



Los Angeles County
Animal Care
Foundation



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ANIMAL CARE | redefining
& CONTROL CARE

FAITHFUL



friends

FALL 2019

NEW GROOMING TRAILER FOR CASTAIC ANIMAL CARE CENTER

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."



Castaic ACC manager Karen Stepp, Santa Clarita council member Laurene Weste, and DACC director Marcia Mayeda



ACA Sierra Kirkpatrick with a friend

“

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

MIA



In September 2019 an adorable but lost black and silver terrier named "Mia" was brought into the Palmdale Animal Care Center by a kind resident. Palmdale staff was able to identify this cutie because she was microchipped and registered with DACC.

DACC immediately contacted Mia's owner on record and left several messages for her. She returned our calls promptly, but was puzzled as to why she received numerous calls from us. Sgt. Chris Valles spoke with Mia's owner and asked her if she owned any animals. She stated that she had owned a small dog years ago but was stolen from her front yard.

When Sgt. Valles asked Mia's owner if by any chance her dog's name was Mia, she immediately broke into tears and asked if we had her. Mia's owner stated she thought she would never see Mia again. She had searched for Mia at the Lancaster Animal Care Center for a year but Mia had never been brought in. Mia's owner was ecstatic and left work immediately to reclaim Mia, and an adorable dog and her mom were joyfully reunited.

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The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable foundation that supports the animals served by the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control. The Animal Care Foundation provides help to more than 70,000 animals each year. Through the leadership of a volunteer Board of Directors, money raised by the Animal Care Foundation is used in many ways to enhance the care and increase the adoption of unwanted animals.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Laurene Weste

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Joan Ouderkirk
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DIRECTOR AT LARGE!

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.**

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

DACC's Director, Marcia Mayeda



With ACO Eric Caban from the Downey ACC



With ACO Bethany Lara from the Lancaster ACC



With ACO David Hinojosa from the Revenue Services Division

CLEAR THE SHELTERS 2019

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.



WILDLIFE WAYSTATION CLOSES

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!



Agoura ACC officer Alvin Rodriguez and Smokey



Castaic ACC RVT Steven Venadas with rescued hogs



Alpacas



Bison

SUPERVISORS

Janice Hahn	4th District
Chair of the Board	
Hilda Solis	1st District
Mark Ridley-Thomas,	2nd District
Sheila Kuehl	3rd District
Kathryn Barger	5th District

DIRECTOR

Marcia Mayeda
Administrative Office
5898 Cherry Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90805
562-728-4610

ANIMAL CARE CENTER LOCATIONS

Agoura
29525 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
818-991-0071

Baldwin Park
4275 N. Elton Avenue
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
626-962-3577

Carson/Gardena
216 W. Victoria Street
Gardena, CA 90248
310-523-9566

Castaic
31044 N. Charlie Canyon Road
Castaic, CA 91384
661-257-3191

Downey
11258 S. Garfield Avenue
Downey, CA 90242
562-940-6895

Lancaster
5210 W. Avenue I
Lancaster, CA 93536
661-940-4191

Palmdale
38550 Sierra Highway
Palmdale, CA 93550
661-575-2888

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ANIMAL SHELTERING

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.



A Socially Conscious
Animal Welfare
Organization™



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.

PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE LA CO

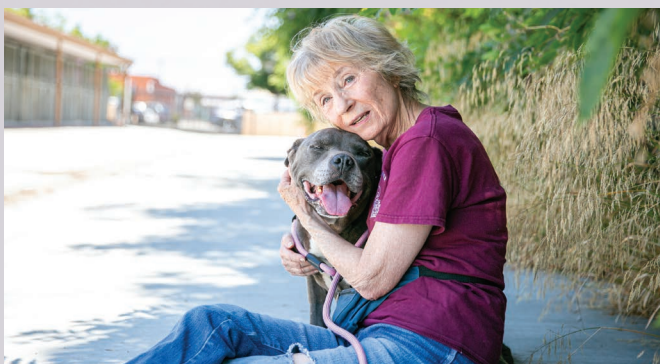


On September 1st, DACC participated in the Los Angeles County Day parade and expo at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. DACC staff and volunteers escorted animal safety and transport vehicles and showed off adoptable dogs for fairgoers to see. The dogs were a huge hit, and a great adoption promotion 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 irretrievably suffering and cannot live with severe, unrelenting pain or untreatable 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.

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COUNTY FAIR



MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions 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 Aronson
Sandra Brown – in memory of Milo Leman
Gale Byrne – in memory of Nick and his beloved bird
Nora Castillo – in memory of Swiffer
Samuel Chang – in memory of Mango Salmon
Anita Cheng – in memory of Ruby Hsu
Dennis Dackowski – in memory of William Sorscher
Anne Flaherty – in memory of Nora Flaherty
Eric Geier – in memory of Foodloose
Timothy & Janie Gibson – in memory of Jia Jia
Timothy & Janie Gibson – in memory of Zi-Lung
Sally Hall-Schmauss – in memory of Curly Mullaney
Sally Hall-Schmauss – in memory of Thane Opfell
David & Ramona Hickey – in memory of Peanut

Amanda Holt – in memory of Kiwanis Shaw
Jeff Jordan – in memory of KyaRose LaFleur
Cheryl Knight – in memory of Betty Kormalis
Liz Layne – in memory of Christina Anderson
Julie Marengo – in memory of Kathy Balderrama & Bella, Tullulah,
Bugsy, 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
Mishell Moseley – in memory of Gary Cooper
Patti Murray – in memory of Holly Landenberger
Laurel Ozersky – in memory of Charlie
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Ruby Lorenz
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Rambo Knapstein
Charlotte F. Pill – in memory of Baba
Denyse 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 Salvay – in memory of Milo
Serafina Shukhman – 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 DeConte
David & Kathleen Stoddard – in memory of Boris
Thomas Stough – in memory of Brandy Lindsay
Roberta Toporoff – in memory of Jasmine & Shane
Germaine Ulrich – in memory of Sugar
Kerry Valentine – in memory of Ava Girl Bond
John VanderHooven – in memory of Thomas Dant
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 Amaya – in honor of Sisi & 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 Paige
Mary Barnette – 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 Stever's Birthday
Amanda Calderon – in honor of Hazel
Elvira Contreras – in honor of Stephanie Lopez's Birthday
Vanessa Eckert – in honor of Philip Purisky
Leah Ginsberg – in honor of Flocka's Birthday
Armik Grigorian – in honor of Ellen Williams
Albertina Herzog – in honor of Bella

Aidan Koch – in honor of Cleopatra Snake
Sally Hall-Schmauss – in honor of Maizy Mullaney
Elissa Heyman – in honor of Alexandra Hopkins' Birthday
Jason Komorsky – in honor of David Brodsky's Birthday
Felice Leonhardt – in honor of Carla Leonhardt's Birthday
& all of her pets
Natalee Martinez – in honor of Cookie
Margaret McEldowney – in honor of Zach & Julie
Shroyer'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 Neil Aronow's Birthday
Alex Pyke – in honor of Stefani Woll's Birthday
Christine Richardson – in honor of Dash Cowley's Birthday
Robert T. Sherman – in honor of Wolf
Carol Shih – in honor of Melanie Hongsupakant's Birthday & Zero
Courtney Slusher – in honor of Hank
Sara Stewart – in honor of Zachary Almeida
William Stewart – in honor of Buddy
Brendan Sullivan – in honor of Dan Fitzpatrick
John & Martha Wengert – in honor of Chico
Diane Whitfield – in honor of Ollie Brandstrom
Sarah Young – in honor of Ashley Bouheben

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ANIMAL SHELTERING continued ...

Continued from Page 5

• **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.scseltering.org

www.peta.org/about-peta/why-peta/no-kill-shelters



SEEN = SAVED

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.

“DACC was thrilled to be selected to participate in this extraordinary event.

DACC’s Director, Marcia Mayeda

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.



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!



A surprised Gwen.



Stella and Gwen

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!