

Thank you for your email and concern about Precious, a dog impounded by the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC). We recognize that Precious' case has garnered a lot of public attention and would like to provide clarifying information.

Precious was involved in an attack that left a person severely injured, requiring extensive medical attention. As part of our commitment to public safety, DACC conducted a thorough investigation into the attack and injuries. As part of the pet owner's due process, a hearing was held to allow each party to present evidence and testimony. Based on the evidence submitted and the severity of the attack, in which the victim almost died, the hearing officer ruled that Precious should be declared vicious and humanely euthanized. This decision was made in the interest of public safety; given Precious' history and display of aggression, Precious could not safely be placed back into the community.

As part of the legal process, Precious' owner appealed the decision and the case was brought to Los Angeles Superior Court. On October 3rd, a hearing was held to determine whether the hearing officer's decision would be upheld or overturned. The court upheld the hearing officer's decision. The court's decision may be viewed by clicking the links below. We have been informed that Precious' owner intends to appeal this decision to the Court of Appeal.

Precious has been held at one of our animal care centers during the investigation and subsequent hearings. DACC will continue to care for Precious while the appeal process proceeds. Because Precious' case had generated public interest, unknown persons were attempting to interact with her and even feed her unauthorized food that jeopardized her health. Further, these interactions created the possibility for Precious to bite additional people, clouding any future hearings. For her protection, she has been moved to another animal care center where she will be better protected from unknown and unauthorized persons and from being fed food or other items that could harm her. The move was made with Precious' best interest in mind.

Please know that the recommendation to euthanize an animal is never easy and is not made lightly. While DACC tries to find homes for as many animals as possible, our first commitment is to public safety. There are instances where dogs are not made available for placement due to the future risk of harm to a person or other animal. DACC will continue to care for Precious until the case is settled in the legal system.

Thank you for your compassion for animals and interest in Precious' case.

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control

[Calderon Nature of Proceedings – Mins 10 4 18](#)

[Calderon Petition for Writ 100418](#)