PRESS RELEASE

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Rolling up our sleeves for dogs, cats, and rabbits: BERNER Group renovates outdoor areas at the Cologne-Zollstock Animal Shelter

The Konrad Adenauer Animal Shelter in Cologne is shining like new. As part of a large-scale Social Day, 18 employees from the BERNER Group supported the facility with necessary maintenance and beautification work. In addition to their hands-on help, the family-owned company donated all materials and provided the necessary tools. To improve the safety and functionality of the facilities, rotted fence sections were removed and new fence elements installed. In addition, the exterior facade of an outbuilding was painted and damaged wooden beams were replaced. Thanks to these efforts, the shelter's infrastructure and appearance were significantly upgraded in just one workday.

"The result is truly impressive," says Lucas Schnack, the shelter's public relations manager. "We are funded almost exclusively by donations. That's why we often lack the resources to do such work on our own. BERNER's generous support is invaluable to us. What's even better is that we were able to carry out the work together. This initiative is a great example of social and community engagement in action."

BERNER Social Days have a lasting impact

In addition to the practical benefits, the Social Day also provided an opportunity for exchange and insight into the shelter's work for the team. Participants were able to see for themselves what tasks are involved and how important the support from volunteers and partner organizations is. With initiatives like this, the BERNER Group sends a strong signal about a value-driven corporate culture at its locations. The idea of implementing social initiatives was launched in 2017 to mark the Group's 60th anniversary. Since then, more than 150 projects have taken place across Europe. What makes it special: the BERNER Social Days have a lasting impact. Whether at daycare centers, schools, or clubs – employees pitch in wherever they're needed. For its efforts, the BERNER Group was awarded the "KölnEngagiert 2020" volunteerism prize. Employees receive paid special leave for a Social Day.

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