



Marcia Mayeda, Director

November 16, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
 Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
 Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
 Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
 Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Marcia Mayeda *Marcia Mayeda*
 Director

**REPORT BACK ON BOARD MOTION TO
 PROVIDE REGULAR NO-COST OR LOW-COST
 SPAY AND NEUTER CLINICS
 (ITEM 63-D, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2023)**

On September 26, 2023, your Board instructed the Department of Animal Care and Control (Department) to report back to your Board in 60 days with a plan to provide regular no-cost or low-cost spay and neuter clinics in coordination with nonprofit spay and neuter organizations--including engaging with the Center for Strategic Public Partnerships--to help identify philanthropic funding to support clinics and volunteer programs to better manage the number of animals entering the animal care centers in the Antelope Valley.

Since then, the Department has taken several proactive steps to expand access to free and low-cost spay and neuter services for both owned and unowned pets across the Antelope Valley and other communities served by the Department. Starting this month Spay4LA, an existing partner of the Department, initiated additional free spay and neuter clinics in South Los Angeles County, with a focus on cities experiencing higher animal admissions. In the Antelope Valley, the Department's other nonprofit spay/neuter partner, Simi Valley Nonprofit Spay and Neuter Clinic (Simi Valley SNC), is scheduled to introduce additional clinics in partnered cities in the Antelope Valley in January 2024. These expanded services are funded at no additional cost to the County due to philanthropic funding from external animal welfare funding agencies and the

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Department's nonprofit partner, the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation. The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation has allocated significant funding to bolster free and low-cost spay and neuter services in Los Angeles County. These additional clinics are expected to result in the spay/neuter of at least 300 additional animals in Fiscal Year 2023-24. The Department remains committed to seeking ongoing funding opportunities to maintain and expand these clinics in the long term.

Further, the Department is closely collaborating with the City of Santa Clarita to broaden free and low-cost spay and neuter services in the City and its surrounding communities. Both the County and the City have partnered with Simi Valley SNC to offer weekly spay and neuter clinics, supplementing the services already provided by Simi Valley SNC under its contract with the Department. These weekly clinics began November 6, 2023, and will be available every Monday until funding is exhausted.

The demand for spay and neuter services, along with other basic veterinary care, remain evident through the significant turnout at spay and neuter clinics and the Department's Vet@ThePark outreach events where basic veterinary services are offered. The Department has successfully organized five Vet@ThePark events in the Antelope Valley area this calendar year, with one more scheduled for December 3, 2023. Looking ahead, the Department aims to host an additional six events in the Antelope Valley area throughout 2024.

Further, Supervisorial District 5 has generously agreed to fund 50 percent of a full-time equivalent Volunteer Coordinator position for the Department's Castaic Animal Care Center. The vital role of the Volunteer Coordinator is essential for enhancing the well-being of the animals in DACC's care. Through effective management, comprehensive training, and strategic recruitment of additional volunteers, the Department aims to guarantee a consistent and elevated standard of care for its animals. Volunteers play an indispensable role in DACC operations, offering invaluable services that extend well beyond the core responsibilities of animal care and control.

In conclusion, the Department has partnered with Spay4LA and Simi Valley SNC to enhance spay and neuter clinics, making low-cost services more accessible for pet owners and leading to the additional spay and neuter of hundreds of animals this fiscal year. The need for spay and neuter, as well as other essential veterinary services, remains high as evidenced by the strong turnout at spay/neuter clinics and Vet@ThePark outreach events. The Department is strongly supported in its efforts by the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation and is committed to pursuing further funding to sustain and expand these programs to meet the growing demand. The Department will also continue to seek funding to address pet owners' additional animal

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care needs, such as access to affordable veterinary care, to prevent owner surrenders to our care centers.

The Department will communicate all these efforts with residents and contract cities via social media, email, at our care centers, and through our website events calendar.

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c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Animal Care Board Deputies