

Queens shopping center lands Petco

The national retailer will take over a freestanding building formerly occupied by a catering hall within the retail center just a mile from LaGuardia Airport in Jackson Heights.

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A big slice of the Jackson Heights Shopping Center in Queens is going to the dogs, the cats, the tropical fish, tarantulas and more. National pet store chain Petco, has signed a 10-year lease for 13,500 square feet, including 2,500 square feet in the basement in the shopping center at the intersection of 31st Avenue and 77th Street. The deal closed at the asking rent of approximately \$170 per square foot. Petco will take over the entire ground floor of a stand-alone building within the shopping center, formerly occupied by Dante Catering Hall.

The arrival of the new, national retailing name comes as landlord Allied Jackson Heights makes a number of upgrades throughout the shopping center, including new lobby entrances, signage, façade, and landscaping.

Bill Bergman, of Muss Development, represented the building owner, Allied Jackson Heights in the transaction. Brian Schuster, of Ripco, represented the tenant.

"Bringing in national retailers will really improve the overall look of the center and give more of an identity to Jackson Heights," said Jeffrey Kay, chief operating officer of Muss Development. "Local officials love the fact that we're re-investing in the neighborhood."

The 130,000-square-foot shopping center is home to 24 retail stores as well as nine offices. It is minutes away from the major traffic artery, Grand Central Parkway, and less than a mile away from LaGuardia Airport. Other tenants include: Modell's, Waldbaum's, Rite Aid, Carvel, Pearle Vision, Radio Shack, GameStop, Keller Williams Realty, the Long Island Board of Realtors. It also has a post office.



CoStar Group Inc.

Petco will be joining Modell's, Waldbaum's, Rite Aid and other retailers at the Jackson Heights Shopping Center.