



Marcia Mayeda, Director

November 10, 2022

**Information Regarding the Removal of Animals from Southern California Cat Adoption Tails (SCCAT) in Littlerock, CA**

Thank you for your interest in the circumstances around the recent removal of animals from Southern California Cat Adoption Tails (SCCAT). Incorrect or misinformed statements have been circulated in response, and this response is provided to clarify this situation.

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) removed 195 cats and 43 dogs from SCCAT on October 26, 2022, pursuant to a search warrant. These animals exceeded the 115 cat and 30 dog limits allowed by SCCAT’s animal facility license. Very few of these animals were kittens or puppies. These animals were living in unsanitary conditions and many needed immediate medical care.

DACC officers also discovered an unlicensed animal breeding operation on the premises operated by another individual.

A search warrant was used because SCCAT had refused numerous requests to inspect the premises to check on the welfare of the animals and DACC had received complaints of dead, neglected, ill, and untreated animals. Past inspections that were allowed revealed animal care violations resulting in Orders to Comply to correct these violations. Only after these violations were corrected was the facility granted A letter grades.

SCCAT will receive its due process in court where it will have an opportunity to respond to any charges filed in this matter. Pre- and post-seizure hearings are not used when animals are seized pursuant to a warrant because a warrant is a different authority. A copy of the warrant was provided to SCCAT’s principal. Due to the number of animals, the inventory needed to be completed at the animal care centers where animals are individually examined and their details recorded. This took several days to complete. An inventory list was provided to the court on November 2.

Agoura ACC  
 29525 Agoura Road  
 Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
 (818) 991-0071

Baldwin Park ACC  
 4275 N. Elton Street  
 Baldwin Park, CA 91706  
 (626) 962-3577

Carson/Gardena ACC  
 216 W. Victoria Street  
 Gardena, CA 90248  
 (310) 523-9566

Castaic ACC  
 31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd.  
 Castaic, CA 91384  
 (661) 257-3191

Downey ACC  
 11258 S. Garfield Ave.  
 Downey, CA 90242  
 (562) 940-6898

Lancaster ACC  
 5210 W. Avenue I  
 Lancaster, CA 93536  
 (661) 940-4191

Palmdale ACC  
 38550 Sierra Highway  
 Palmdale, CA 93550  
 (661) 575-2888

Administrative Office  
 5898 Cherry Avenue  
 Long Beach, CA 90805  
 (800) 253-3555

November 10, 2022

Page 2

Because DACC operates seven animal care centers, room was available to distribute the animals among the different facilities. There was enough animal housing space to admit SCCAT animals without the need for euthanasia of existing DACC animals. DACC's adoption of the nationally recognized best practice of providing a Managed Intake/Alternatives to Impoundment program ensured that enough space and resources were available to treat the SCCAT animals without detrimental effects on the current animal care center population. More information about this program can be found under "Cat Intake Practices" on our website at: <https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/if-you-find-a-pet/>.

A number of the SCCAT animals were found to be ill or injured and living in unsanitary conditions. DACC medical and animal care staff have been providing care and treatment to the animals. This treatment is necessary for their health and well-being and must be continued to help them recover. Unfortunately, some animals' illnesses were so advanced that they could not respond to veterinary treatment and had to be humanely euthanized to end their suffering. DACC is continuing its efforts to save other animals removed from SCCAT.

DACC will be presenting evidence to the District Attorney's office for their review. This process takes several weeks due to the large number of animals, medical tests that are necessary, and documentation required. The District Attorney's office is committed to expediting this case to the extent allowed by the courts.

The Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller establishes animal care costs for DACC. The daily cost of care per animal is \$18, plus any additional medical cost for treatment. Costs stop accruing if an owner relinquishes custody of an animal. Owners of animals may be held responsible for these costs as determined by the courts.

DACC is committed to protecting the health and safety of animals and ensuring their humane treatment. People who make the decision to operate animal rescue organizations must follow all humane animal laws. DACC works cooperatively with nearly 400 animal rescue organizations and inspects approximately 600 animal facilities each year. The vast majority provide good care to their animals. Removing animals from facilities is not necessary unless they are neglected and suffering. DACC never takes these actions without good cause and only when animal welfare or public safety are at risk.