



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**ANIMAL CARE  
& CONTROL**  
redefining CARE

# What's Up DACC

## HOLIDAY EDITION



### Message from our Director: **Marcia Mayeda, CAWA, Director**

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year at the Department of Animal Care and Control, I extend heartfelt gratitude for your support in promoting the welfare of LA County animals.

Together, we've achieved significant milestones in ensuring the well-being of animals in our care and navigated what proved to be a trying year for care center animals and pet owners nationwide.

Across the country, care centers like ours saw increased admissions due to rising cost of living. While DACC was not immune to these challenges, we put forth an enormous effort to combat them, significantly expanding our support services through our award-winning Pets Are Family Program and finding innovative ways to get pets into their forever homes. Our department celebrated several bright spots throughout the year. From pets taking flight to new homes, to spirit-boosting accolades from the Quality and Productivity Commission, our DACC family, as always, found a way to rise to the occasion and show up for our animals.

This holiday season let's reflect on the joy and companionship our animal friends bring into our lives. May the coming year be filled with continued collaboration, growth, and positive impact on behalf of those who rely on our care.



## DACC Earns Praise at the Productivity and Quality Awards

Our department was thrilled to be recognized by the Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC) this year at their annual Productivity and Quality Awards (PQA) ceremony.

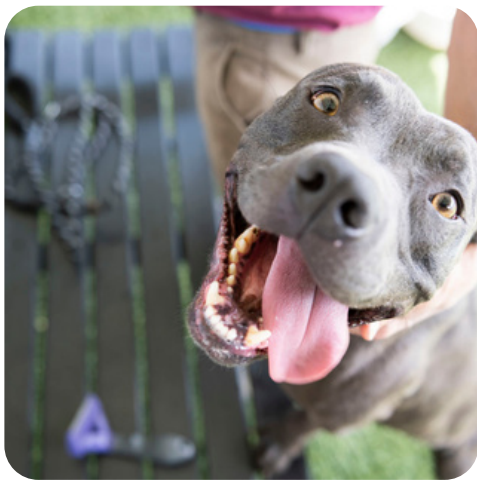
The Annual PQA Program honors departmental productivity and quality improvement efforts deserving recognition. The 2023 Top Ten winners represent innovative ways to empower some of the most underserved, disadvantaged, and vulnerable populations in the County. These projects provided critical care and services during these challenging times.

DACC was honored to have won a Top Ten award for its Pets Are Family (PAF) Program. The PAF program is a multi-initiative intervention program that addresses the most critical needs expressed by pet owners in our communities and preventing the grief of separation for families who wish to keep their pets. These programs have directly benefitted thousands of pet owners and their pets since early 2020 and have led to fewer admissions at animal care centers, resulting in cost savings for DACC and its contract cities. The PAF program also helps control pet overpopulation and promotes public health by providing low-cost spay/neuter services. Each of these services provided by PAF is either primarily or fully grant or donation funded, receiving the support of dozens of partners such as the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation, the ASPCA, California for All Animals, Petco Love, and many more.

In a surprise announcement during the ceremony, DACC Director Marcia Mayeda, CAWA was honored with QPC's Chair Leadership Award. The Chair Leadership Award is awarded to a County department director who promotes innovation, efficiency, accountability, and integrity. In awarding this recognition, the Commission stated, "This year's winner leads by example and encourages creativity and collaboration and promotes efficiency in all aspects of the department. She is recognized as a national leader in her field. She is passionate about investing in leadership development to empower and engage staff to exemplify her department's mission, vision, and values. She has devoted more than 35 years working in the animal welfare field, leads the efforts of the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation, and is also the President of the Los Angeles County Management Council."







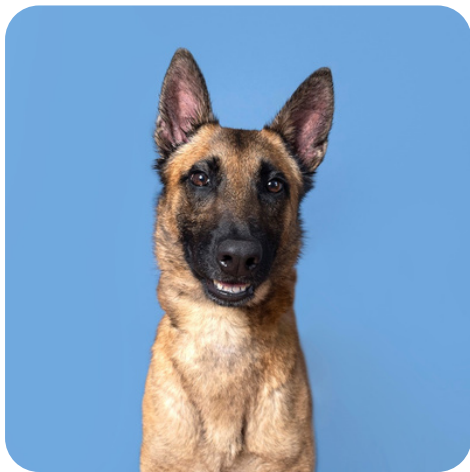
## Lights, Camera, Adoption!

### Helping our pets get seen and saved

Capturing the spirit of care center pets through compelling photography is crucial in highlighting their unique personalities and increasing their chances of adoption.

DACC recognizes that while our staff are deeply committed and adept at caring for our animals, providing for the basic physical needs of the animals consumes all their time. To improve the quality of our animals' photos online, this year we began to increase our efforts to actively seek volunteers with photography skills to join the DACC cause.

One of these photographers volunteering at our Carson/Gardena ACC is Sophie Gamand. She is an award-winning photographer, artist, and animal advocate living and working in Los Angeles. She is mostly known for her series of memorable, delightful dog portraits, "Wet Dog" and "Pit Bull Flower Power."



### PHOTOS BY SOPHIE GAMAND

By recruiting photographers, DACC aims to create impactful images that evoke empathy and encourage potential adopters to connect with these deserving animals, ultimately improving their prospects for finding loving homes.

## In the Arms of the Angels

Three dogs from our Baldwin Park ACC joined the LA Angels at a game thanks to a collaboration between the ASPCA and Cracker Jack™ to promote adoption. Betram, Bridget, and Paisley were a home run and scored homes of their own soon after!

At DACC we're always looking for creative ways to give our pets an audience because we know shelter pets are worthy of center stage (or in this case, baseball diamond!)





## DACC Pets Take Flight

**... and our joy soared to new heights!**

In a year marked by compassion and collaboration, we are thrilled to highlight our impactful partnership with the nonprofit organization, Dog Is My CoPilot. Twice this year, the Department of Animal Care and Control has joined forces with this incredible initiative, embarking on a mission to make a profound difference in the lives of our four-legged friends.

Dog Is My CoPilot, founded on the belief that every dog deserves a loving home, specializes in air transport for at-risk, adoptable dogs. Their unique approach involves flying these precious animals from areas with higher intake to shelters with lower populations, increasing their chances of finding forever homes. This strategic relocation to states like Utah, Montana, and Idaho not only alleviates the burden on are centers with limited space, but also opens up opportunities for dogs to be adopted into families eagerly awaiting their new pets.

The collaboration between our department and Dog Is My CoPilot has resulted in the successful transportation of dozens of adoptable dogs. Witnessing these heartwarming journeys was an incredible boost to our staff, reminding all of us that our collective efforts can transcend geographic boundaries to create a brighter future for these deserving pets.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated team at Dog Is My CoPilot, whose passion and commitment continue to uplift the lives of countless animals. Together we are helping pets soar to new heights and land safely at home.





# 2023 Statistics



**11,965**  
ADOPTIONS



**5,329**  
ADOPTION PARTNER  
PLACEMENTS



**2,985**  
PETS SERVED AT  
VET @THEPARK



**3,186**  
RETURN TO  
OWNERS

