

# WHAT'S UP, DACC?

JANUARY 2022



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

LATEST NEWS FROM OUR  
ANIMAL CARE CENTERS



## PAWCASSO DAY

Who would have known that some of our adorable dogs were artists! In recognition of International Artist Day, the Department hosted "Pawcasso Day" where select dogs created their own masterpieces (with a little assistance). Many thanks to our staff and volunteers for participating in this exciting event on October 25, 2021. The dogs and their paintings were showcased on our social media platforms and were a viral hit! Check out the video link to see some of our pets in action while creating their masterpieces <https://vimeo.com/638911959>. This feel-good event featured some of the longer-stay residents and was well received by the community. DACC plans to host more artist events in the new year!



# HAPPY NEW CAT & DOG

CELEBRATE YEAR 2022  
BY ADOPTING A **CAT** OR A  
**LARGE DOG** (35 LBS. AND OVER)

FOR AS LOW AS  
**\$22**

**JANUARY 1-31, 2022**

INCLUDES ADOPTION, MICROCHIP,  
SPAY/NEUTER, AND VACCINATIONS.  
ADDITIONAL FEES MAY APPLY.

**SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO ADOPT!**

[ANIMALCARE.LACOUNTY.GOV/ALL-VISITS-TO-THE-ANIMAL-CARE-CENTER-ARE-BY-APPOINTMENT-ONLY](https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/all-visits-to-the-animal-care-center-are-by-appointment-only)

## VALENCIA ACURA ADOPTION EVENT

The Castaic, Palmdale, and Lancaster animal care centers participated in the Valencia Acura Pet Adoption Event on November 20, 2021. Twenty-five dogs, cats, guinea pigs, a hamster, and a rabbit found their homes and new families. DACC thanks the Valencia Acura team for their partnership and continued support!





"July 2021 was my 20 year anniversary of leading DACC, and as I reflect on all the improvements made over the years I am exceedingly grateful to the staff and volunteers who have worked alongside me to successfully implement these changes. I am also thankful to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for their trust in my leadership and support of our mission."

## TWENTY YEARS IN REVIEW – THIRD IN A SERIES

**BY DIRECTOR MARCIA MAYEDA**

In 2001, DACC's operations did not focus on public service in terms of striving for excellent customer service or engaging the community to further the cause of animal wellbeing. DACC's approach was very enforcement-driven and flexibility in addressing pet owners' needs was not seen as necessary. Efforts to reunite them with pets were scattered and not part of the daily expectations of staff. The adoption process was arduous because of long lines in care center lobbies and the time it took to work through the process; and sometimes people left in frustration without adopting a pet.

Twenty years later we have completely reversed the old approach to customer service and community engagement and have improved its pet reunification strategies in several ways. We constantly consider and implement service improvements to provide better customer service and ensure all staff observe them by requiring training and regularly updating our policies and procedures.

Our newly launched Love at First Sight adoption process provides a fast-tracked animal assessment and preparation process so animals are made available more quickly for adoption and adopters can easily identify which animals at the care center are ready to go home the same day.

DACC's approach to serving the community has changed from an enforcement-heavy, bureaucratic authoritarian agency to a community resource agency that assists residents with their animal problems, values animal life-saving programs, and collaborates with other animal groups and agencies to bring the best resources to the community. It is an honor to be entrusted with these important responsibilities, and I salute the dedicated staff and volunteers who work every day to meet our mission.





## OWNER OF “CUSTOM DOG TRAINING THEE BOARDING RANCH” CONVICTED OF FELONY ANIMAL CRUELTY

The owners of a dog training business in Littlerock, California, were convicted of felony animal cruelty after an investigation by the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC).



In April 2020, a complaint was filed against Carlos Banuelos, owner of Custom Dog Training Thee Boarding Ranch, regarding the deaths of two Doberman Pinscher dogs in his care. Banuelos later admitted to leaving them in his car on a very hot day, which caused the dogs to die from heat stroke.

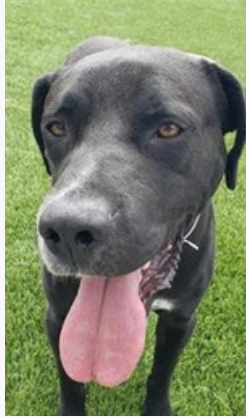
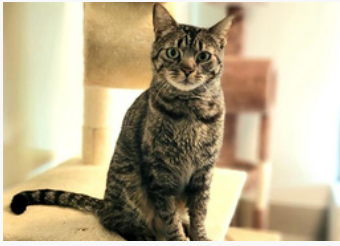
DACC’s Major Case Unit and the Deputy District Attorney’s Office worked together investigating this complaint. The joint investigation uncovered incidents of mistreatment of 17 additional dogs, four of which resulted in deaths.



On September 12, 2021, after months of investigation and a criminal trial, Carlos Banuelos and his wife Shirley Rodas were convicted on felony animal cruelty. Carlos Banuelos received a sentence of two years, eight months in County jail and Shirley Rodas received two years’ felony probation. Banuelos and Rodas are prohibited from owning any animals for ten years and Carlos Banuelos can no longer train any animals. They are each subject to search and seizure by DACC and must pay restitution to the victims.

One of the pet owners provided a statement describing the impact of the mistreatment of her dog by the Banuelos. She shared how her dog was mistreated and how her dog still shakes in fear at the sight of a metal kennel or at the sight of any man resembling Banuelos.





# ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

2,895 DOGS  
1,748 CATS  
444 OTHER ANIMALS

ADOPTED IN SEPTEMBER,  
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, &  
DECEMBER!

**SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT  
TO ADOPT TODAY!**

**VISIT  
HERE!**

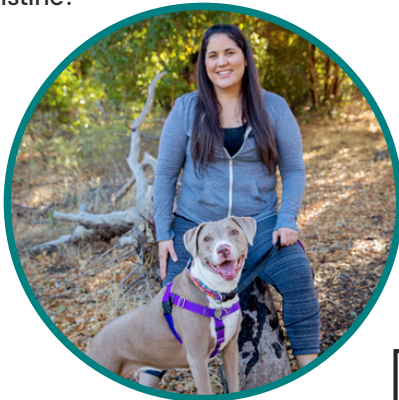
# NEWS

## NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

DACC is pleased to welcome Christine Quesada to the DACC team! Christine was born and raised in Miami, Florida, and she had an early love of animals and began volunteering in animal-related fields after working in the hotel and finance industry. In 2014, she moved to California to pursue a job with Best Friends Animal Society, where she worked in adoptions and outreach and then managed the volunteer program. Christine shares that the volunteer department was amazing because it combined her love for animals and desire to connect with people.

She lives in Los Angeles with her dog, Lucy, adopted from Best Friends. In her new role, Christine will oversee volunteer and foster programs for the department.

. Welcome, Christine!



## VET AT THE PARK!

On October 23, 2021, DACC partnered with Supervisor Solis' office to host a free wellness clinic at Rimgrove Park. It was a huge success even though the day was rainy and wet; 94 pets were seen for wellness exams, microchipping, and vaccines. Look out for more wellness events across the County in 2022!



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Want the latest news and stories from around our animal care centers? Follow us on social media at the handles below!



@LACoAnimals



@LACoAnimalCare



@LACoanimals

@FosterAnimalsLACO

Please note What's Up, DACC? has shifted to a quarterly newsletter. This allows us time to gather and share the most impactful stories from our animal care centers. Stay tuned for our next issue in November!

FIND AN ANIMAL CARE CENTER NEAR YOU!

### Baldwin Park:

4275 N. Elton Street  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706  
baldwinpark@animalcare.lacounty.gov

### Carson/Gardena:

216 W. Victoria Street  
Gardena, CA 90248  
carson@animalcare.lacounty.gov

### Downey:

11258 S. Garfield Ave.  
Downey, CA 90242  
downeyctaip@animalcare.lacounty.gov

### Castaic:

31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd.  
Castaic, CA 91384  
castaic@animalcare.lacounty.gov

### Agoura:

29525 Agoura Road  
Agoura Hills, CA 91303  
agoura@animalcare.lacounty.gov

### Lancaster:

5210 W. Avenue I  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
acclancaster@animalcare.lacounty.gov

### Palmdale:

38550 Sierra Highway  
Palmdale, CA 93550  
palmdale@animalcare.lacounty.gov

### Interested in Fostering?

Click [HERE!](#)

### Licensing Questions?

Call: (562) 345-0400  
Email: [licensing@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:licensing@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### Interested in Volunteering?

Click [HERE!](#)