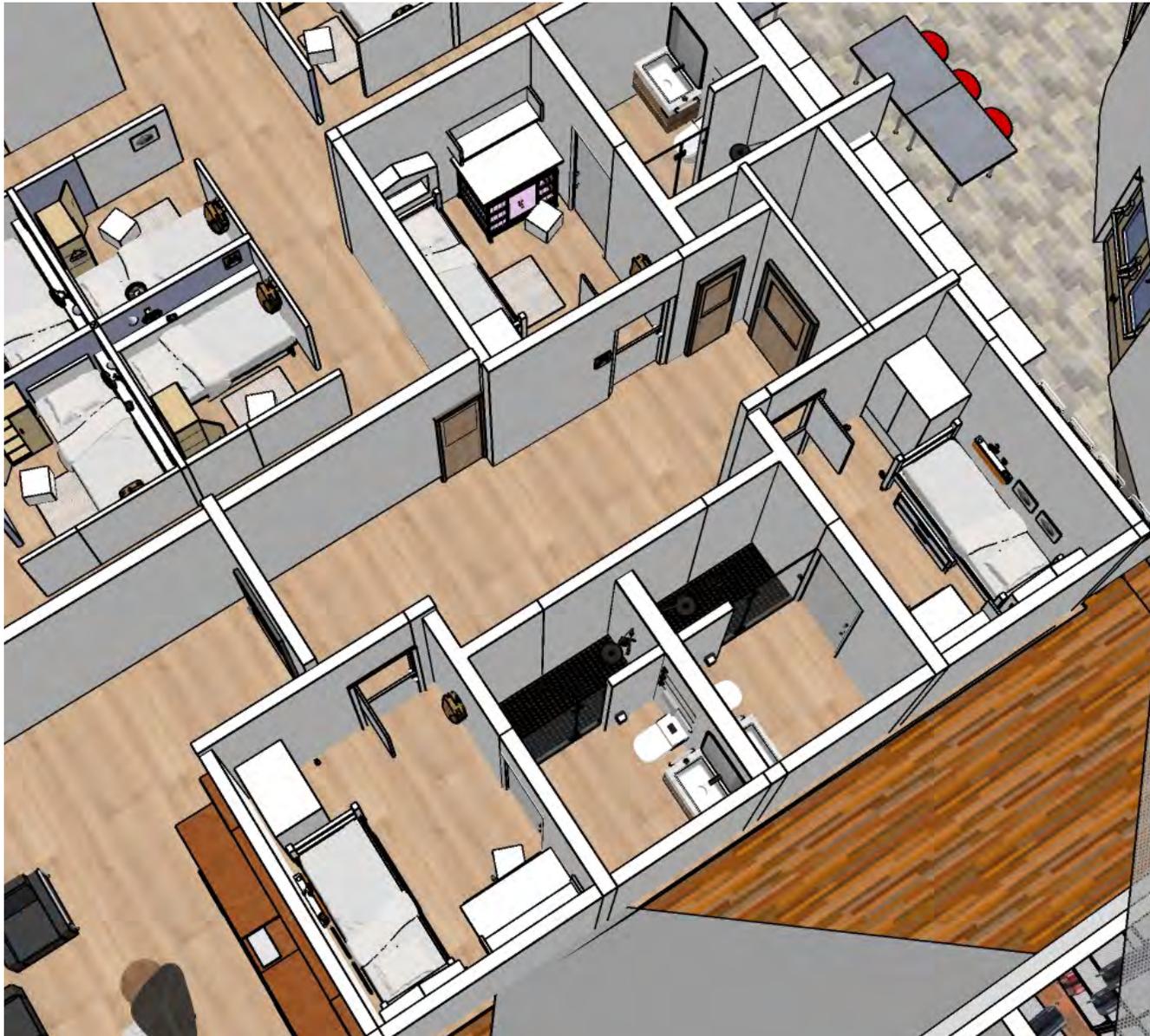
The single men's neighborhood accommodates 11 clients. Building codes require two exits from this area for fire safety. The one to the rear is a fire alarm-armed door so that staff can monitor the arrival and departure of clients from the front.

# Single men's neighborhood

The single men's pods each accommodate one client. Entrances and also views to the beds in these pods are planned to minimize visual intrusion.



## Special needs neighborhood



The special needs neighborhood offers self-contained studio apartments with bathrooms. These are suitable for men needing medical isolation or may be scrutinized by others. These can also accommodate animals if desired. Dutch doors support a sense of friendship. These have a separate entrance and secured corridor with staff sightline for a sense of security.

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## Women's sleeping area

This report provides a description of the women's sleeping areas. As the only private space in a shelter, sleeping spaces can help support privacy and identity objectives in powerful, tangible ways through visual sightline protections, acoustical separations, and opportunities for expressing oneself to others.

Three different 'neighborhoods' are present in this plan to permit the separation of 1. Women with animals and/or children; 2. Single women without animals; and 3. Women with special needs such as post-hospitalization situations, sickness, or women at risk of being scrutinized by others. The co-sleeping neighborhood for couples is also located nearby.

For further details on the sleeping pod and apartment designs, see the section on sleeping units.

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# Objectives and goals

These sleeping types prioritize fundamental human needs in their design. Many of them also support the experience of companion animals too:

**Privacy:** ability for people to feel they are separate from others to be themselves. The degree of privacy varies in the sleeping types, as some people may require more staff support than others.

The ability for people with animals to be separated from people without them, and also children from single women.

The separation of dogs from cats to the degree possible with sightlines, noises and smells.

**Individual control:** ability for people to control their immediate surroundings in ways such as ventilation, lighting, and desire to accept visitors at any given time.

**Dignity and self-esteem:** ability for people to retain their sense of self as a fully formed human being capable of interacting with others and deserving of others' respect

**Community:** ability for people to build relationships with others in a way that is comfortable for them.

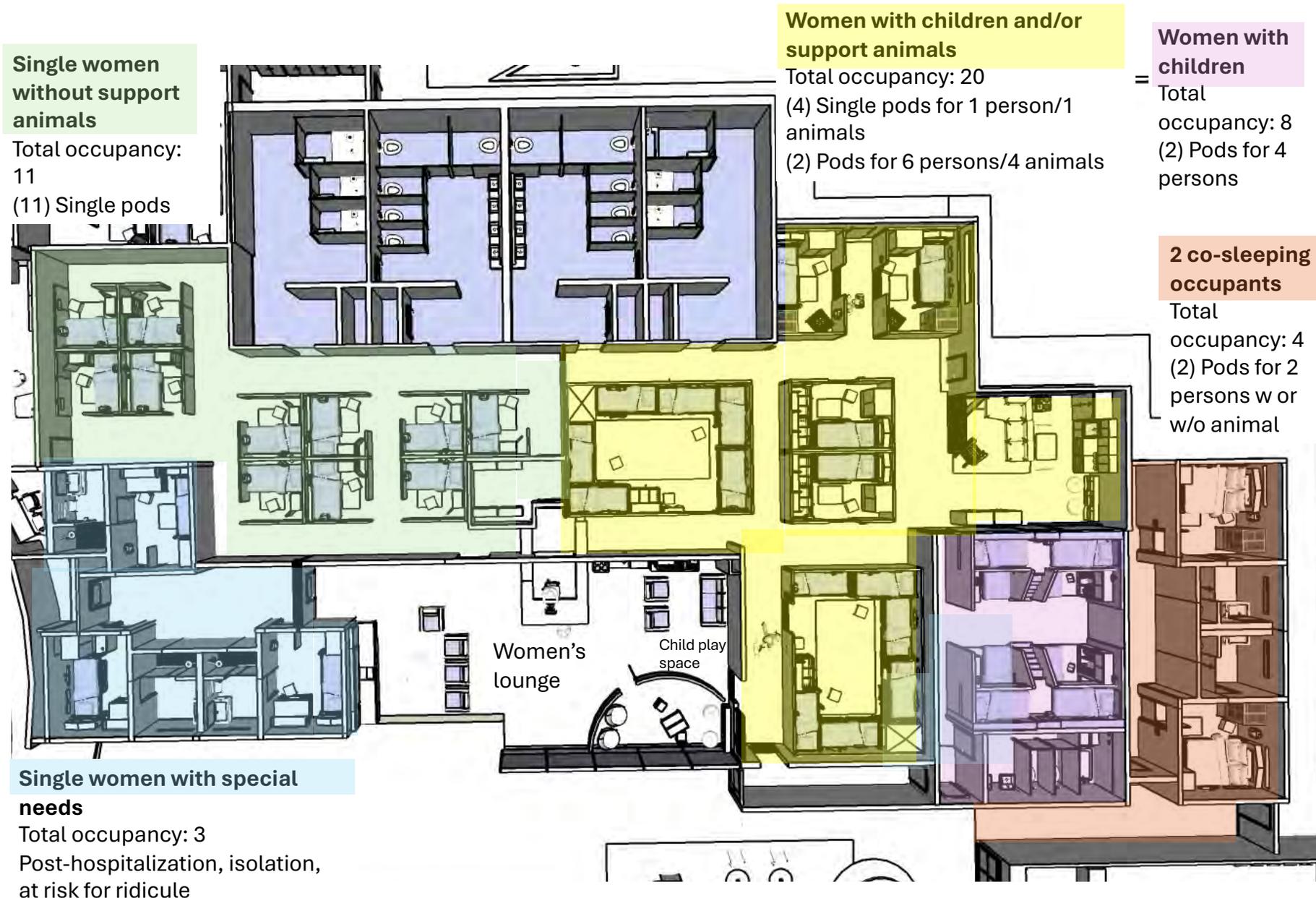
**Safety:** ability for people to know they are physically safe, as are their children, animals and possessions whether they are present or not. A part of this is the known presence of supportive staff members available to the three neighborhoods.

**Stress management:** ability for people to relax and take a break from being 'on guard' for experiences they cannot control. The presence of staff with sightlines and ease of accessing various areas is also a means of stress reduction for residents.

**Beauty and order:** ability for people to manage and store their possessions in an orderly way, assist their children and animals, and be in the presence of meaningful expressed experiences such as art, photos or other mementos.

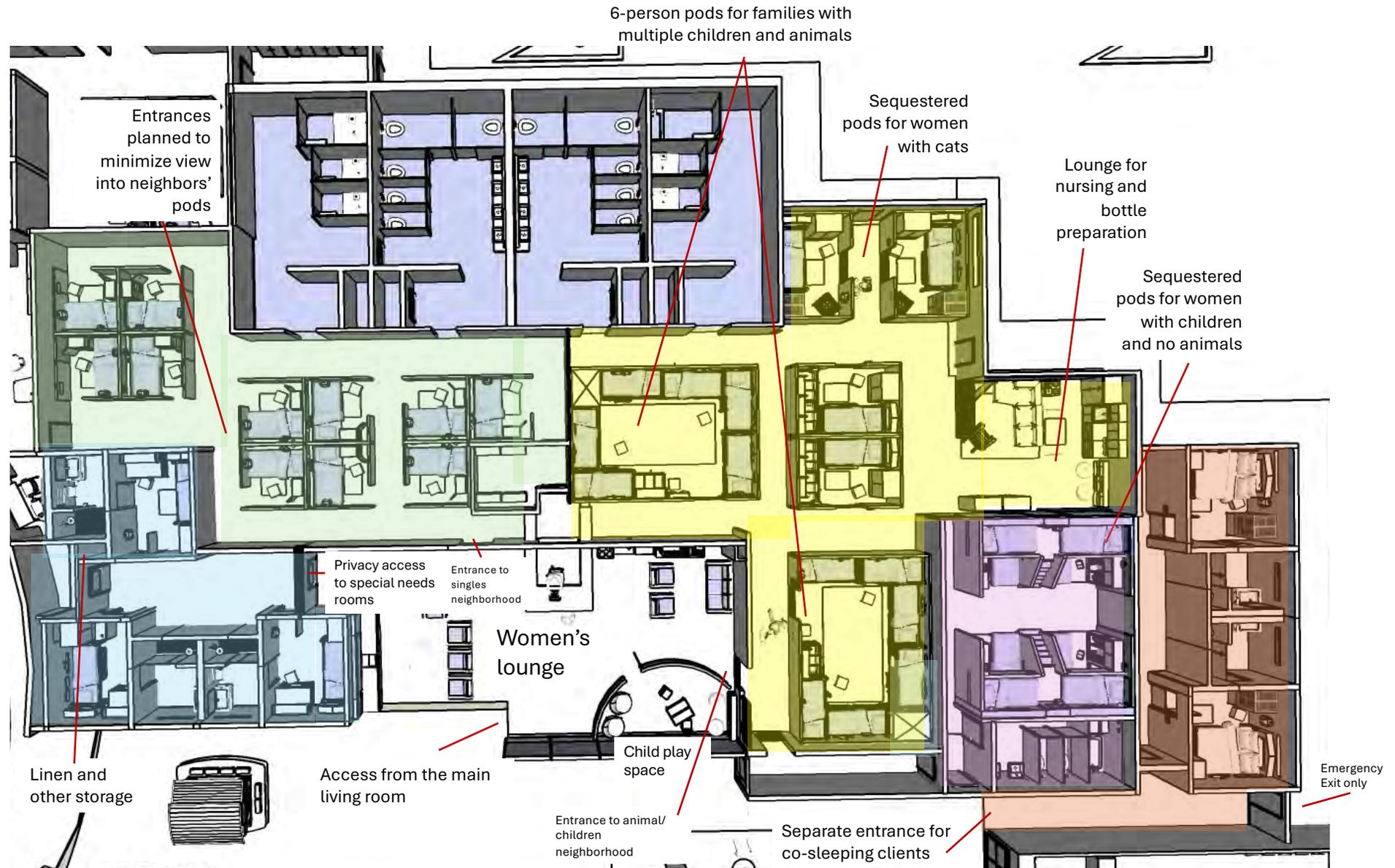
# The overall plan

The women's suite has a shared lounge that diverges into five separate neighborhoods to accommodate the distinct needs of single women, women with children, women with children and/or animals, and women with special needs. Accommodations for co-habiting couples are also located here.



# Features of the plan

Simple navigation assists the many new residents that will use this space. The neighborhoods have controlled access to support a sense of security.



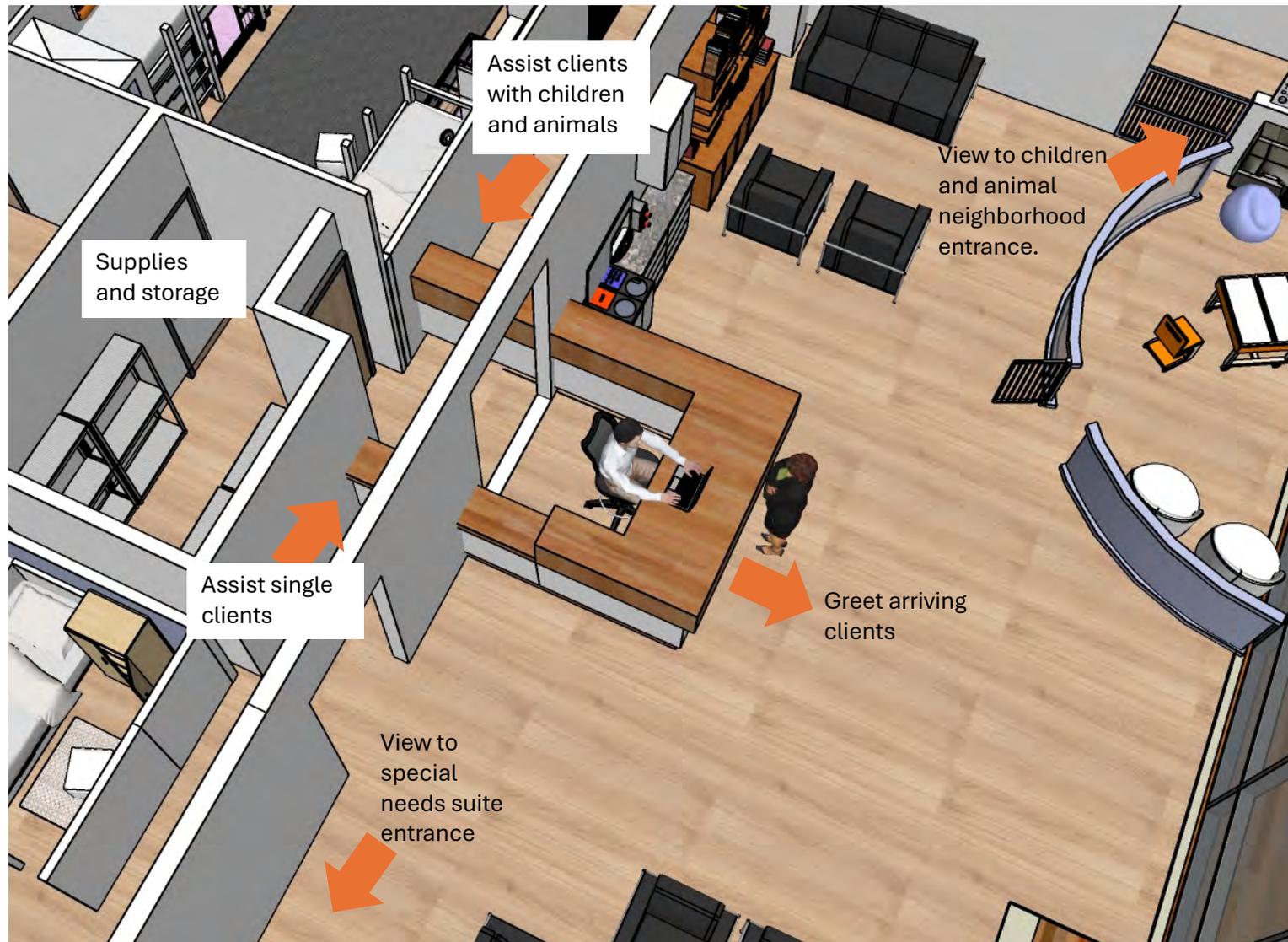
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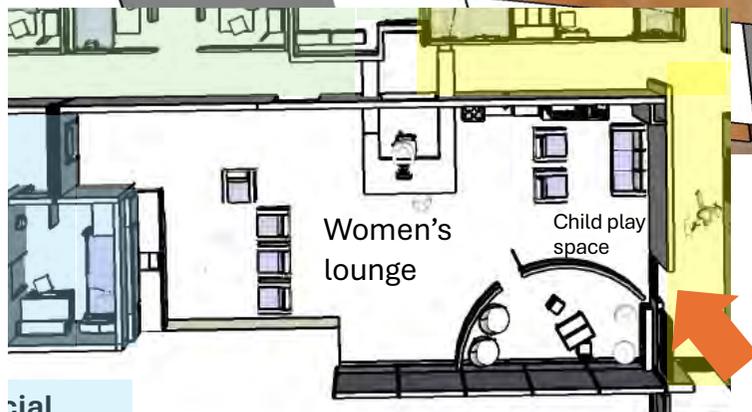
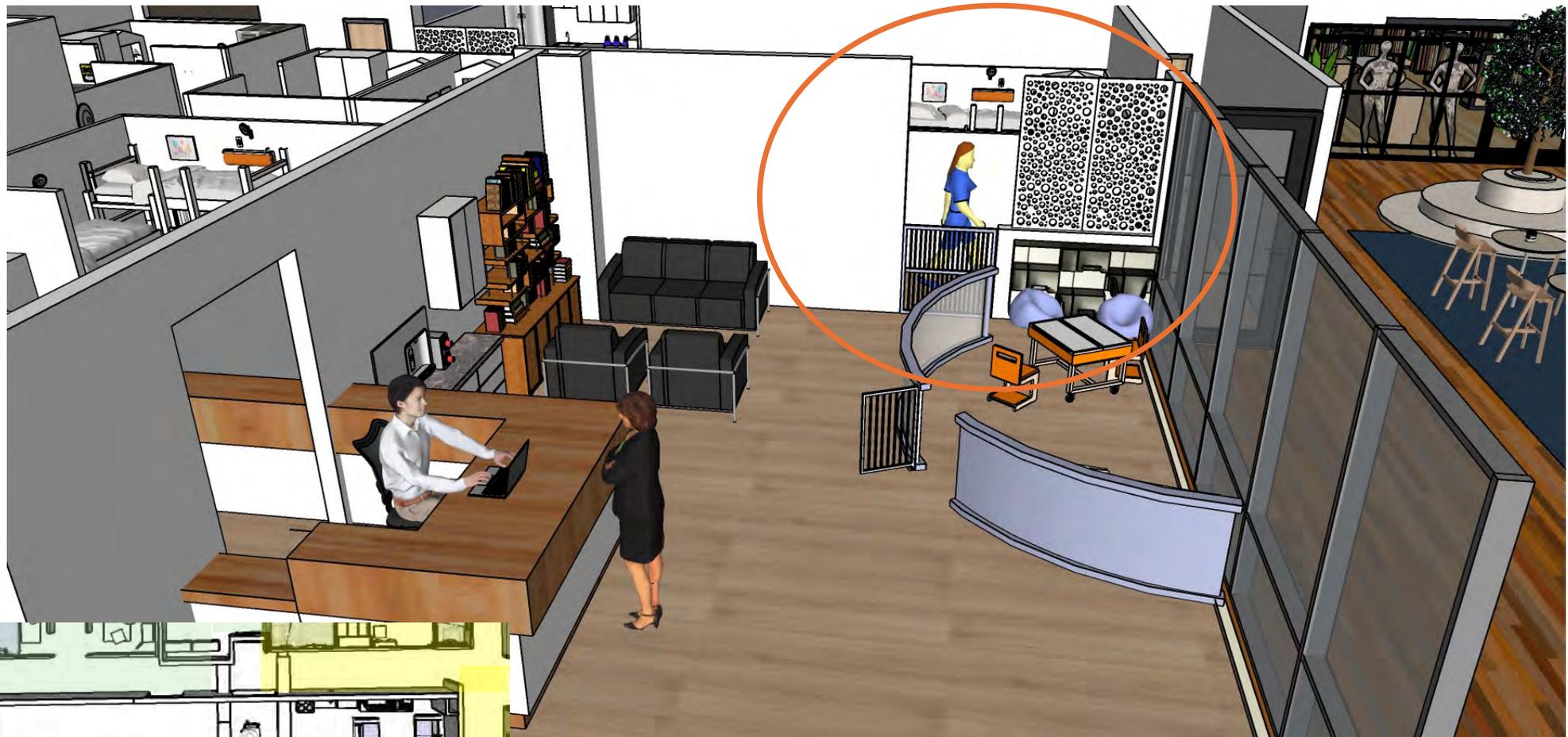
## Staff presence: the reception desk

The staff desk has visual, auditory and physical proximity to four neighborhoods for a positive sense of monitoring. Connection with multiple neighborhoods may minimize necessary staffing. Walk-up desks are convenient for residents after hours.



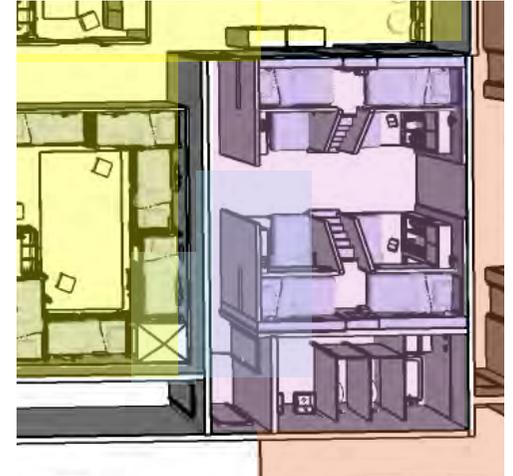
## The animal/children neighborhood entrance

There is a separate entrance to the space for women with children and women with children and/or animals visible from the reception desk. This helps manage concerns about the presence of animals from the general population and also keeps women with these additional family members separate from the other groups.



# The women with children only neighborhood

Recognizing that some children with a female parent will not be comfortable with animals, this small neighborhood minimizes contact with other women and their furred companions through its placement. This has its own dedicated bathroom with bathtub setup.



# The animal/children neighborhood

The animal/children neighborhood accommodates a total of 20 people and 12 animals. Sightlines into the pods are controlled to minimize animal interaction. Pods accommodate 1 or 6 people for a variety of group sizes. The animal/children neighborhood has its own, separate shared bathroom so that the neighborhood groups can be separated for this amenity.

The corridor leading to the animal/children neighborhood provides a place for obtaining and depositing animal waste bags. It is stocked with spray and paper towels and also serves as a pickup area for animal toys and food puzzles.



# Children/animal neighborhood living room

This inner living room serves the women in the children/animal neighborhood and also the children-only neighborhood next door. It provides a place to prepare bottles, nurse, or just hang out with children in a more private space than the shelter's main living room.



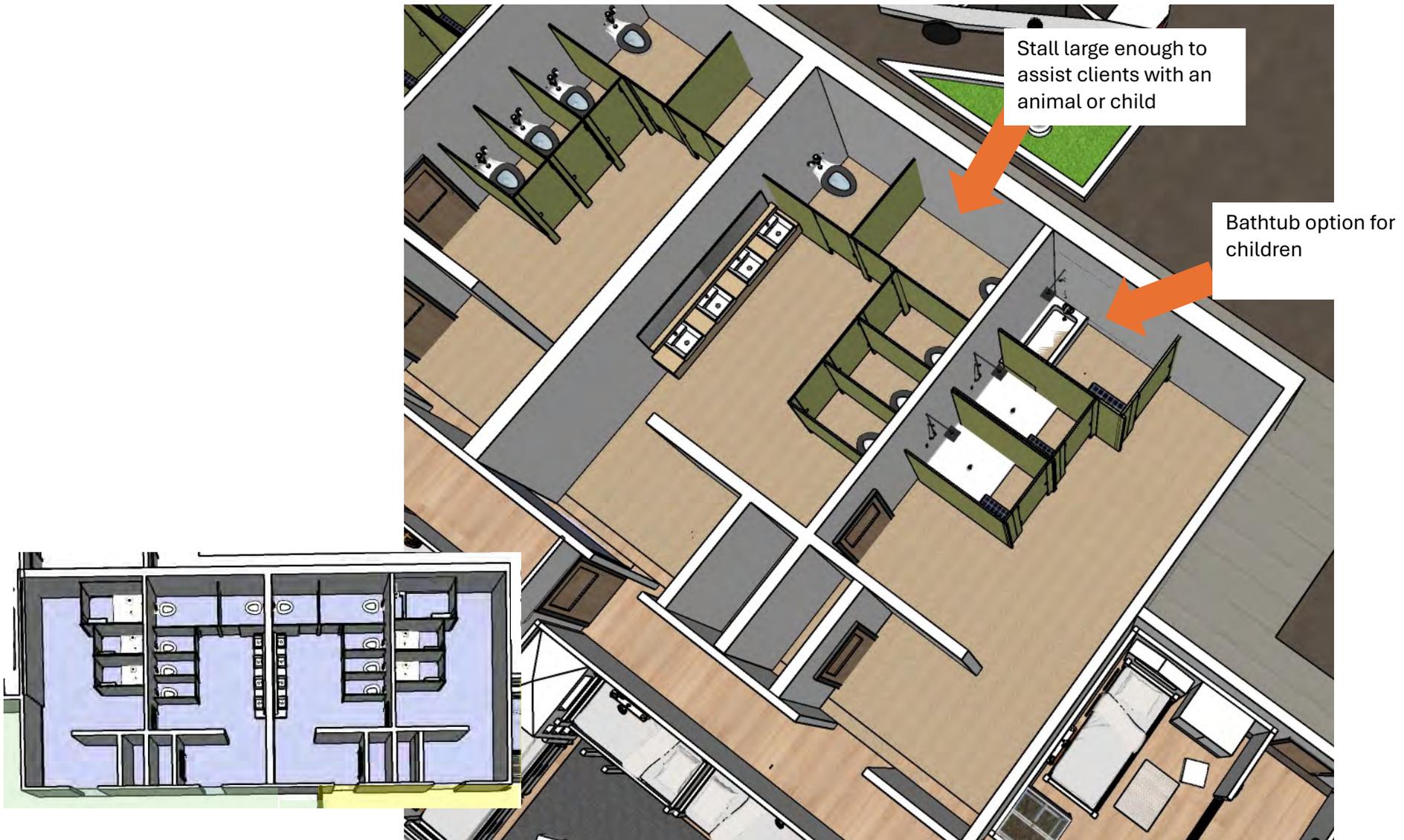
## Pods for cats

Two single pods in the rear of the neighborhood offer a more quiet area for women with cats. These pods do not have visual access to the other pods.



# Bathrooms

The animal/children and single women neighborhoods both have their own separate, shared bathrooms. As bathrooms can be a place of vulnerability for people, there are two entrances to the shower spaces to provide choice and avoiding others if desired. Two of the toilet stalls are large enough to permit a client with their animal or child inside with them.



# Single women's neighborhood

The single women's neighborhood accommodates 11 clients. Building codes require two exits from this area for fire safety. The one to the rear is a fire alarm-armed door so that staff can monitor the arrival and departure of clients from the front. The single women's pods each accommodate one client. Entrances and views to the beds in these pods are planned to minimize visual intrusion.



## Special needs neighborhood



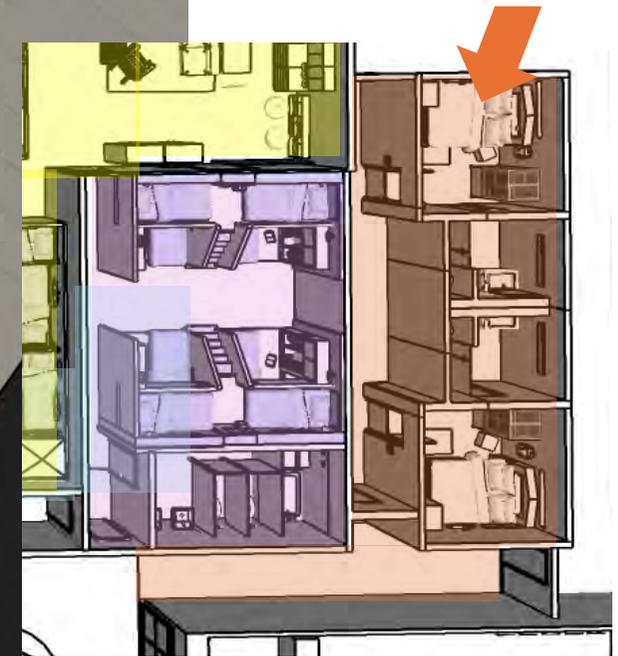
The special needs neighborhood offers self-contained studio apartments with bathrooms. These are suitable for women needing medical isolation or those who may be scrutinized by others. These can also accommodate animals if desired. Dutch doors support a sense of friendship. These have a separate entrance and secured corridor with staff sightline for a sense of security.



## Co-sleeping neighborhood



This neighborhood permits people that co-habitate and sleep together the opportunity to stay together, rather than being split up according to gender. These bathroom-supported apartments could accommodate man/woman couples, same sex couples, a parent with a child or other situations. This entrance is adjacent but separate from the women's neighborhoods. Animals can also be supported in these units.



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**Education Center**  
**Clothing Closet**  
**Medical Clinic**  
**Client Laundry**  
**Flex Space**  
**Support Spaces**



# Client Amenity & Support Spaces

It is supportive and efficient to offer clients on-site services at the shelter so that they do not have to travel elsewhere for basic necessities such as clothing, medical care and training. Close proximity to these services aids their ability to be successful with their plan to exit homelessness. These amenities can also serve as an incentive for clients to engage with the shelter.

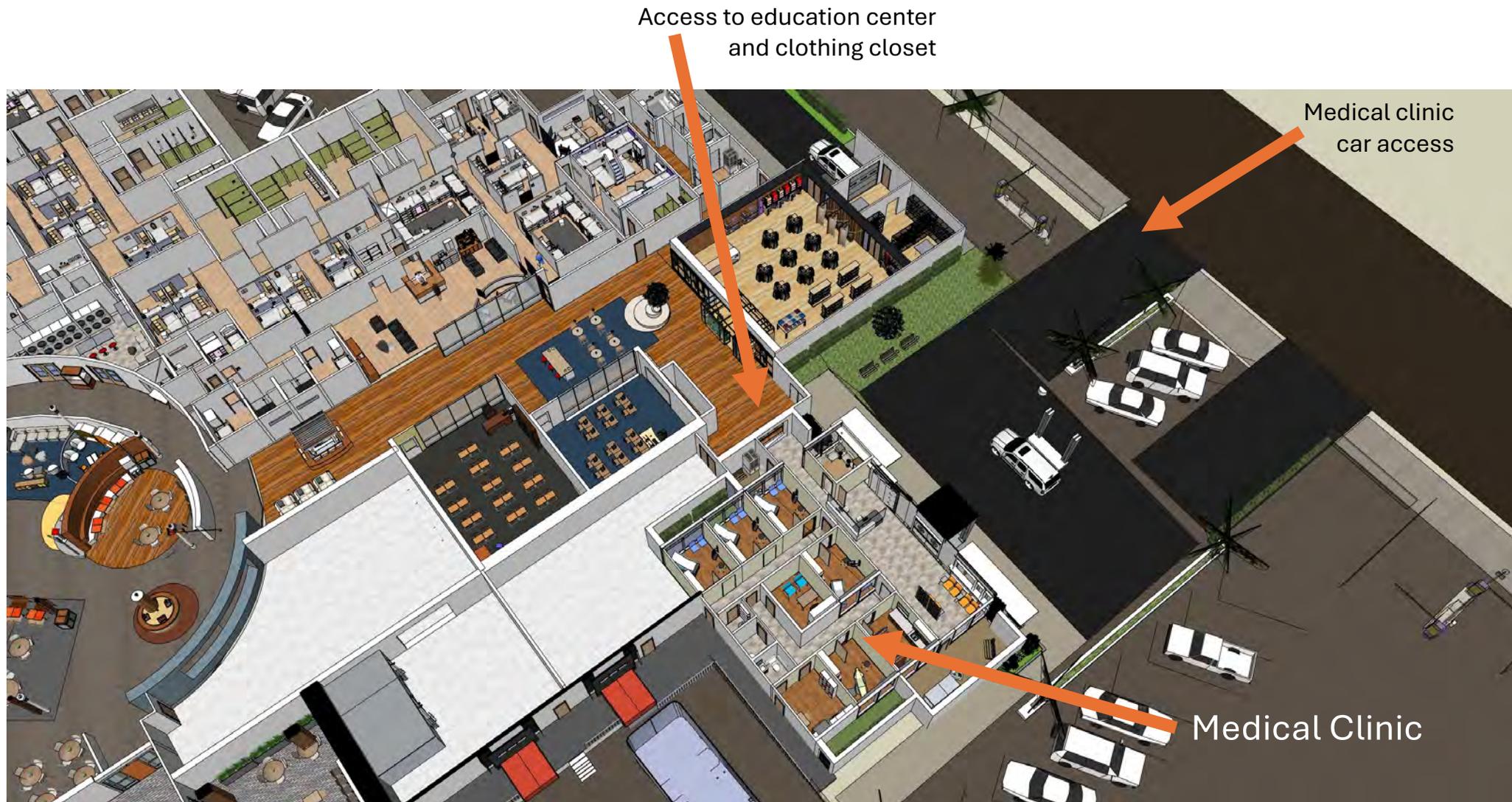
## Plan view

The medical clinic, clothing closet and education center area are positioned off the living room, creating a satellite gathering point for clients. The women's sleeping area lounge also interfaces with this area, making it a natural place clients will frequent.



## Access from inside and outside the shelter

If desired, the clothing closet, medical clinic and education center could be accessed by people who are not residential clients with the addition of a gatekeeping point within the internal corridor. The medical clinic has a pull-through driveway and parking to assist mobility challenged clients.



## Entrance to the education/medical clinic and clothing closet hub

The path from the living room to this hub is the site of several amenities including privacy pods for clients who need to step away to make a call or collect themselves away from others. A kiosk here provides staff the opportunity to set up popup displays of giveaways or advertise services.

Living room



## Corridor sightline toward the clothing closet

The view from the living room (and dining room queue line) presents an interesting visual sight of the education center breakout sitting area and the clothing closet feature displays. To the left is the main entrance to the women and couples' sleeping areas.



# Education Center



## Education Center spaces

The education center's presence shows clients that the co-shelter is committed to their progress. Two separate **education rooms** support traditional and technology-based learning. Both have expansive views to the corridor for security purposes. Client computer screens are pointed toward these windows to provide a sense of light surveillance. A **breakout lounge** area supports snack breaks.



## Education Center classrooms

The classrooms are reconfigurable to support multiple modes of learning including lecture, active learning, learning circles and similar. Blinds on the windows support the showing of visual presentations and a nearby **storage room** allows extra tables to be put away as necessary. A small **kitchen** supports food events in the breakout area.





# Clothing Closet

## Clothing closet front facade

The clothing closet mimics a retail store with extensive display windows for mannequins or other merchandise to be provided to clients. A portion of the store extends out from the façade to tempt browsers inside.



## Clothing closet interior

The clothing closet resembles a retail clothing store with feature displays, a variety of retail shelving units and a checkout desk for monitoring clothing taken by clients and bagging. Changing rooms are easily monitored by checkout desk staff.



## Clothing closet donation management and storage

Managing the receipt and preparation of donated items represents a major task for staff or volunteers. A car-friendly garage door and small loading dock and ease this process, along with a receiving room and separate stock room.





# Medical Clinic

## Medical clinic client and staff approach and parking

The medical clinic is approached from a secondary street off the main road. Separate pull-in and pull-out lanes streamline the arrival process. Staff parking is a gated area next to the clinic.

Clinic roof is not shown here.



## Medical clinic arrival areas

A covered drop off area assists mobility challenged clients and announces the front door location from a distance. Multiple seating areas allow wary clients to wait outdoors if desired.





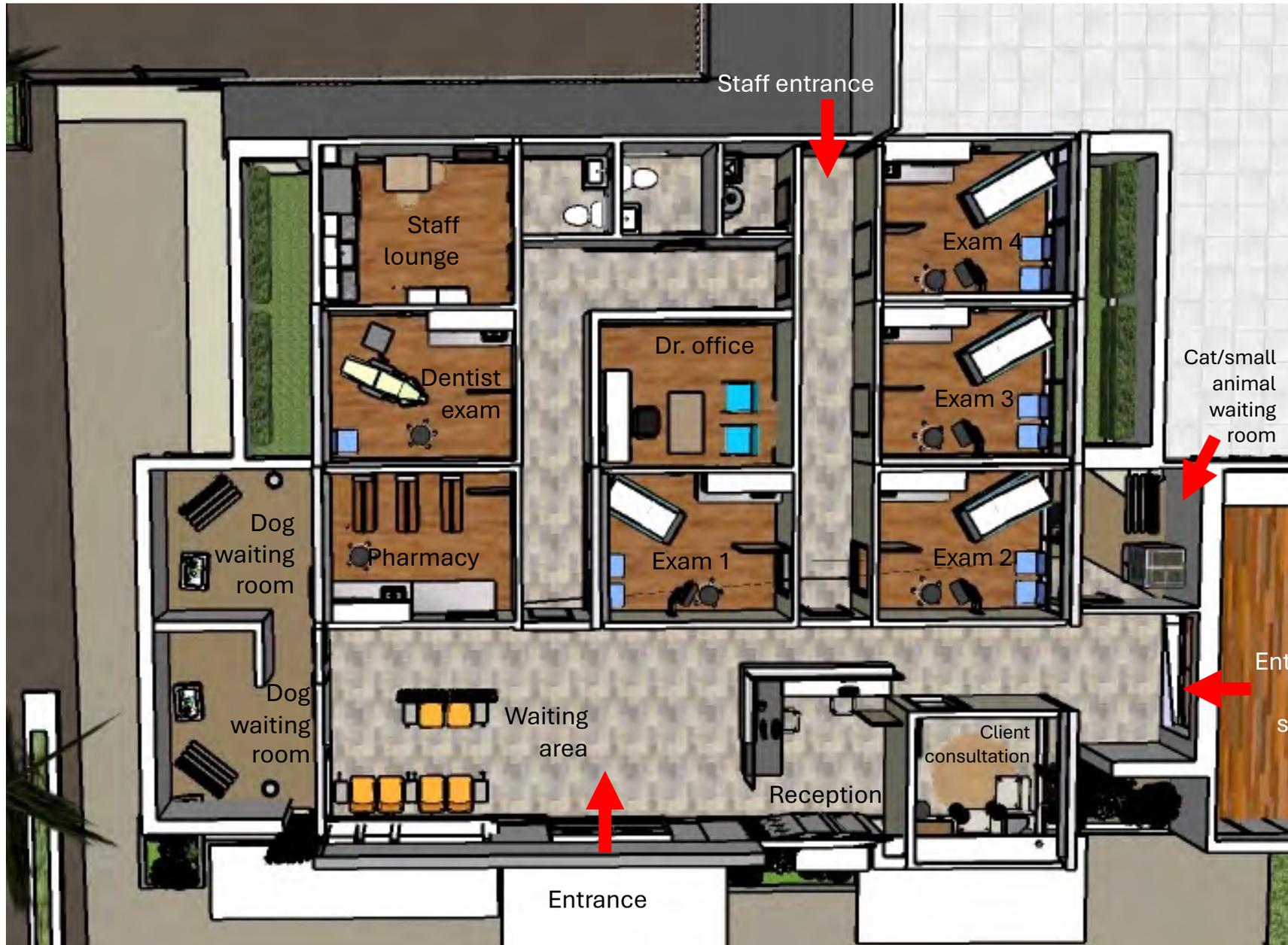
## Medical clinic arrival areas

Separate exterior waiting areas assist clients **with** and **without animals**. **Animal water bowls** are provided in this area.



## Medical clinic plan

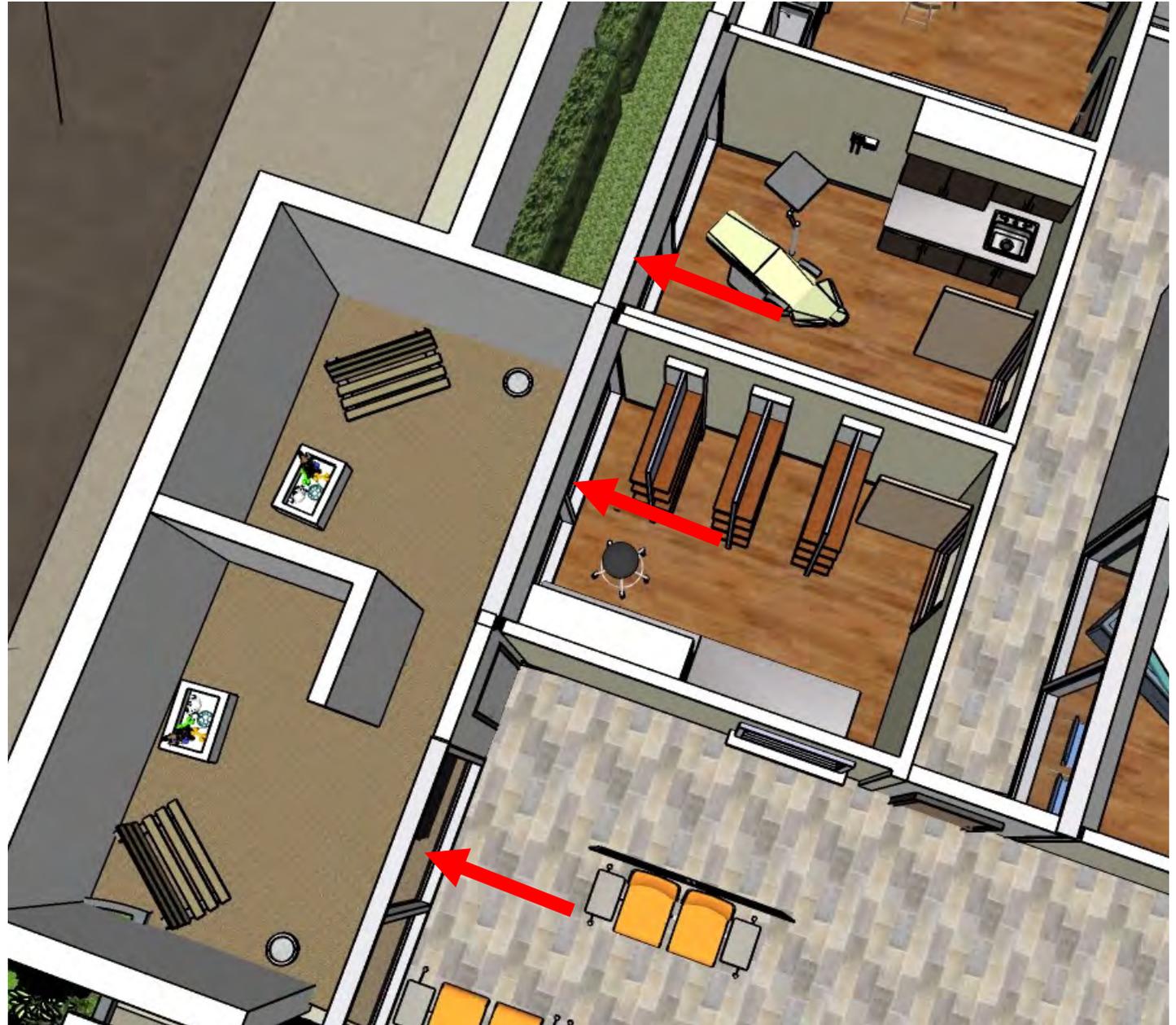
This small medical clinic provides 4 exam rooms, a dentist exam room, a pharmacy and support spaces. Separate dog and cat/small animal waiting spaces assist clients with animals.



## Medical clinic features

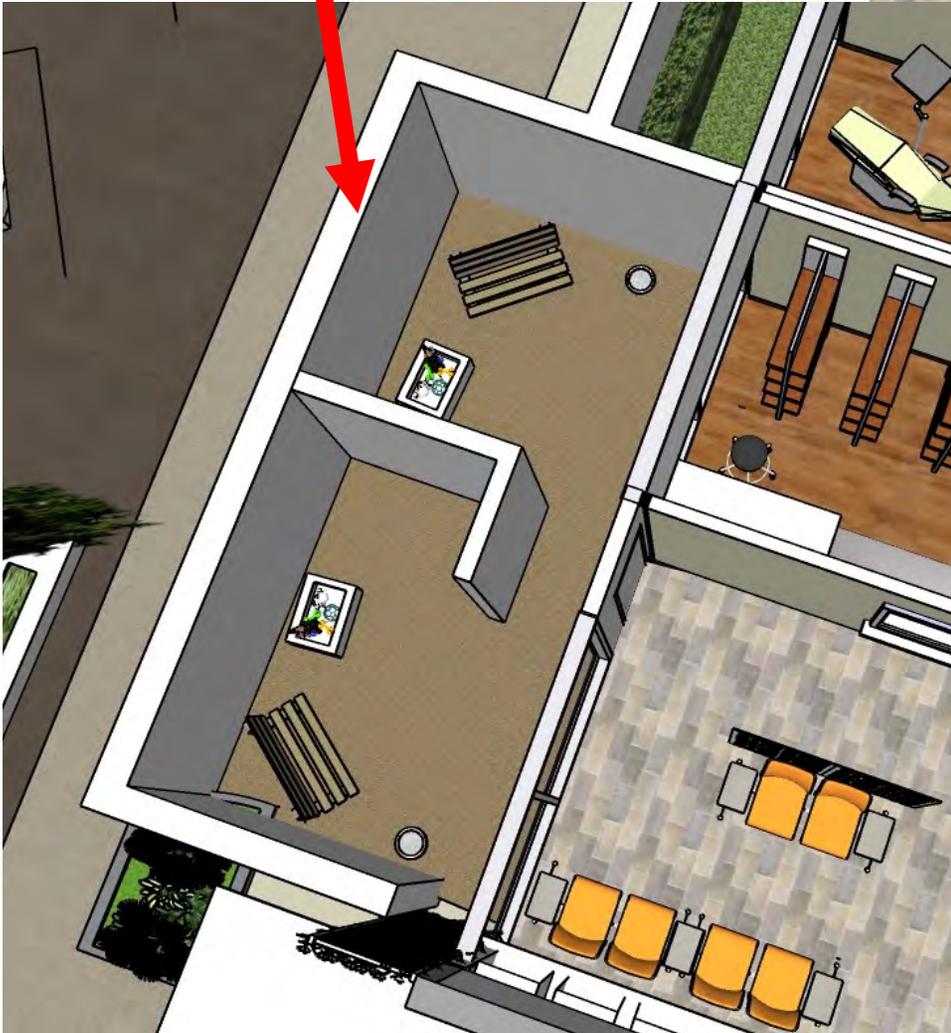
The exam rooms feature large windows to reduce a sense of enclosure for traumatized clients. These windows look out onto a small green space for a sense of positive distraction.

The windows in the pharmacy and interior waiting room overlook the dog waiting area so that staff can keep tabs on dogs while their humans are busy with their medical examinations.



## Medical clinic features

Two gated **dog waiting areas** are accessible from the waiting room and enables clients to wait with their animals, then have staff monitor them while the medical examination is occurring.



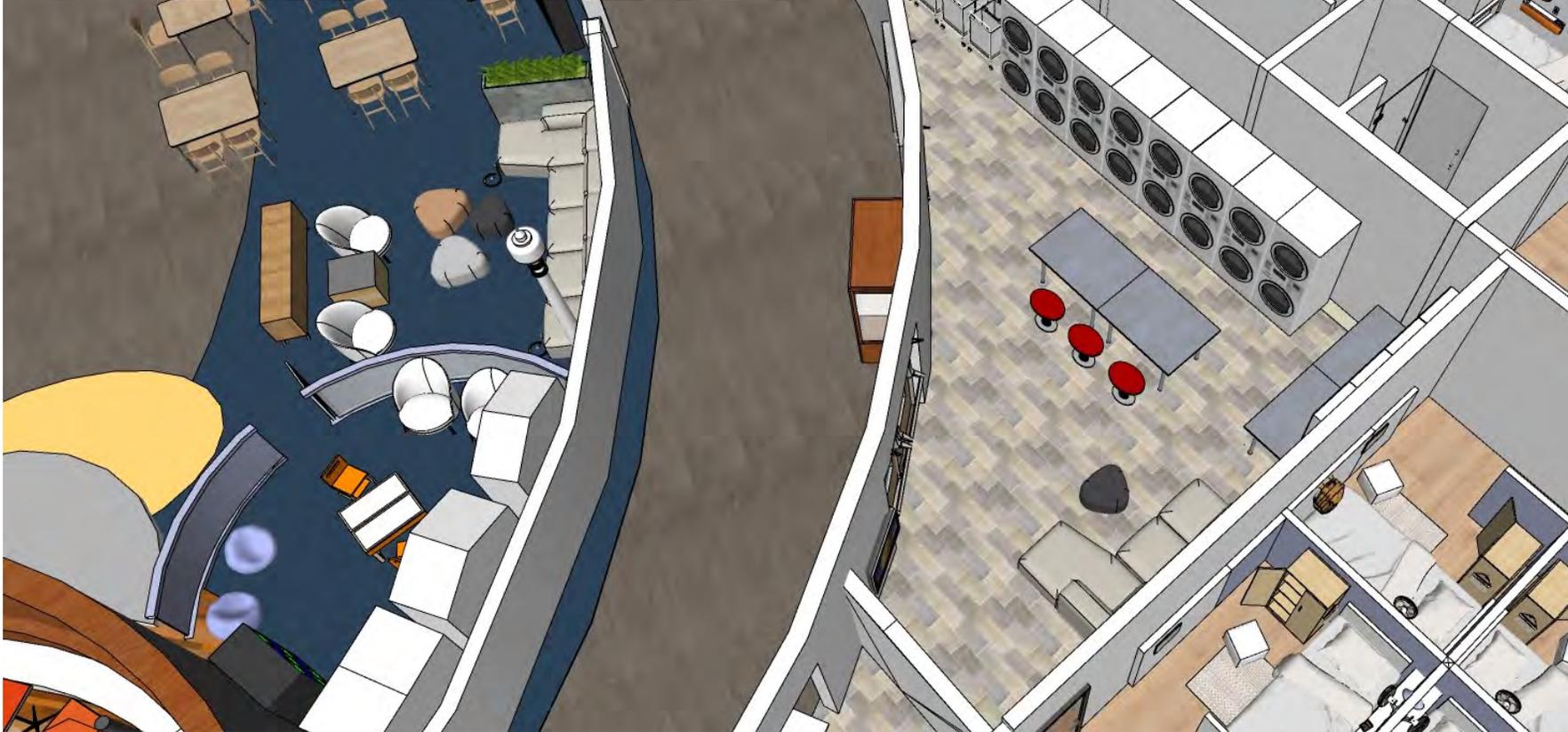
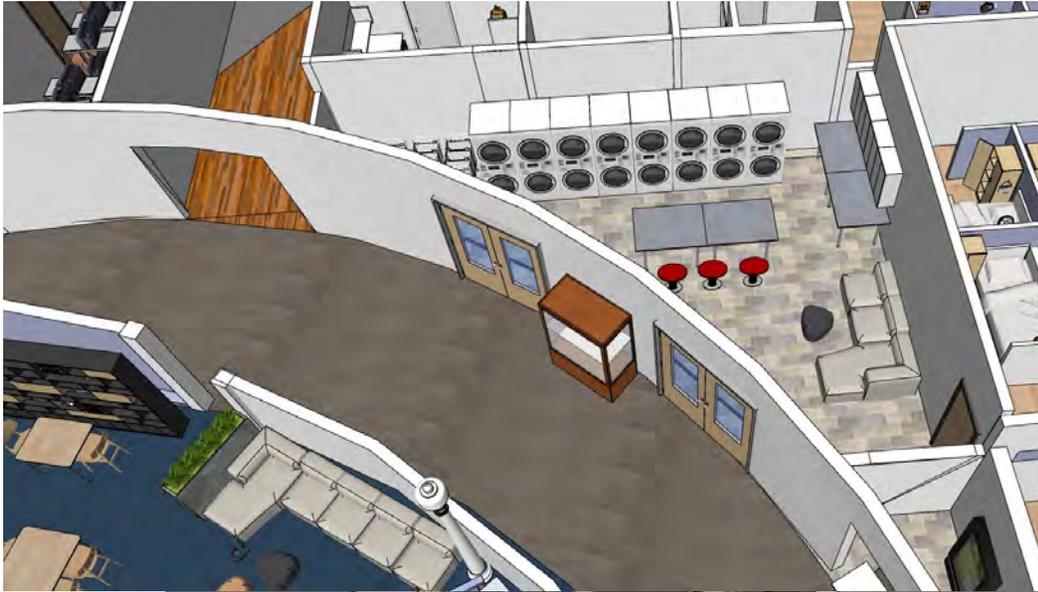
The **cat/small animal waiting area** is accessible from the waiting room. The windows in the exam room 1 overlook this area so that the client can keep tabs on their animals while the client is busy with their medical examination.

# Client Laundry Flex spaces



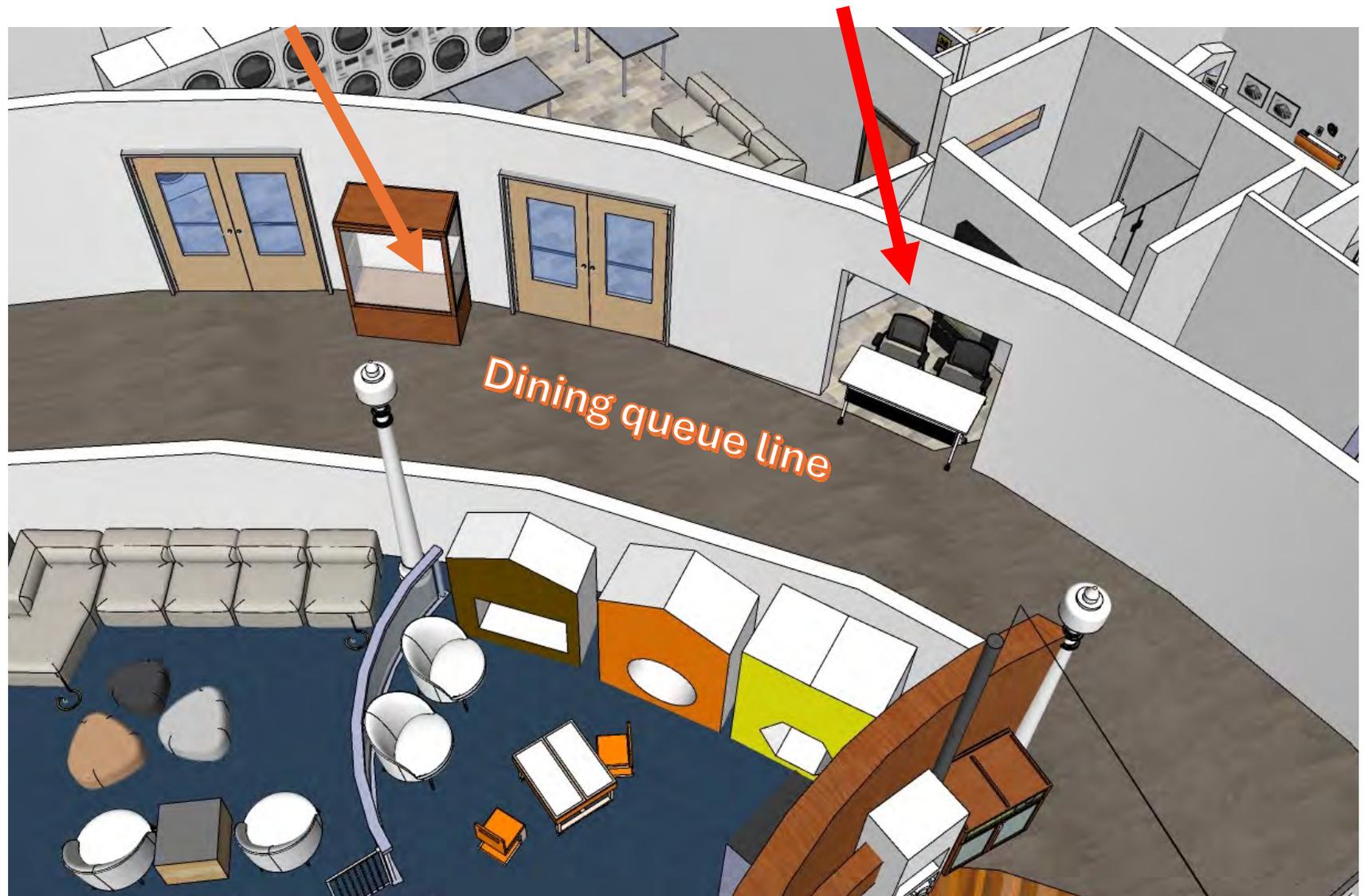
## Client laundry

Doing laundry takes time and therefore offers an opportunity for community building among clients. This laundry room is placed off the living room so it is visually accessible. Seating helps enable conversations while laundry carts help clients return their clothing back to their pods easily.



## Flexible interaction displays and areas

The queue line for dining presents an opportunity to reach out to clients with information or support services. A **display cabinet** can announce upcoming events, showcase client art, or report the results from a recent croquet competition. A **table with chairs** provides clients access to popup services such as library book lending, FHA loans, or other quickly rotating opportunities.



# Kitchen and Maintenance



# Support spaces

Kitchen and maintenance spaces share a loading dock and are centrally located to their tasks.



## Loading dock

A full-size loading dock accommodates moving of food, furniture, and other heavy loads to service the shelter. Access for trucks is through the gated lot past the parking for clinic staff. A tall separation wall lessens truck distractions from the client exterior areas.



## Idea to Action Grid

This section provides further details about the goals of the co-shelter project and their connection to subject matter experts and research. See references for complete source information. Ideas without citations are by the authors.

Idea	Activation	Source
<b>Why design for trauma</b>		
“Traumatic events are extraordinary, not because they occur rarely, but rather because they overwhelm the ordinary human adaptations to life”		Herman P. 32
“Traumatic events destroy the victim’s fundamental assumptions about the safety of the world, the positive value of self and the meaningful order of creation”.		Herman p. 51., from R. Janoff Bulman primary quote.
“The traumatic event... destroys the belief that one can <i>be oneself</i> in relation to others.”		Herman p. 53
<i>Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry</i> : “the common denominator of psychological trauma is a feeling of ‘intense fear, helplessness, loss of control, and threat of annihilation”.		Herman p. 32
“Traumatic reactions occur when action is of no avail. When neither resistance nor escape is possible, the human system of self-defense becomes overwhelmed and disorganized. Each component of the ordinary response to danger, having lost its utility, tends to persist in an altered and exaggerated state long after the actual danger is over. Traumatic events produce profound and lasting changes in physiological arousal, emotion, cognition, and memory. Moreover, traumatic events may sever these normally integrated functions from one another. ...Traumatic symptoms have a tendency to become disconnected their source and to take on a life of their own”.		Herman p.34
Three main symptoms of traumatic experience: hyperarousal, intrusion and constriction (see below)		Herman, p. 35-45

Idea	Activation	Source
<p><u>Hyperarousal</u>: startles easily, reacts irritably to small intrusions, sleeps poorly (more sensitive to noise and wke more frequently). Inability to tune out repetitive stimuli; treat each intrusion as a new and dangerous surprise.</p>	<p>Defensive seating layouts; attention paid to sleeping quarters for positive experience and sleep. control of sound, smell and sightlines to minimize.</p>	<p>Herman, p. 35-36</p>
<p><u>Intrusion</u>: trauma repeatedly interrupts life. Triggers. Preservative dreaming. Fragmentary sensation without context is the heightened reality. Memory traces are deeply imprinted when adrenaline and other stress hormones activate.</p>	<p>establish territorial areas such as sleeping pods with several layers of entry restriction.</p>	<p>Herman, p. 42-44</p>
<p><u>Constriction</u>: state of surrender where self-defense system shuts down. An alteration of state of consciousness. “the two-thousand year stare”. Those that cannot spontaneously disassociate may choose other substances to cope.</p>	<p>provide large areas such as dog plazas, logical circulation to ease use of corridors, and options for movement through spaces.</p>	<p>Herman, p. 45</p>
<p><b>General support for a co-shelter architectural case study</b></p>		
<p>“The settings in which such services are delivered should receive careful consideration in terms of practical and therapeutic variables, in addition to service-user defined outcomes.”</p>		<p>Maguire, et al. p. 8</p>
<p>“..there is strong and consistent evidence supporting an association between homelessness and complex trauma”</p>		<p>Maguire, et al. p. 1</p>
<p>Abuse likely happened in a trauma survivor’s home; thus ‘home’ and its</p>		<p>Bebout, p.48</p>

Idea	Activation	Source
expectations are “forever colored by the abuse experience”. P.48		
Trauma informed care-informed residential settings can help in 1) acquiring and practicing new self-management skills 2) manage emotional and physical boundaries effectively and 3) develop new social skills and strategies for dealing with close relationships.		Bebout, p.48.
<b>Policy</b>		
Don't allow dog-dog greetings on campus. Don't allow human-dog greetings either. Or have a policy on when and where.	Policy document	Jen Biglan workshop
Experienced dog walkers in the shelter helps if parents cannot walk their dogs.	Dog walker support space for volunteers. Have a dog walk trail on site/nearby.	Jen Biglan workshop
If sharing a sleeping area- multiple families. Ask roommates if they are comfy with pets.	Intake questionnaire/interview	Jen Biglan workshop
Suggest entry questionnaire about the animal's characteristics. Ideally group compatible pets together.	entry questionnaire	Jen Biglan workshop
Ganging families together with a separation anxiety pet can be good.	Ask in questionnaire about separation anxiety. Anxious animal entrance option near reception.	Jen Biglan workshop
Immunizations Guidelines necessary to support basic immunizations. But also advocate for low barrier entry.	Anxious animal entrance option near reception. Clients arriving with animals are automatically set up with appointment	Jen Biglan workshop

Idea	Activation	Source
<p>Emphasize quick entry, then support them for shots.</p> <p>Having a vet on site can help build relationships. Policy: Residing there is not a requirement.</p> <p>No-cost services are ideal.</p>	<p>for animal wellness. Orientation to animal areas provided.</p>	
<p>Be mindful of liability for housing animals.</p>	<p>Liability release form.</p>	<p>Jen Biglan workshop</p>
<p>Have a ‘Cheerness Committee” that organizes community-building events</p>	<p>Various areas near reception and living room for cheerness committee members to facilitate events.</p>	<p>Eastlund</p>
<p>Have a plan for the death or loss of a pet—or of the animal parent. Homeless persons also report suffering a decrease in mental health due to the loss or anticipated loss of their pet (Conway, 2021). Animals grieve the loss of relationships and experience stress from unexpected situations (Tedeschi &amp; Jenkins, 2019)</p>	<p>Animal cemetery in rear of grounds. Policy for remembrance events, other. Plan for home for the animal if their parent passes or becomes unable to care for them.</p>	<p>Kim, et al., p. 7</p>
<p>Unnecessary paperwork is a barrier to service. Many people who are homeless will not have access to a mental health providers for ESA paperwork.</p>	<p>Minimize unnecessary or time-consuming paperwork. Have an advocate on hand to assist; circulation in reception makes this path and process low cognitive load. Counseling rooms provide dedicated, calm space for this function.</p>	<p>Trauma-Informed Design Focus Group</p>
<p>Providing legal support to homeless people who are struggling to find placed to live with their pet would be helpful</p>	<p>Counseling room can be used for discrete legal counseling.</p>	<p>Trauma-Informed Design Focus Group</p>
<p>Lack of transportation for people with pets is a barrier to services</p>	<p>Establish agreements for transportation to retail and other necessary locations. And also to pick up potential clients for intake. Covered departure spaces with</p>	<p>Trauma-Informed Design Focus Group</p>

Idea	Activation	Source
	large area and direct animal clinic access eases departure.	
Policies for animals who may be dangerous to others	Stressed animal entrance provides sequestration area for emergencies.	Kim, et al., p. 9
Policies on sensory management: noise, smell, touch/dirt, visual positivity.	Scent portals provide positive interest. Residential pods are separated by client/animal type.	
Comfort of staff assisting clients and visitors	Establish training policy and schedule with resources and external partnerships. Front reception desk has sufficient barrier to ease concerns about animals. Reception room can be separated with rotating doors to provide security if necessary.	
General goals		
Seek the goal of providing <i>sanctuary</i> : comfort, rest from turmoil. The goals are symptom mgmt., self-soothing, sense of mastery aided by personal control.		Harris & Fallot, p.38, referencing Sandra Bloom (1997), p. 42.
Create a space for human and human-animal connections to be built. “Sharing the traumatic experience with others is a precondition for the restitution of a sense of a meaningful world”. People look for tangible evidence of public recognition of their trauma.	Living room animal play area nearby human areas. Dog plazas provide chance for people and animals to meet and bond. Training rooms for animals assist.	Herman, p. 70
Recovery from trauma involves the repair of these faculties: trust, autonomy, initiative, competence, identity and intimacy.	Provided through privacy strategies, positive space claiming/territorialization, ability to see and share experiences with	Herman, p. 133.

Idea	Activation	Source
	others. Ability to personalize private areas.	
Develop procedural <i>patterns</i> – how to bring an animal in, where they go next.	See sections on patterns below. Space is arranged sequentially for intake areas and animal clinic.	Jen Biglan workshop
In order for an organization to support a trauma-informed approach when working with people and their pets, trauma-informed practices should be embedded throughout all levels of the organization (Poole et al, 2017)	Trauma tactics are present in large decisions (space planning, corridor styles) and small details (animal food preparation, scent portals, leash lanyards).	Kim, et al., P.7
Minimize barking: visual privacy. X pens.	Animal clinic animal pods are sequestered. Visual privacy is prioritized in sleeping areas.	Jen Biglan workshop
Smells- if have cats, move them away. Visual barrier for cats. See and smell is the worst. If smell only, less bad.	Cat/human sleeping areas can be separated from human/dog areas visually and proxemically. Some smell detection may remain.	Jen Biglan workshop
Pheromone diffusers- adaptil for dogs, feelaway for cats. Lavender and chamomile is nice for people and animals.	Diffusers used in animal living room area, animal training room, dog pod areas, cat pod rooms.	Jen Biglan workshop
Positive tactile stimulation with animals hedonic well-being, increasing owners' calmness and decreasing both stress and sadness" ( Barcelos et al, 2021, p. 12)	Provide both places and policies that promote safe and supportive touch relationships between humans and animals: co-shared bedrooms, catio areas, dog fetch areas, dog plazas, small animal flex rooms.	Kim, et al., p. 10
Prioritize predictable routines around arrival, food puzzles, walks, etc.	Space plan provides intuitive path to outside animal walking areas for positive animal anticipation.	Jen Biglan workshop

Idea	Activation	Source
Sound is a big contributor to stress. Music, white noise, fans can help.	White noise machines can be provided to residents with reactive animals in sleeping areas.	Jen Biglan workshop
Site also acts as a drop-in animal care provider (immunizations, healthcare).	Animal clinic is accessible from the reception area for clients not staying at the shelter.	Jen Biglan workshop
Possibility that someone will relinquish an animal and leave.	An easily visible kennel with water is outside the reception area to humanely accommodate a pet who is without a pet parent.	Kim, et al., p. 3-4
Anticipate that clients may have significantly higher levels of pet attachment than the general population	Implication: sense of safety, attending to animal happiness through amenities, signage, sight lines and space planning.	Singer, Hart, & Zasloff. Also Kim, et al., p. 4
Comfort and connection from pets is necessary for livelihood, but also pet's need the comfort of their owners. The comfort is crucial for both pet and owner	Implication: animals sense stress in human parents. The comfort of both is necessary. Clients and animals sleep together in pod is appropriate. Clients feed their animals, and visit the dog plazas or interaction rooms to connect.	Trauma-Informed Design Focus Group
Training for animals to ease the burdens of animal care	Training rooms and outdoor areas for distraction-free sessions. Child areas are intentionally separated from main outside dog and cat areas.	Trauma-Informed Design Focus Group
Care for persons who may have physical disabilities	Implement ADA policies and beyond for all areas, especially sleeping, hygiene.	Kim, et al., p. 10
Intuitive use	Clear signage and expectations (written, multi-lingual, accessible, strategy for enforcement if needed). In general, keep protocols simple and usable by persons of all abilities, including the general space plan/order of rooms.	Kim, et al., p. 9

Idea	Activation	Source
Biophilia supports wellness of people and animals	Presence of positive views, vegetation, water, and their sounds. Water features, trees and plants are present inside and outside.	Kim, et al., p. 9
Attitude of positive growth and change	Establish policies of client and staff feedback through surveys, focus groups or others to maintain positive and transparent working relationships	Kim, et al., p. 9
Avoid retraumatization: minimize staff-resident power differentials	Reception desk eliminates seated/standing eye height differences, counseling rooms often sit alongside clients rather than across a desk.	Bebout, p. 51
Manage trauma-related behaviors: sleep disturbances: insomnia, night terrors	Provide light, temperature, acoustic setting to encourage sleep. Also schedule and policy. Make surroundings personal and familiar. Changeable art in sleeping pods lets clients personalize. Women's area has infant bottle preparation and nursing area. Child sleeping areas have bathtubs, not showers.	Bebout, p.48
Manage trauma-related behaviors: self-soothing deficits. May prompt coping behaviors like substance abuse and smoking.	Capitalize on animal therapeutic effects to counter the need for coping mechanisms. Quiet space other than bedrooms can be accessed in animal clinic, outside private play areas, patio areas. Exercise equipment for children. Use of calming scents. Availability of moderate quantities of comfort foods.	Bebout, p. 49, 53
Manage trauma-related behaviors: boundary issues. Traumatic violence can prompt the need for policy and facility response to privacy needs. This includes phone use, staff conversations, friend conversations, sex and in the bathroom. Nudity policies are necessary.	Provide places for quiet space in zones other than the bedroom. Also telephone use. Where possible, allow privacy and nudity needs to be managed with companion animals nearby. (bathrooms, quiet spaces, bedrooms). Some residents may pay much attention to bathroom time	Bebout, p. 49

Idea	Activation	Source
	as a way to cope- flexibility here is helpful. Bebout advocates for private bedrooms with privacy locks where feasible, with bedcheck options. Single sex housing may be advised.	
	Time-out space: 8 x 10- small but not claustrophobic. Comfy seating, thoughtful lighting, calm atmosphere. No permission needed to use, and no door lock.	Harris & Fallot, p.38.
	Need a space to shower, change clothes that is privacy-controllable- changing areas in each shower enclosure. Where possible, sightlines are controlled for being in bed.	Harris & Fallot, p.38.
Manage trauma-related behaviors: eating issues. Eating habits are reactions to abuse sometimes, such as not eating in the presence of others.	Policy: provide exceptions for eating in bedrooms. Animals eat in bedrooms if policy permits.	Bebout, p. 50
Manage trauma-related behaviors: patterns of sexual adjustment. Some may be prone to sexual relationships b/c they are used to the transactional nature of this. Others may vigorously avoid sex.	It may be best to recognize that positive, respectful sexual relationships are healthy, and accommodations for couples that afford privacy are provided.	Bebout, p. 51
Trauma may compel people to be withdraw from close relationships (due to shame, guilt, interiority, lack of trust) and also to seek them desperately (for their protective attachment value). This may result in intense, unstable relationships.	Community building areas are available and are generally open and public in nature. Options are provided for seating for people to join or withdraw depending on how they feel.	Herman, p. 56
Maximize choice, counteracting a sense of helplessness.	Seating locations and seating postures, degree of people around, in/out, ventilation, storing and categorizing possessions, posting art/photos, lighting for tasks. Music. When to eat, sleep, and move between rooms.	Bebout, p. 52, 54

Idea	Activation	Source
Managing emotional safety: emotional triggers	Multiple sleeping accommodation styles are provided, allowing staff to ask clients about situations, sights, sounds, smell, place triggers. Place in apt/bedrooms to suit, such as single-gender, dog/cat, communal/solitary spaces. There are multiple options for small or large areas for tv viewing.	
Managing emotional safety: identifying soothing behaviors. This is a way to identify triggers, then how to restore control if a crisis occurs.	Facility accommodates: Alone time TV watching (that is not large/communal) Desk work, like journal writing (living room) Positive distraction elements- music, smells, nature (in space-manageable places), exercise.	
<b>Location context</b>		
Animal policies for nearby public transportation	Pets have also been linked to difficulties in accessing substance use treatment (Howe & Easterbrook, 2018) and public transportation (Slatter et al., 2012). Entrance/exit is large to permit people/animals or people to embark in vehicles.	Kim, et al., p. 1
<b>Architecture</b>		
Avoid instances where dog cannot move away from an encounter	Dog greeting areas placed in open or multiple exit locations, including dog plazas, dog pods in reception, covered patio in animal clinic.	Jen Biglan workshop
Educate staff about body language- videos. Post posters on this.	Body language posted information in staff area of reception.	Jen Biglan workshop

Idea	Activation	Source
Have basket muzzles on hand: storage	Entry area storage near reception and doz plazas.	Jen Biglan workshop
Have collars and leashes on hand- some will not have these.	Entry area storage near reception and doz plazas.	Jen Biglan workshop
Traffic flow. Dogs don't walk past cats and vv.	Multiple sight-limited entrances/exit managed in reception area, animal clinic, dog plazas, and cat/small animal/dog paths in clinic.	Jen Biglan workshop
<b>Pattern: Entry/Arrival</b>		
Have separate doors for in and out. One entry point, ID bands to know who's there.	Multiple sight-limited entrances/exit and check in queueing lines are present for people and people with animals.	Jen Biglan workshop
A baby gate as a physical barrier can comfort staff. Or a holding pen near the reception desk.	Reception area millwork acts as barrier for staff; nearby dog waiting pods ease checkin for people with animals. People with animals have their own counselor office.	Jen Biglan workshop
Read body language- if withdrawn, place in a quiet place. -if barking and active, need a bigger area, access to outside.	Have easy access to both quiet and boisterous spaces from entry and main community areas. Direct entrance to dog pods in animal clinic from reception; also dog pods in reception.	Jen Biglan workshop
Think about reducing stimuli, reducing noise, ability to make a quick exit.	Have quiet areas for time outs possible from dining areas, animal clinic, sleeping areas.	Jen Biglan workshop
<b>Pattern: human takes a shower or otherwise steps away briefly</b>		
have a pen in the restroom	Extra room in restrooms; possibly a shower schedule. Extra large toilet stalls for animal to be there with human.	Jen Biglan workshop

Idea	Activation	Source
Have a meal within a puzzle toy.	Easy access food-inclusive activity areas for individual animals.	Jen Biglan workshop
<b>Pattern: hanging out together inside</b>		
Hanging fabric over the crate so they can't see people approaching	Manage sight lines along corridors and room paths.	Jen Biglan workshop
Sitting together for talks and touch important.	Have a safe zone for sitting, hugging, petting, naps that is not in the crate. Possible within the sleeping pods when gates are closed (dogs); also outside dog fetch areas and dog play enclosures. Catio and small animal areas in and outside the animal clinic are options.	Jen Biglan workshop
Group hangout areas	Have 'timeout' pods- small areas with comfortable seating and half walls to give animals respite from the full experience of the large room. Present both in the reception area and the living room generally. The catio area is an option.	
<b>Pattern: animal and human delight</b>		
Food puzzles. Things to shred.	Small animal group activity areas present- training room in animal clinic, dog fetch areas, dog play rooms.	Jen Biglan workshop
Have a meal within a puzzle toy.		Jen Biglan workshop
Turn mealtime into a foraging exercise		Jen Biglan workshop
3x day for puzzles is great. No less than 1x/day- later in the day after a walk.		Jen Biglan workshop
<b>Pattern: Sleeping/private time</b>		
Plan a is sleeping next to their pet parent for unsocialized or fearful animals.	Sleeping pods permit animal to remain in sleeping area. Reactive animals have an	Jen Biglan workshop

Idea	Activation	Source
	option within the dog pods of the animal clinic for limited use.	
Elevate crates so eye to eye while parent is in bed.	Achieved with cat enclosures, but not dog enclosures within the sleeping pods.	Jen Biglan workshop
<b>Pattern:</b> Training & counseling for people		
<p>Lack of reliable, trustworthy, and safe pet care was a barrier to maintaining employment for homeless youth (Bender et al., 2007; Lem et al., 2013).</p> <p>Pets have also been linked to difficulties in accessing substance use treatment (Howe &amp; Easterbrook, 2018) and public transportation (Slatter et al., 2012).</p>	<p>If youth need employment orientation, animal care or ability for them to attend may be important.</p> <p>Similarly, substance abuse therapy or other training/classroom activities.</p>	Kim, et al., p. 1
“family therapy, therapeutic communities, behavioural contingency programmes, cognitive-behaviour therapy, psychodynamic psychotherapy, 12-step programmes, and generic counselling in the context of supported housing”	Provide training/education rooms that support these approaches. Present in the animal clinic; also the education classrooms.	Maguire, et al., p. 6
Counseling should empower, not subjugate	If possible, give option for setting for the session. Staff have an easy exit from the room in case of outbursts through desk placement.	Freeman, p. 77
	Prioritize windows and views in counseling rooms and training rooms with non-distracting views of nature. Skylights could serve this function. Classrooms have clerestory windows that also allow for room darkening for presentations.	

Idea	Activation	Source
	These rooms have good acoustic environment to send both signal of and actual acoustic privacy.	
<b>Timing and schedule</b>		
Clean kennel or crate while animal is outside relieving itself to reduce stress	Dog pods in the animal clinic have easy human access from front and rear doors.	Jen Biglan workshop
<b>Animal services</b>		
Having a space for a vet to come to the shelter who make pet care easier and allows for preventive care	Animal clinic provides veterinary setting for wellness and small procedures.	Trauma-Informed Design Focus Group
<b>Outside</b>		
Ideally 3 walks/day and/or physical exercise	Outside dog plazas and exterior areas provide opportunities.	Jen Biglan workshop
Have a field where you can do dog-dog greetings.	Outside dog plazas and exterior areas provide opportunities.	Jen Biglan workshop
Outside kennels away from where people are sleeping is a plan b for fearful or unsocialized animals.	Achieved with dog pods within the animal clinic and human sleeping areas on opposite sides of the facility.	Jen Biglan workshop
<b>Cleaning</b>		
Harsh cleaners are very stressful to animals.		Jen Biglan workshop
Allergies and fleas: Cleaning protocols can help. Air filtration and open windows. HEPA air filters. Lint rollers.		Jen Biglan workshop
<b>Materials specification</b>		
Flooring- carpeting vacuumed more often. Concrete or linoleum better.	Most floors are resilient materials, easing cleaning regimens.	Jen Biglan workshop

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