



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

# What's Up DACC?

## HOLIDAY EDITION



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

This holiday season, we want to take a moment to reflect on the year gone by and express our gratitude for the continued collaboration of our community, grantors, adoption partners, volunteers, and contract cities.

This year we've faced many challenges but we've also witnessed the incredible resilience of our team and the resourcefulness of the animal welfare community.

In this newsletter we'll reflect on the past year and share some of our increased outreach efforts. I'm also very excited to share some new projects that have been near and dear to my heart for some time whose hard-won results we will see in 2025.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue our work in 2025, and we hope this season brings joy, peace, and comfort to you and your loved ones—whether they walk on two legs or four.



# The Animal Welfare Landscape: Challenges and Hope

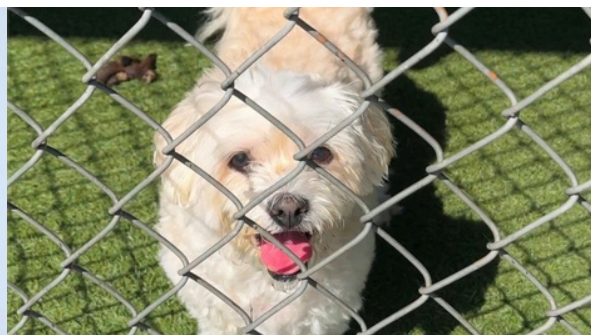
This past year, the animal welfare landscape has continued to shift, with rising pet admissions at shelters across the country. Economic challenges such as the increasing cost of veterinary care, pet food, and the overall impact of inflation have led to more pet owners making the difficult decision to surrender their pets. Families that once provided loving homes for their pets now face financial constraints, forcing them to turn to local shelters with no other option but to surrender their beloved companions.

To meet the community's growing needs, DACC has been focusing much of its efforts on expanding its free public assistance programs. Our Vet@ThePark clinics bring essential veterinary care directly to communities, providing free vaccines, flea and tick treatments, microchips, and supplies. Programs like the Care Voucher offer up to \$300 toward veterinary costs, while our free and low-cost spay/neuter services help pet owners keep their pets healthy, reduce pet roaming, and eliminate the births of unwanted offspring. However, these life-saving programs rely entirely on donations and grants which have been increasingly difficult to secure—making it more difficult to meet the growing needs of pet owners.

In addition to providing much-needed assistance, we also urge community members to adopt pets from our care centers instead of purchasing pets from breeders or stores. Our care centers are home to hundreds of animals, each one eager for the chance to join a loving family. By adopting, you're not only offering these pets a second chance but you're also contributing to the solution of pet overpopulation. A key part of this solution is also spaying/neutering, which not only helps control the unwanted pet population but also provides significant health benefits such as reducing the risk of certain cancers and improving overall well-being.

While we strive to find homes for all our animals, we face the unique challenge of placing larger breeds such as German Shepherds, Siberian Huskies, pit bulls, and other larger breeds. These dogs are affectionate, loyal, and fully adoptable yet they are frequently overlooked due to their size or breed stereotypes. We believe that with the right family, these dogs can thrive and make wonderful lifelong companions.

Despite these challenges, there is reason to be hopeful. It takes a partnership between our contract cities, local communities, and caring individuals to make a real difference. By working together, we can improve outcomes for animals in need and help pet owners stay connected with their furry companions. Whether it's through volunteering, donating, adopting, or simply spreading the word about our programs, you can play a vital role in shaping a better future for pets across Los Angeles County. We hope you join us in our resolution: doing our part to ensure that every animal has a chance at a happy, healthy life.





# Outreach Efforts for People Experiencing Homelessness

## Helping the pets who mean so much to those struggling the most

At DACC, we know that the bond between people and their pets not only lasts through hard times, it's often what gets people through hard times. We know housing and financial circumstances don't mean a pet owner is irresponsible. And we know we have a duty to help when someone is trying desperately to care for their pet while also getting back on their feet.



That's why we are proud to partner with our County colleagues, including the CEO and Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, and Public Social Services to provide vital support for individuals experiencing homelessness and their beloved pets. Through our joint efforts, we're not only helping people transition into temporary housing, we're also ensuring that pets are cared for and kept with their families during this crucial time.

Our dedicated teams are working hard to provide resources such as vaccinations, flea/tick prevention, leashes, harnesses, beds, crates, food, and spay/neuter resources while advocating for the special bond shared between people and their pets. We want to extend our gratitude to city officials and homeless services providers whose partnership make this crucial work possible.

## 25 Strays of Christmas

DACC was thrilled to announce our final promo of 2024: 25 Strays of Christmas. Adoption fees are reduced to \$25 from December 1-25.

In total, this promo combined with other care center-specific holiday promos yielded 834 adoptions- with nearly a week still left to go!

It warms our hearts to know these pets will be home for the holidays, and we look forward to more adoptions in 2025!



# Stop Illegal Breeding Tipline

## Streamlined reporting for effective enforcement.

A bright spot in 2024 was seeing our communities respond to our newly unveiled Stop Illegal Breeding Tipline by reporting backyard breeding.

Since its inception, our Stop Illegal Breeding tipline has received more than 350 tips (this number includes tips with insufficient information or out of our servicing jurisdiction). Altogether, 225+ activities have resulted from these tips, which has led to citations, orders to comply with spay/neuter regulations, warnings, and numerous opportunities to provide education on more responsible pet ownership and the forthcoming consequences of not complying with local regulations.

To make tips more effective, we recommend those who wish to report a potential backyard breeder check first to ensure that the address is within DACC's jurisdiction by typing the address into our Shelter Locator (<https://locator.lacounty.gov/animal/shelters>). The system will tell you if the location where illegal breeding may be occurring is within DACC's jurisdiction or another animal control agency. Contact information will also be shown for the animal control agency with jurisdiction over address.

Our goal is to keep this momentum going in 2025, and to continue to engage with the community to discourage both unintentional and intentional illegal breeding. But we need your help.

Report illegal breeding here:

<https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/stop-illegal-breeding/>

[stopillegalbreeding@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:stopillegalbreeding@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

(661) 261-0111



**Backyard Breeding**

**DON'T SUPPORT IT, REPORT IT.**

Buying from illegal breeders exacerbates the pet overpopulation crisis and contributes to animal cruelty and neglect.

**REPORT ILLEGAL BREEDING**  
(661) 261-0111  
stopillegalbreeding@animalcare.lacounty.gov

SCAN ME



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**BACKYARD BREEDING:  
DON'T SUPPORT,  
REPORT IT**



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# Grooming Gives Hope in 2025

## A long-term vision is realized

Grooming isn't just about keeping our pets looking their best—it plays a crucial role in their overall health and well-being. Regular grooming helps to prevent matting, reduces the risk of skin infections, and allows us to spot early signs of illness or injury that may otherwise go unnoticed.

For their initial days in our care centers, animals are rarely, if ever, looking and feeling their best. A long-term goal of Director Marcia Mayeda was to change that, to have DACC provide a much needed opportunity for socialization and trust-building with human caregivers and a brand-new look as our four-legged friends sought out their new homes. A well-groomed pet is not only healthier but also more likely to feel comfortable and confident as they transition into a loving home.

That's why DACC is so excited to announce big changes coming in 2025. The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation received a grant from the Carol Moss Foundation to onboard groomers for a one-year period. The groomer for North County, Hannah, just started a couple of weeks ago and will be working at the Lancaster, Palmdale, and Castaic Animal Care Centers. In the South County, DACC is exploring a partnership with West Coast Grooming Academy who can employ instructors and students to conduct grooming at the Baldwin Park, Carson/Gardena, and Downey ACCs.

Additionally, construction has been underway for a brand-new grooming room at our Castaic ACC. The room features a specialized tub, grooming table and hair dryer. Staff at DACC are thrilled to see this long-term project finally come to fruition, while the animals are looking forward to their "spa days" in preparation for joining their new families.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday and New Year from DACC!



# 2024 Statistics



**12,747**  
ADOPTIONS



**5,833**

ADOPTION PARTNER  
PLACEMENTS



**5,776**

PETS SERVED AT  
VET @THEPARK



**2,926**

RETURN TO  
OWNERS



\*Stats are as of December 18, 2024

