



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

What's Up DACC?



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

Our region endured a harrowing few weeks beginning on January 7. Amidst dry vegetation and incredibly strong winds, a series of wildfires in LA County erupted concurrently, killing at least 29 people, destroying thousands of structures, and displacing more than 200,000 people and thousands of pets.

DACC was prepared. Before the fires began--when LA County was under the rare designation of a Red Flag Warning with a Particularly Dangerous Situation--our Department began implementing certain preparations. This served us well, as the LA Wildfires proved to be an unprecedented crisis.

Our top priority was ensuring the safety of pets and livestock, both in the field and in our evacuation centers. Officers in the field assisted with evacuations, mainly of large animals like horses and livestock, bringing these beloved animals to safety. But as time went on, so much more emerged from this crisis. Our LA County community came together with generous donations, countless volunteer hours, and animal agencies stepping up to take adoptable pets so our staff could remain laser-focused on the emergency at hand.

Read on to see DACC's response to the LA Wildfires, remarkable collaborations to support our staff and displaced pets, and more.



The LA Wildfires

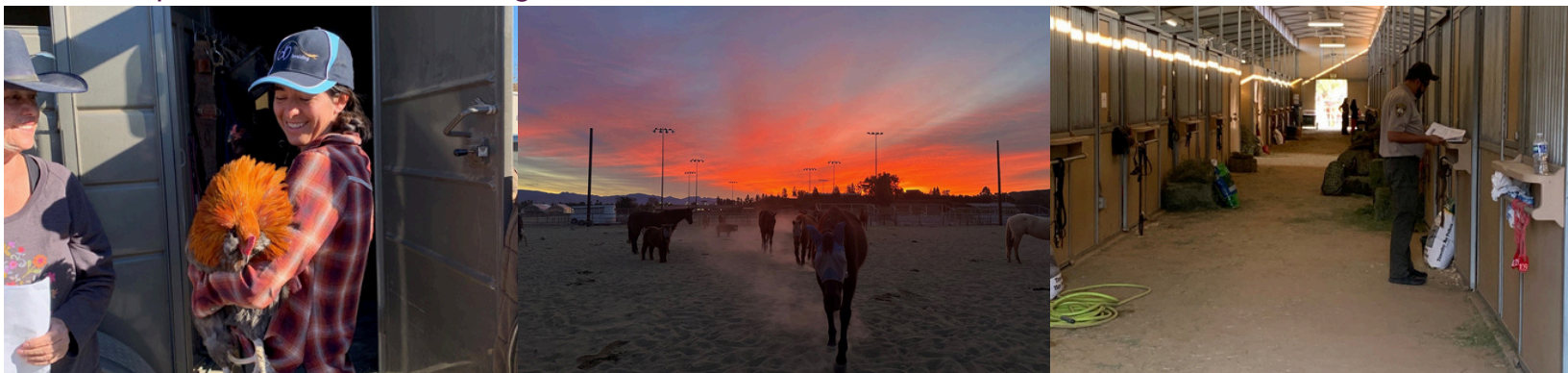
Practically speaking, DACC was prepared for this emergency: trucks were fueled, internal communications set up, staffing plans developed, and our volunteers-- particularly our Equine Response Team-- on standby. When news of the Palisades Fire hit, DACC immediately activated our Agoura Animal Care Center (ACC) as an evacuation center for displaced pets and Pierce College Equestrian Center for large animals.

When it became clear this would be an unprecedented emergency, all DACC ACCs were opened to evacuated pets and the Antelope Valley (AV) Fairgrounds activated as Pierce College quickly filled.

But as any LA County resident can attest, there was no preparing for the scale and impact of the LA Wildfires. What followed the initial sparking of the Palisades Fire was a grueling yet rewarding multi-week effort in which DACC worked hand-in-hand with numerous agencies to care for displaced pets and livestock and bring animals to safety. Our teams were quickly deployed to areas affected by the Palisades , Eaton , and Hughes Fires. The Hughes Fire came dangerously close to our Castaic ACC, which was successfully evacuated thanks to extraordinary teamwork from our care centers and the building ultimately saved by our brave firefighters.

Staff and volunteers were present at evacuation sites 24 hours a day caring for displaced animals. At Pierce College, this included ensuring constant communication with horse owners to ensure we maintained specific diets, met unique medical needs, and were aware of any behavioral needs. At the peak of these emergencies, DACC staff and volunteers cared for 316 horses and other large animals and 171 small animals.

However this herculean effort thankfully did not fall entirely on the shoulders of DACC staff and volunteers. As communities near and far rallied around our Department, we accomplished much more together.





A Community Comes Together

Faced with adversity, LA County stepped up for pets

During this crisis, the outpouring of support from folks both in our community and around the world for our staff and our animals was nothing short of astounding.

Our ACCs quickly filled to the brim with donations, so many that we were able to share the wealth with other agencies and with pet owners affected by the fires. From daily food deliveries from World Central Kitchen, to pallets of pet food and supplies, our staff was able to remain laser-focused on emergency efforts thanks to our generous communities.

Donations large and small started pouring in to support our emergency efforts. The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation received generous, substantial donations from the LA Chargers and Spanos Family, Spring Point Partners, Comcast NBCUniversal, AKC Reunite, Bombshell Sportswear, GreaterGood Charities, World Central Kitchen, Petfinder Foundation, Petco Love, Life of Riley, Sullivan and Cromwell Foundation, Sony, and the Bill and Marian Cook Foundation. DACC is incredibly grateful to these donors and to the many people across the world who donated to support our efforts.

Greater Good Flight

With so many animals coming into our care centers, the question loomed: what about those that came before?

We had a plan: DACC quickly waived fees for rescues through our Paws and Partners initiative, and throughout this disaster 400+ animals who were in our care centers prior to the fires were rescued to open up critical animal housing space and allow our staff to focus more on emergency response and caring for displaced pets.

Other animals joined a special flight orchestrated by Greater Goods Charities, sending LA County animals brought to care centers prior to the fires to the Oregon Humane Society for a new chance at adoption.





Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

Raising Awareness and Busting Myths

This February marked Spay/Neuter Awareness Month, and DACC marked the occasion with strong messaging, dispelling myths about this critical care, sharing our resources for low-cost spay/neuter, and highlighting our caring and professional medical team.

Spay/neuter plays a critical role in reducing pet overpopulation, improving animal health, and promoting positive behavioral outcomes.

LA County Animal Care Centers receive an endless stream of unwanted animals, over 30 thousand each year. Despite strong efforts to place these pets into new homes and reunite lost pets with their owners, there are simply not enough adoptive homes available. It is imperative that we reduce the number of animals flooding our animal care centers, and the best way to do that is ensure all pets are spayed or neutered.

Each year, DACC performs approximately 10,000 spay/neuter surgeries in furtherance of our strong commitment to animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. The Department also provides low-cost spay/neuter vouchers as part of our Pets Are Family Program, funded by the [LA County Animal Care Foundation](#). LA County residents in DACC's service area can apply for low-cost spay/neuter [here](#).

Raising awareness about the benefits of these procedures helps create healthier communities for both animals and residents. For more information on spay/neuter services and resources, visit animalcare.lacounty.gov/spay-and-neuter.





Jan-March Statistics



2,948
ADOPTIONS



1,607

**ADOPTION PARTNER
PLACEMENTS**



689

**PETS SERVED AT
VET @THEPARK**



1,225
**RETURN TO
OWNERS**

