One of the most important things staff takes care of when an animal has been dropped off at the care center or found stray on the streets is a bath or full grooming. Although it may seem like a luxury, grooming is very important for the animal's wellbeing. Animals may be dirty and matted when they arrive at the center. “There are also often underlying medical conditions that the center doesn’t know about until the animal is bathed,” says DACC Director, Marcia Mayeda.

The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation (ACF) has purchased a new grooming trailer for the Castaic animal care center. Grooming has been difficult for them in the past because they didn’t have a place where they could properly bathe and groom animals. Now they have a trailer that is fully equipped with washing tubs, dryers and grooming stands. The trailer can also be transported to other locations as needed.

“Animals tend to suffer in silence,” said City of Santa Clarita council member and ACF board member, Laurene Weste. “Underneath the mats, filth, dirt and tangles, many times there are wounds or sores that you can’t see and need to be treated. This allows us to do immediate work right here at the shelter.”

When the animals come in, they are dull and depressed because they feel so horrible. But after a couple hours of TLC, they are a completely transformed animal – it’s just day and night.

Marcia Mayeda, DACC Director
Department Director Marcia Mayeda spends two days each month working alongside staff who provide direct services to animals and the public. “Working alongside staff allows me to see the daily interactions that DACC has with our community,” said Mayeda. “I also can identify areas to increase efficiency, or equipment that could help our staff work more effectively.

Mayeda said she enjoys discussing DACC’s mission, vision, and values with staff and volunteers. “Ensuring consistency in these areas between our nine work locations is important to DACC’s overall performance,” she noted. Participative leadership is a key component of DACC’s leadership and serves to raise morale and teamwork, benefitting DACC’s human and animal customers.

“Working alongside staff allows me to see the daily interactions that DACC has with our community.”

DACC’s Director, Marcia Mayeda

Each year, NBC4/KNBC and Telemundo 52 lead the local participation for the national award-winning Clear the Shelters event to promote pet adoptions. Both stations heavily promote this event to raise awareness of homeless animals and encourage their adoption into new homes. The stations broadcast live from the animal care centers and generate wonderful publicity to inspire adoptions.

All seven DACC care centers participated in Clear the Shelters. Staff and volunteers were thrilled to have this public support, and 727 animals were adopted into permanent, loving homes.
The Wildlife Waystation, located in the Angeles National Forest near Tujunga, served as an exotic animal sanctuary for 43 years. It cared for discarded and abused animals such as chimpanzees, lions, bears, hyenas, tigers, mountain lions, various birds and reptiles, livestock, and more. These animals needed a sanctuary because they were no longer wanted by humans, coming from circuses, private owners, and research facilities. Many were illegally imported, seized by law enforcement, and given to the sanctuary.

The Creek Fire in 2017 and flooding in 2019 caused extensive damage to the Wildlife Waystation’s caging and grounds. Repairs in the millions of dollars exceeded the financial capacity of the organization. On August 11, 2019 the Wildlife Waystation’s board of directors voted unanimously to close the facility.

The Wildlife Waystation surrendered its permit to operate to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the enforcement agency that regulates exotic animal facilities. CDFW has assumed ownership and control of the 470 animals on the property, and has been relocating them to various sanctuaries around the country.

However, CDFW does not regulate domestic animals. The state agency requested assistance from DACC to handle the dozens of domestic animals, including hogs, pygmy pigs, horses, alpacas, llamas, bison, various birds, a mule, and more. DACC officers and volunteers from the Department’s Equine Response Team came together over several days to capture and transport these animals to various DACC care centers where they received a lot of TLC from staff and volunteers. DACC has been working with various rescue groups and adopters to find permanent, loving homes for these animals. The bison were rehomed to join the bison herd at William S. Hart Regional Park in Newhall, CA.

Working on behalf of animals is not only highly rewarding, but can be surprising as well. Whether it is rescuing animals from the threats of wildfire or flooding; responding to calls for loose camels, cobras, or capybaras; seizing more than 7,800 fighting roosters; or rescuing animals from exotic animal sanctuaries, DACC is always ready to help. Your donations to the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation support the Department’s work in these areas. Please continue to help us help the animals!
The Department of Animal Care and Control was widely praised recently for adopting the “Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering” (SCAS) framework to describe its operating practices. A term coined within the last year by thought leaders in animal welfare, and lauded by animal welfare advocates across the nation, SCAS is a more compassionate, thoughtful, and transparent concept for safely and humanely managing an animal welfare agency.

SCAS is the next step beyond “no-kill” operating practices, which demand that at least 90% of animals entering their shelters are adopted or saved (called the Live Release Rate, or LRR). In order to meet this artificially-created statistic, some “no-kill” shelters have made unethical operating decisions to meet this goal.

They have refused to accept animals in need that may lower their LRR; overcrowded their shelters by failing to properly manage their animal population, resulting in illness and disease outbreaks; grossly extended lengths of stay for animals in the shelters, causing physical and behavioral damage; and made risky adoption decisions, including the return of dangerous dogs into the community where they may harm people and other animals. These practices of managing to a percentage rather than the best interests of the animals and the community have caused great harm in various communities, and have been discredited among animal welfare professionals across the nation.

For these reasons, the Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) does not manage solely to a percentage at the expense of animal welfare and public safety. Instead, DACC uses many innovative solutions to achieve a high live release rate of animals while best serving the animals’ and community needs.

As part of its process of continuous improvement, DACC uses SCAS to create the best outcomes for all animals by treating them respectfully and alleviating their suffering. The fundamental tenets of SCAS are:

- **Ensure every unwanted or homeless pet has a safe place to go for shelter and care.** DACC care centers will not turn away animals in need of assistance. It is imperative that communities have a place where lost, injured, ill, unwanted, or dangerous animals can be safely housed and cared for. Refusing or delaying admission of animals from families in crisis or strays found by Good Samaritans are unacceptable.

- **Place every healthy and safe animal.** DACC will not offer for adoption animals that are irremediably suffering or dangerous to public or animal safety. We make every effort to place all other animals. Adoptions to new homes, placement with adoption partners (rescue groups), and transports to other agencies that have room to take animals are just some of the ways DACC maximizes its adoption opportunities.

On September 1st, DACC participated in the Los Angeles County Day parade and expo at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. DACC staff and volunteers escorted animal safety and transport vehicles and showed off adoptable dogs for fairgoers to see. The dogs were a huge hit, and a great adoption promotion for the Department.

Information about DACC’s many services was shared at the expo booth. Many fair attendees stopped by with questions about their pets, their rights as pet owners, and how they can help by contributing to the Animal Care Foundation. Promoting responsible pet ownership and compassion for animals is a key activity supported by the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation.
• Assess the medical and behavioral needs of homeless animals and ensure these needs are thoughtfully addressed. DACC, through its medical team and its animal behavior and enrichment team, delivers a holistic approach to ensuring each animal’s needs are properly addressed. DACC provides doggie play groups to reduce stress, has expanded cat spaces to give them more room to stretch and perch on ledges, and has installed music to provide a calming environment. DACC’s medical teams provide intake, housing, and exit exams to continuously monitor and provide care for animals. The Foundation’s Dreams Come True fund supports special medical surgeries or treatments for animals in DACC’s care.

• Align DACC policy with the needs of the community. DACC recognizes its responsibility to the public trust, and ensures its programs and policies reflect and support this obligation. DACC respects the public’s desire for safe neighborhoods and does not place dangerous animals back into the community or allow pet nuisances that threaten public health. DACC takes the strongest approach to animal protection by enforcing animal laws regarding animal cruelty and neglect. We also know the community expects that we make all attempts to find new homes for the animals in our care, and we work diligently every day to make that happen.

• Alleviate suffering and make appropriate euthanasia decisions. DACC often accepts animals that are irremediably suffering and cannot live with severe, unremitting pain or untreated health challenges. We also receive dangerous dogs that cannot be safely placed in the community. Allowing the animal to languish in a cage for years while deteriorating is inhumane. In these situations, it is most humane to relieve an animal’s suffering with compassionate euthanasia. This also reduces the demand for limited cage spaces, reduces overcrowding, and frees up resources to help adoptable animals.

• Consider the health and wellness of animals for each community when transferring animals. DACC participates in many animal transport programs where animals are transported from DACC’s care centers to areas of the country that are experiencing a shortage of shelter animals. These win-win programs save thousands of animal lives each year. However, it is also important that animals transported through these programs do not suffer from physical or behavioral defects that could endanger animals or people in their new communities. DACC works closely with its shelter partners to provide suitable animals for adoption, and maintain trust with our colleagues.

• Enhance the human — animal bond through thoughtful placements and post-adoption support. DACC works with potential adopters to ensure animals they select are suitable matches for their lifestyles, sophistication in animal care and handling, and other factors to make certain the placement is successful. DACC informs new adopters of what we know about the animal’s history, including medical or behavior issues. Animals with dangerous behavioral issues that cannot be mitigated, or untreatable medical problems, are not placed into new homes. DACC provides post-adoption support to adopters to ensure the placement thrives.

Continued on Page 6

UNITY FAIR
MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following gifts made in memory of loved ones.

Edward Anderson – in memory of Hobbes
Yvonne Angel – in memory of Rocky
Christine L. Arias – in memory of Oreo & Ditto
Chelsea Berg – in memory of Damien
Johnna Bond – in memory of Ava
Johnna Bond – in memory of Spooky Amronson
Sandra Brown – in memory of Milo Leman
Gale Byrne – in memory of Nick and his beloved bird
Nora Castillo – in memory of Sniffie
Samuel Chang – in memory of Mango Salmon
Anita Cheng – in memory of Ruby Hau
Dennis Dackowski – in memory of William Sorscher
Anne Fisherty – in memory of Nora Fisherty
Eric Geier – in memory of Footloose
Timothy & Janie Gibson – in memory of J’ Jia
Timothy & Janie Gibson – in memory of Zi-Lung
Sally Hall-Schumann – in memory of Carly Mullaney
Sally Hall-Schumann – in memory of Thane Oyfell
David & Ramona Hickey – in memory of Peanut

Amanda Holt – in memory of Kwanis Shaw
Jeff Jordan – in memory of KryRoze LaFleur
Cheryl Knight – in memory of Betty Kornalis
Liz Layne – in memory of Christina Anderson
Julie Mareno – in memory of Kathy Balderrama & Bella, Tillulah,
Bogey, Daisy, Little Lola, Sylvester & Bruno
Craig Mason – in memory of Lady Salazar
Arlene Mayo – in memory of Kyla Reef
Kimberley Miller – in memory of Sebastian
Nancy Moomau – in memory of Ruby Lorenz
Nancy Moomau – in memory of Rambo Knapstein
Terri & Elroy Morris – in memory of Wally Morris
Missell Moseley – in memory of Gary Cooper
Patti Murray – in memory of Holly Landenberger
Laured Ozesky – in memory of Charlie
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Ruby Lorenz
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Rambo Knapstein
Charlotte F. Pell – in memory of Baka
Denyce Racine – in memory of Angel Ervin

Adrianna Redford – in memory of Romeo
Teresa Rosas – in memory of Shadow
Rose Saldana – in memory of Molly
Laura & Michael Salvy – in memory of Milo
Serafina Shuklman – in memory of Stanley
Clarence & Cynthia Peacock – in memory of Bean
Barbara Sheets – in memory of Betty
Sarah Sherwin – in memory of Betty Reiko Ikeda
Catherine Stites – in memory of Winston DeConde
David & Kathleen Stoddard – in memory of Boris
Thomas Stough – in memory of Brandy Lindsay
Robert Toporoff – in memory of Jasmine & Shane
Germaine Ulrich – in memory of Sugar
Kerry Valentine – in memory of Ava Girl Bond
John Vander Hooven – in memory of Thomas Dart
Marc Wanagas – in memory of Lee Wanagas
Lora Woo – in memory of Pearl Moy
Karen Yip – in memory of Fritz

HONORARIUM GIFTS

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following gifts made in honor of special people and animals.

Efrain & Esperanza Amara – in honor of Siti & Kitty
Robin Arm – in honor of Sophie Harris’s High School Graduation
Susana Banda Avila – in honor of Eliseo Banda’s Birthday & Bucky
Janet Barnes – in honor of Page
Mary Barnett – in honor of Dickens and Deborah Silverman
Katharine Battaglia – in honor of Robby Facer
William & Carol Blair – in honor of Sunny & Penney
Valerie Brunner – in honor of Dane Steven’s Birthday
Amanda Calderon – in honor of Hazel
Elvira Contreras – in honor of Stephanie Lopez’s Birthday
Vanessa Eckert – in honor of Philip Punsly
Leah Ginsberg – in honor of Hocki’s Birthday
Armik Grigorian – in honor of Ellen Williams
Albertina Herzog – in honor of Bella

Aidan Koch – in honor of Cleopatra Snake
Sally Hall-Schumann – in honor of Mary Mullaney
Elisa Heyman – in honor of Alexandra Hopkins’ Birthday
Jason Komorsky – in honor of David Brody’s Birthday
Felice Leonhardt – in honor of Carla Leonard’s Birthday
& all of her pets
Natalie Martinez – in honor of Cookie
Margaret McElowney – in honor of Zach & Julie
Shenoy’s Wedding
Pamela Montazer – in honor of Izzie & Lucy Lombardo
Nancy Moomau – in honor of Aunt Estelle & Uncle Oscar’s 72nd Wedding Anniversary
Sharon Pecorelli – in honor of Aunt Estelle & Uncle Oscar’s 72nd Wedding Anniversary

Ellen Pressman – in honor of Ned Aronow’s Birthday
Alex Pyke – in honor of Stefani Wells’s Birthday
Christine Richardson – in honor of Dads Cowley’s Birthday
Robert T. Sherman – in honor of Wolf
Carol Shih – in honor of Madeline Hongseukpan’s Birthday & Zero
Courtney Shodler – in honor of Hank
Sara Stewart – in honor of Zachary Almeda
William Stewart – in honor of Buddy
Brendan Sullivan – in honor of Dan Fitzpatrick
John & Martha Willcote – in honor of Chico
Diane Whitfield – in honor of Ollie Brandstrom
Sarah Young – in honor of Ashley Boudhehent

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ANIMAL SHELTERING

continued …

• Foster a culture of transparency, ethical decision-making, mutual respect, continual learning, and collaboration. DACC remains committed to upholding the highest ethical standards in meeting its mission of protecting people and animals. We share our animal statistics on our website, share our policies and procedures with others, and use After Action Reviews to continuously learn how to improve operations. DACC works with more than 300 adoption partners, several national animal welfare organizations, and dozens of regional animal welfare agencies to further its mission.

Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering is being adopted by many animal welfare organizations and animal welfare industry associations across the nation. The fundamental goal is to create best outcomes for all animals. DACC is proud to stand with these forward-thinking, responsible, and compassionate organizations and will continue to provide innovative solutions to making our communities safer and more humane for animals and residents.

Please visit these websites for more information:
www.animalcare.lacounty.gov/dacc-mission
www.scsheltering.org
www.peta.org/about-peta/why-peta/no-kill-shelters
On July 13, 2019 DACC partnered with the PBS show “Shelter Me”, Rita Earl Photography, and HeARts Speak to host the largest ever one-day photo shoot of sheltered animals. This “Seen=Saved” event recruited more than 200 volunteer photographers from around the nation to photograph every animal in all seven DACC animal care centers. The photos were then shared on social media to raise awareness of the more than 1,500 animals in DACC animal care centers and engage potential adopters. To encourage adoptions, the Petco Foundation and BOBS from Skechers underwrote the adoption fees.

HeARts Speak is a nationally recognized 501c3 nonprofit organization that unites art and advocacy to increase the visibility of shelter animals. “Shelter Me” is an uplifting film series produced by Steven Latham, that celebrates shelters pets and the people who help them. Renowned photographer Rita Earl Blackwell and her pro-bono work with animal shelters saves the lives of countless animals each year.

“DACC was thrilled to be selected to participate in this extraordinary event,” said Marcia Mayeda, DACC’s Director. “The hard work, generosity, and spirit of volunteerism of the sponsors is deeply appreciated by all DACC staff and volunteers.” Happily, 304 animals were adopted thanks to this amazing event.

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\[\text{DACC's Director, Marcia Mayeda} \]

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THE STORY OF STELLA  
told by Sarah Stinson

“We lost our Labrador, Lyla, in February of this year. Every day since, we have been on the Castaic Animal Care Center website looking at all the dogs. We didn’t want to replace Lyla, but didn’t want to lose the love she brought to the family. My husband, Darcy, wasn’t ready for a dog, but I was persistent. Every dog I inquired about on the Castaic website was either ‘spoken for’ or had been taken by a rescue.

One day, I saw Stella. That was it! She had just been posted to the website so I grabbed my daughter, Gwen, and went to meet her. We loved her and were committed to adopting her even though Darcy didn’t know we had visited her. When I came home and talked to him about it, we ended up having a huge discussion.

One day on his way to work, Darcy decided to stop by and visit Stella. He wanted to dislike her. He hoped she wouldn’t like him. The meeting turned out to be the complete opposite! He fell in love with her. The following morning another intense discussion ensued and it wasn’t until I became overwhelmed with emotion that he admitted to having visited her and fallen in love with her. We decided to adopt Stella but keep it a surprise for Gwen.

Upon our next visit to the care center, we told Gwen that someone had just adopted Stella. She was devastated. We waited while Darcy asked questions of the staff (secretly finalizing the adoption). When he came out, he asked if we would like to see a rattlesnake. Gwen was excited about it. However, when she walked in … the rest is history. There was Stella.”

Sarah followed up with the Castaic Care Center to let staff know that Stella is doing great! “She’s a huge cuddle bug and thinks she’s a lap dog. She loves kids and is great on the leash with my Gwen. Just say ‘walk’ and she’s ready to go! Stella has been to obedience training and is an amazing addition to the family.”

The Stinson family loves their Stella and Gwen will never forget one of the most amazing surprises of her life!

POOCHES IN THE POOL - 2019

Once again, it was the COOLEST event for pups that want to stay cool... Pooches in the Pool! On Monday, September 2nd, LA County Department of Animal Care and Control partnered with LA County Parks & Recreation to bring the Pooches in the Pool event to County pets.

The event was held at eight County pools, from Carson to Sylmar. You could hear the splashing as dogs of every size and color as they showed off their own way of enjoying the pool. Some tiptoed in via the steps while others dove in like Olympic pros. Squeals and applause rang out from the crowd as dog owners admired their dogs’ bravery and finesse in the water. It’s safe to say it was another COOL event and they all enjoyed their day at the pool!