



Marcia Mayeda, Director

May 1, 2024

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) is committed to ensuring the well-being and humane treatment of all animals in our care. In response to Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' (Board) directive issued on December 20, 2022, DACC was tasked with developing and implementing a five-year plan to decrease the number and percentage of animals euthanized in our animal care centers (ACCs).

Progress on the Five-Year Plan

DACC continues to work diligently on implementing and refining strategies that align with our goal of reducing euthanasia rates across the seven ACCs. Here are the key initiatives and progress made thus far:

- 1. Collaboration with Rescue Partners and Animal Welfare Stakeholders:** DACC collaborated with a committee comprising experts from the ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, University of California-Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program, Michelson Found Animals Foundation, Dogs Playing for Life, and several local stakeholders. This diverse group was pivotal in providing insights and recommendations tailored to the specific challenges faced by our care centers. Moreover, this collaboration catalyzed the review and revision of existing policies, the implementation of a new policy, and the establishment of benchmarks (currently employed) to monitor the Department's strides toward its objectives—with the overarching aim of mitigating euthanasia rates for animals amidst rising admissions from the public.
- 2. Managed Intake:** DACC utilizes Managed Intake, which provides alternatives to admission for pets by providing pet owners options other than surrendering their animals. Through DACC's intervention services, pet owners receive support in the form of consultation, free pet food and supplies, financial resources, vouchers for veterinary care, and referrals – both medical and behavioral – to assist with their pet-

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

related issues. Through this program we have assisted many pet owners, ensuring they did not have to relinquish their beloved pet.

3. **Expanding Free or Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Services to Los Angeles County (County) Residents:** Recognizing the critical role of spay/neuter in managing pet populations and reducing intake numbers, we have expanded our partnerships with Spay4LA and Simi Valley Non-Profit Spay and Neuter Clinic (SVNSNC) to provide free and low-cost spay/neuter to residents who own pets in unincorporated County as well as DACC's Contract Cities. This expansion increases accessibility and affordability of spay/neuter services across the County, which directly contributes to lower euthanasia rates by controlling the population of homeless animals. DACC has partnered with Spay4LA since January 2016, and on April 4, 2023, the Board approved the expansion of these services by approving contracts for mobile spay/neuter clinic and vaccination services with Spay4LA and SVNSNC. Funding has been provided by the County and through various donations and grants. Most notably, Supervisor Barger allocated \$100,000 to expand spay/neuter services in honor of Spay/Neuter Awareness Month and the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation allocated \$150,000 for spay/neuter services. Access to spay/neuter services is crucial in reducing euthanasia rates in animal shelters. The absence of affordable and readily available spay/neuter facilities contributes to unchecked breeding and the subsequent overpopulation of shelters.
4. **Detailed Accounting, Analysis, and Reporting:** DACC has worked to enhance the accessibility of public-facing statistics for the Department, aiming to broaden public access to essential data. For transparency and to showcase our progress, comprehensive animal statistics can be found on the County's Open Data page at <https://Data.lacounty.gov>. Moving forward, DACC will continue to add new reports to provide the public with a more comprehensive understanding of all the services DACC offers.
5. **Enhancing Adoption and Rescue Partner Programs:** DACC continues efforts to grow its network of rescues and Adoption Partners. New partnerships were established, focusing particularly on those groups willing to take in harder-to-place animals including those with medical or behavioral issues. DACC streamlined its adoption processes by reducing the waiting period for adoptions from 48 to 24 hours to balance the needs of public adopters and rescue groups. Further, DACC is expanding its foster and volunteer programs by enhancing training, broadening recruitment, and introducing mentorship initiatives, all aimed at improving the care and adoption rates of animals under its care.

6. **Infrastructure and Resource Allocation:** DACC has enhanced its ACCs to accommodate more animals comfortably to reduce stress-induced behaviors that can lead to health and behavioral issues. This included redesigning kenneling spaces to improve animal well-being and reduce stress for the animals housed within.
7. **Community Engagement and Outreach Programs:** DACC has ramped up its community outreach to address the root causes of pet surrender and abandonment. By engaging the community through conversations about their needs and support services available, we aim to decrease the number of animals entering our ACCs. DACC has expanded its outreach efforts by including Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, and Vietnamese translations of our outreach brochures. This initiative is designed to increase access to pet services for our diverse communities and aligns with the Board's directive to develop a Countywide Language Access and Equity Plan.
8. **Pets Are Family (PAF) Program:** The PAF program, launched in February 2020 in response to the onset of the pandemic, has evolved significantly under DACC's stewardship. Since its inception, this initiative has expanded and introduced various new programs all aimed at preserving the bond between pets and their families. One such initiative is our Vet@ThePark events generally held once or twice per month. At these events pets receive free vaccines, basic wellness exams, and essential pet food and supplies.

As part of PAF, the Care Voucher Program has been instrumental in providing support to pet owners and reducing preventable animal surrenders. Provided vouchers can be redeemed for grooming, temporary animal housing, compassionate euthanasia services, or up to \$500 in basic veterinary care. These services are made possible entirely through grants and donations received from nonprofit partners and individual donors. Collaborations have enabled DACC to sustain and expand these vital programs annually. In 2023 alone, DACC distributed 1,912 Care Vouchers to pet owners, serviced 3,030 pets through Vet@ThePark clinics, and provided nearly \$300,000 worth of pet food and supplies free of charge to pet owners. These efforts underscore our commitment to support both pets and their families within our communities.

DACC remains dedicated to the health and welfare of the animals in our care and the communities we serve. We are confident that the measures being implemented will continue to lead to significant reductions in euthanasia rates and improve the quality of life for animals throughout the County. Our shared goal remains to place as many animals as possible into loving homes.


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We encourage anyone interested in contributing to the solution to visit our website at www.animalcare.lacounty.gov. There you can sign up to become a foster or care center volunteer, explore the resources provided through the PAF program, and of course find animals ready to be placed into loving homes. Together we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of animals and pet owners in our communities.

You can also donate to the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation at www.lacountyanimals.org. ACF is a 501(c)3 charity established to support DACC through fundraising for spay/neuter programs, pet adoptions, public education, and animal welfare.

Sincerely,


Juan "Danny" Ubario (May 1, 2024 13:24 PDT)

DANNY UBARIO
Chief Deputy Director

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