



Los Angeles County
Animal Care
Foundation



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

FAITHFUL *friends*

WINTER 2020



EXPANDED FOSTER PROGRAM SAVES LIVES

In March, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and stay-at-home orders were issued in LA County, the DACC team was faced with myriad challenges. Now that the public could only visit the animal care centers by appointment and foot traffic was eliminated, how would DACC showcase the animals for adoption? How would the animals receive daily enrichment when volunteers could no longer be on-site and staffing was reduced significantly due to employees with comprised immune systems and childcare issues?

As they do so well during every disaster and crisis, the DACC team sprang into action and created an expanded foster program to recruit new foster caretakers. Prior to COVID-19, all volunteer training was done in person on-site, but the team knew they had to quickly adapt. They developed an online foster orientation and training that the community could access from their homes. Within weeks, a full training was posted online and Director Marcia Mayeda appeared on KTLA to promote the new program. The response was tremendous — more than 2,000 people reached out in the first few days! Many of the interested caretakers were looking for small breed dogs, so DACC had to reframe and clarify where help was needed most. The animals most in need were large breed dogs, adult cats, and kittens that were too young to be in the care centers and needed a few weeks of individualized care to prepare them for adoption. With that, the foster team onboarded hundreds of new foster caretakers and provided curbside pickup at the animal care centers to ensure social distancing measures were in place.

More than 450 animals have been placed in foster homes since the program launched in April. Because of the online training, people who could not travel to in-person trainings have been able to join our roster of caretakers. This was the first time DACC placed large breed adult dogs and adult cats in foster homes and the results have been incredible. Some of the foster families have fallen in love with their fosters and made their arrangements permanent by adopting the pets. Other foster families work hard to find placement for their foster animals through their own network of friends, family, and promotion on social media. If the foster family is unable to find a permanent home, the pet is brought back to the animal care center and DACC uses its extensive network to place it into a new, loving home. In addition to providing individualized care and socialization, foster homes provide a wealth of information about an animal's behavior, likes and dislikes, and areas that may need to be worked on. DACC fosters are ambassadors for the department and bring awareness across the County.

The online program has been so successful that all DACC's future volunteer program training will be web-based. In a time of separation and quarantine, a silver lining has been the community stepping up to provide temporary homes for pets in need. We are grateful for the outpouring of support and look forward to welcoming more foster families!

In recognition of DACC's foster program, the following organizations granted funding for supplies and medical care: Petco Foundation, \$25,000; PetSmart, \$20,000; Maddie's: \$20,000.

Inside:

2 Gretchen Buck Bequest Enhances Care | 6 2020 — Worst Fire Season on Record | 8 A New Beginning for Yumi



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

Abby Douglass, **President**
Mark Sikand, **Vice President**
Pauline East, **Secretary**
Renee Sikand, **Treasurer**
Michelle Bisnoff
Blair Dugan
Laurene Weste

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Joan Ouderkirk
Phyllis Sullivan
John Gonzales

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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



GRETCHEN BUCK BEQUEST ENHANCES CARE

The Agoura ACC has been able to make a number of improvements to help the animals thanks to the bequest left to the ACC by Gretchen Buck. Thanks to Ms. Buck's generosity, the ACC has been able to replace its housing for cats and rabbits, install an improved sanitation system, and add a "catio" so cats could safely enjoy the outdoors. Further improvements include a new washer and dryer to clean pet bedding, new artificial grass in the dog exercise yards, and renovation of the Critter Care Center which provides an educational forum for visiting school and youth groups to learn about humane treatment of animals.

Donors who remember the Foundation in their estate planning documents such as wills and trusts will provide for the animals long after they have gone, leaving a legacy of compassion for animals. The Foundation is thankful for these generous contributions.





DACC SENIOR VETERINARIAN APPOINTED TO CVMB

We are proud to announce that DACC Senior Veterinarian, Dr. Maria Solacito, has the distinction of being the first animal shelter veterinarian appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the California Veterinary Medical Board (CVMB). The CVMB is a State agency that protects consumers and animals by regulating veterinarians, promoting professional standards, and enforcing the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

Dr. Solacito joined the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control in 2008 as a veterinarian and was promoted to the position of senior veterinarian in 2013. "I am deeply honored and humbled to accept this responsibility to help in the regulation of veterinary medicine practice in the State of California and ensure that our consumers and their animals are protected" she stated "I am hoping to bring better understanding of animal sheltering to the Board as it is an industry that impacts a significant animal population".

In addition to leading the medical program at DACC, the largest animal sheltering organization in the nation, Dr. Solacito is a frequent guest lecturer at national and international animal welfare conferences where her knowledge and skills in the field of animal shelter medicine are in high demand.



GET EXCLUSIVE NEWS FROM DACC

As a donor to the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation, we know you are committed to helping animals served by the LA

County Department of Animal Care and Control. DACC is the largest animal care and control agency in the nation, and is at the forefront of innovation and animal lifesaving. We want to share these successes with you as they occur, and have established *The Inside Scoop* to provide exclusive late-breaking news, animal caretaking tips, and other topics of interest.

If you would like to receive these emails, please subscribe to: news@lacountyanimals.org. We will never sell, or otherwise provide, your email address to third parties, and you can unsubscribe at any time. We hope to see you online!

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



Follow us on
Facebook

MANAGED INTAKE AND EXPANDED PLACEMENT OF ANIMALS

A New Approach to Creating Best Outcomes

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) has adopted a new strategy for helping animals as part of its implementation of the nationally recognized animal sheltering model known as Socially Conscious Animal Sheltering (SCAS), adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on August 6, 2019. Called “Managed Intake,” this strategy aligns DACC practices with the needs and resources of the community to reduce the need to accept animals into the seven DACC animal care centers and increase positive outcomes for stray and unwanted animals.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, DACC reached out to other animal sheltering organizations across the country to learn and adopt best practices to provide SCAS in this current environment and in the future. As a result, DACC has determined the former practice of receiving animals into DACC animal care centers without some measure of control should be refined to provide better animal population management and customer service. By partnering with the community to identify other options for stray and unwanted animals and provide solutions to the problems that bring these animals to our doors, DACC can prioritize situations in which receiving a pet into our care is the best or only option for that animal.

Managed Intake programs allow agencies to manage and reduce the flow of both owned pets and homeless animals into their care. By reducing the intake of animals from our communities, DACC is better able to provide individual care and attention to each animal in its care. With limited space at Los Angeles County animal care centers, it is our responsibility to identify any possible alternatives to impoundment, provide more robust resources, and increase positive outcomes for the animals that do have to be admitted into the care centers.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is the key to successfully employing a Managed Intake approach. DACC has found that many community members, given the appropriate training and resources, would like to retain their pet or help a lost pet find its way home. By viewing the community as an extension of DACC the collaboration benefits vulnerable animals, is more rewarding for the people who care about them, and increases DACC’s capacity to provide services. Animal care centers serve as community resource centers by aligning animals and owners in need with the resources they need, when they need them. The engagement of volunteers and community partners are also key components to a successful Managed Intake approach because of the vast human and material resources they can bring to fostering, networking, facilitating adoptions, or solving problems to allow pets to stay with their owners.

Owned Pets

When an owner considers relinquishing a pet, DACC first recommends and offers resources such as training and behavior advice, food and supplies, or support with other solutions to help keep the pet in the home. The most common reasons for pet surrender in Los Angeles County are medical care costs and housing issues. Under Managed

Intake, DACC staff discuss these concerns with owners and refer them to resources that will allow them to reconsider surrendering their pets. Other times owners are simply frustrated with behavioral problems or lack the resources to fix fencing or address other one-time needs. With support to resolve these issues, pets can remain with the family that already knows and loves them. If a pet owner is still unable or unwilling to keep their pet, DACC provides advice to owners about how to rehome their pets themselves and avoid having to surrender their pets to an animal care center. This can be a less stressful outcome for both pets and their owners, and saves valuable and limited animal housing space for those animals at the animal care centers who have no other options. If the owner is unable to rehome their pet on their own, DACC will accept it and seek the best possible outcome for that animal. Managed Intake at DACC also assists pet owners experiencing homelessness or other serious, but hopefully temporary, personal situations such as severe illness or domestic violence by referring pet owners in need to resources for pet friendly housing, homeless services, free veterinary treatment, or free temporary pet boarding.

Stray Animals

Most stray animals are found within a few miles of their homes, and methods other than animal care center intake may more quickly and less expensively reunite these lost pets with their families. DACC encourages people who have found lost pets to first attempt reuniting the pets with their families by having the pets scanned for microchips to identify owner contact information, using neighborhood and social media apps to publicize found pets, and posting fliers in the neighborhood. DACC advises on effective pet reunification strategies, provides templates for flyers to post in neighborhoods, and offers other suggestions to engage the neighborhood and community. When finders are not successful or are unable to engage in these activities, DACC will accept the animals to ensure the safety of both animals and the public.

Healthy free-roaming cats are generally deferred from impoundment because they are thriving in their current environment. Many free-roaming cats have a family and vary their time between the home and outdoors. Bringing these cats to an animal care center removes them from their home territories, and owners generally don’t look for them at animal care centers for many days. Unfortunately, the return to owner rate for cats is less than 5%. By the time the owner comes to an animal care center, their pet cat could have come and gone. Other times, a home or group of homes is providing food and water to unowned neighborhood cats. These cats have established themselves as part of their neighborhood and do not need animal care center assistance. Prior to Managed Intake at DACC, approximately 50% of impounded cats were euthanized. That number has dropped dramatically because healthy, free-roaming cats are allowed to remain where they live.

Additionally, DACC has launched a “Got Kittens?” campaign to address the seasonal influx of kittens into animal care centers. By educating the public about identifying whether kittens are truly abandoned by their mother and in need of immediate assistance, more kittens can remain with their mothers during the critical nursing stage until weaned. This approach is healthier for kittens and improves their chance to later

be successfully adopted. If the kittens have actually been abandoned by their mother, DACC provides education and fostering supplies to community members who enjoy caring for them until they are old enough for adoption through DACC or other resources. Underage kittens impounded without their mothers are, in fact, the most common reason for animal euthanasia, and DACC is preventing the unnecessary impoundment of kittens by educating the community and expanding its volunteer foster program.

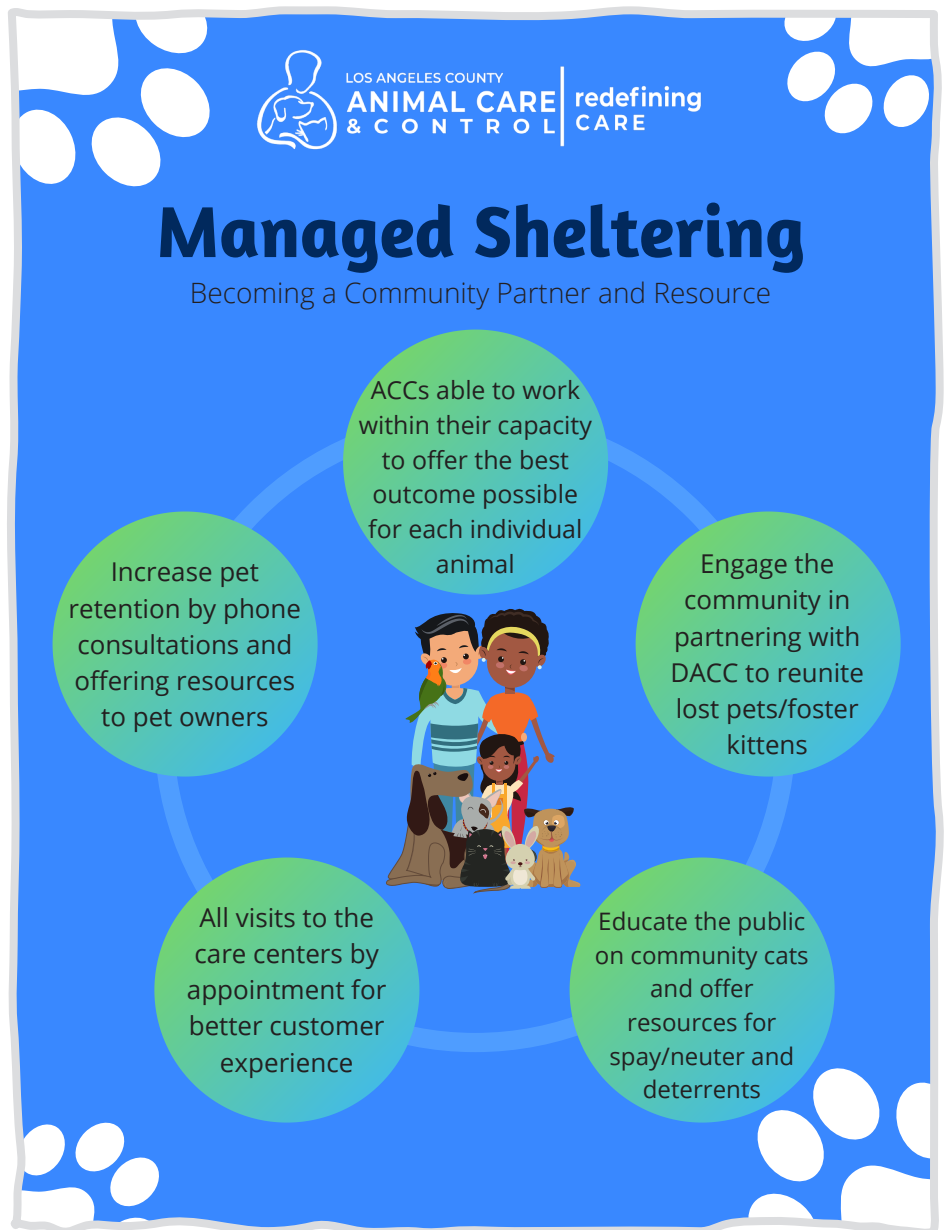
Any cats or kittens that are malnourished, ill, injured, or require assistance are welcomed at DACC so they can receive the care they need. DACC is also exploring opportunities to expand low-cost spay/neuter services for cats to prevent the birth of unwanted kittens.

Public Safety and Animal Welfare

DACC recognizes that some animals must be immediately brought to an animal care center for their own safety or the safety of the public. Animals that pose a safety threat will immediately and safely be impounded. Animals that are sick or injured will be accepted so medical assistance can be provided. Additional situations may include an owner's sudden and complete inability to provide care, animal cruelty, and neglect cases, and other special circumstances.

Appointment-Based Services

DACC has implemented appointment-only services to better assist the public. DACC's move to appointment-only services has eliminated the long in-person customer waiting lines of the past. Every case is unique, and by using appointments to provide services DACC staff can anticipate needs and be better prepared to individualize the provision of resources and the outcome plan for each animal to meet our commitment to their health and safety and best chance of a positive outcome. Appointments are conducted with a case management approach emphasizing the individual human-animal bond. Preliminary phone interviews are conducted prior to in-person services and can even prevent the need to come to an animal care center. Phone interviews also prepare visitors to ensure proper physical distancing requirements are maintained when in-person services are required.



Conclusion

In summary, through the Managed Intake approach DACC is better able to dedicate its limited resources to the animals and people most in need. Prior to Managed Intake, animal care centers often operated at or above capacity in terms of space and staffing availability. These challenges compromised DACC's ability to provide a full range of services to optimize animal care and meet the needs of the public. With Managed Intake, impounded animals receive better care given DACC capacity, and people receive more personalized attention with their animal issues.

Managed Intake is a thoughtful public policy to create the best outcomes for all animals while valuing the human-animal bond. By engaging the community, more pets and families can remain together, lost pets are more quickly reunited with their families, limited governmental resources are preserved for those animals and people with no other options, and animal euthanasia is decreased. DACC will continue to refine and adjust its practices as circumstances warrant and is grateful for the support of the community, both in these troubled times and into the future as we work together to create communities where every animal is wanted and loved.



2020 – WORST FIRE SEASON ON RECORD

DACC Cares for More than 500 Displaced Animals in August and September

The year of 2020 has been the largest wildfire season recorded in California history. According to Cal Fire, “While wildfires are a natural part of California’s landscape, the fire season in California and across the West is starting earlier and ending later each year. Climate change is considered a key driver of this trend. Warmer spring and summer temperatures, reduced snowpack, and earlier spring snowmelt create longer and more intense dry seasons that increase moisture stress on vegetation and make forests more susceptible to severe wildfire.”

Los Angeles County’s fire season began with the Lake Fire that erupted on August 12, 2020. DACC responded through August 24 and provided emergency care and sheltering for 97 animals including 30 horses, 8 ponies, 16 goats, 15 chickens, 3 roosters, 1 peafowl, 11 sheep, 2 pigs, 2 ducks, 4 dogs, and 5 cats. Shortly thereafter, the Bobcat Fire began on September 6. The Bobcat Fire threatened even more animals, and DACC provided emergency care and sheltering for 412 animals, including 196 dogs, 26 cats, 12 horses, 27 pigs, 1 pony, 35 goats, 7 sheep, 74 chickens, 1 donkey, 3 mules, 3 roosters, 2 geese, 3 doves, 10 ducks, 8 peafowl, 2 rams, 1 tortoise, and 1 cockatiel.

The Foundation supports DACC’s emergency rescue and caretaking mission through the Foundation’s Noah’s Legacy fund. Donations to this fund have enabled the purchase of emergency supplies, trailers, a mobile medical unit, and more. The Annenberg Foundation also generously donated \$15,000 to support the rescue efforts at the Lake and Bobcat fires.

JACKSON’S ORDEAL

Jackson, a beautiful five-year-old Miniature Australian Shepherd with striking blue eyes, was stolen in San Francisco on December 14, 2019. His desperate owner mounted a public campaign to find Jackson, including a website, hiring an airplane banner advertising service, and a reward fund that reached \$7,000. Multiple media outlets and social media were engaged to spread the word of Jackson’s disappearance in the hopes of returning him to his rightful home. However, no breaks in the case developed.

On April 19, 2020 a Miniature Australian Shepherd with striking blue eyes was brought into DACC’s Palmdale ACC. DACC routinely scans all animals for microchips, and the scanner showed it was Jackson! DACC contacted Jackson’s owner, who made immediate arrangements to pick up Jackson and bring him home. The tearful and joyous reunion was so rewarding to see, especially Jackson’s repeated barking for joy to be reunited with his grateful owner.

The Foundation and DACC encourage all pet owners to microchip their pets. Microchips are a permanent identification method that can reunite lost or stolen pets. DACC has seen reunifications for pets who have been separated from their families for many years, or by great distances. They can make the difference between heartache and joy. Microchips can be implanted by any veterinarian and DACC provides microchips at regularly scheduled clinics, which can be found at animalcare.lacounty.gov/microchips.

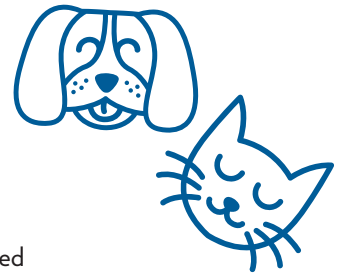


Memorial Gifts

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donations.

Christine Arias — in memory of Oreo & Ditto
Elizabeth Boyce — in memory of Myra Perez
Lori Chaves — in memory of Abby
Robin Down — in memory of her Aunt
Jean Doyle — in memory of Susan Doyle
Sandra Edmonds — in memory of Weeman
Harold & Gloria Estabrook — in memory of Jack
Georgia Figueroa — in memory of Peanut
Rebecca Fuller — in memory of Eeyore Tiger
Daphne Gallagher — in memory of Salvador Yarris
Margarita Garcia — in memory of Mikey & Little One
Amy Gulbrandsen — in memory of Kyra Flores
Diane Gunther — in memory of Cali King
Diane Gunther — in memory of Jenny Lovey
Sally Hall-Schmauss — in memory of Isabel Lanski
Alexandria Hunt — in memory of Rambo & Pablo
Lisa Juarez — in memory of Spargel
Donna Koch — in memory of Darcy Granadino
Donna Koch — in memory of Lucy Mayeda
Mitchell & Ann Kolacinski — in memory of Honey
Carolyn Kuhn — in memory of Sadie Mae

Ka Yee Cherry Lee — in memory of Lucy
Peggy Lopez — in memory of Olive
Sharon McDougall — in memory of Mac
Marcia Mayeda — in memory of Willee Koch
Scott Michaels — in memory of Zoe Garrett
Gian Miranda — in memory of MJ
Janice Miya — in memory of Miss Kitty
Nancy Moomau — in memory of Stuart Learned
Nancy Moomau — in memory of Lucy Mayeda
Matt & Charlene Morehead — in memory of Mr. Kidd
Sharon Pecorelli — in memory of Stuart Learned
Sharon Pecorelli — in memory of Lucy Mayeda
Sharon Pecorelli (for Rascal) — in memory of Gaby Marshall
Helen Porcaro — in memory of Palmer Adams
Bonnie Randall — in memory of Georgie Ichiyasu
Kristin Safi — in memory of Google
Leslie Sambrano — in memory of Benny
Stepan & Aurora — in memory of Olivia
Beverley A. Sleep — in memory of MeowMeow Fath
Elizabeth Stothers — in memory of Chopper & Gerty
David Williams — in memory of Winchester Lynch



Honorarium Gifts

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

Kevin Aguilar — in honor of Castiel
Oskar Bakke — in honor of Russell for his support
Karen Banks — in honor of Smidge, Doodles, Kissa, & Jaxson
Sheri Berger — in honor of Sophie-Anne
Alexandra Boton — in honor of Mocha & Nellie
Angel & Claudia Castellanos — in honor of Leo, Snow, & Cocco
Margaret Cortez — in honor of Baby Bear
Darrell & Judy Danford — in honor of Missy
Heather Anne Driver — in honor of Minna
Mary Edwards — in honor of Katelyn Edwards
Harold & Gloria Estabrook — in honor of Duke
Corey Evans — in honor of Baron
Jeff Fralinger — in honor of Michael Levitt Productions-
2020ARDS
Danny Glicker — in honor of Goldie & Tina
Frederick Greene — in honor of Barkis
Barry Hou — in honor of Tony
Yaejin Kim — in honor of Ice Cream Tree Studio
Alvin Larsen — in honor of Buster
Malerie Leach — in honor of Zoe Ramakers
Claudia Mazzei — in honor of Nikki, Ginger, Teddy,
Bear, Gizmo, & Brownie
Sienna McCord — in honor of Peanut

Ravenna Michalsen — in honor of Boodle
Charles & Gloria Moronez — in honor of Ruby
Martha Philippoff — in honor of Samson
Ileah Pratt — in honor of Lamar
Bonnie Randall — in honor of Diane Ichiyasu
Robin Redmon — in honor of Cheepop Brooks
Alejandra Rich — in honor of Cocoa & Ikaika
Howard Rodgers — in honor of Brent Butterworth
Alicia Rogers — in honor of Tom Rogers
Stephanie Sanchez — in honor of Scooby
Emily Schmidt — in honor of Sadie Amalfitano
Robert T. Sherman — in honor of Wolf
Mary Stromberg — in honor of Mia & Bella Miseroy's Birthdays
Kathy Sturdy — in honor of Murphy
Jennifer Thompson — in honor of Jeff Jordan
Alfred Valdes — in honor of Daisy
Judith Villablanca — in honor of Dakota
Judith Webb — in honor of Willy



A NEW BEGINNING FOR YUMI

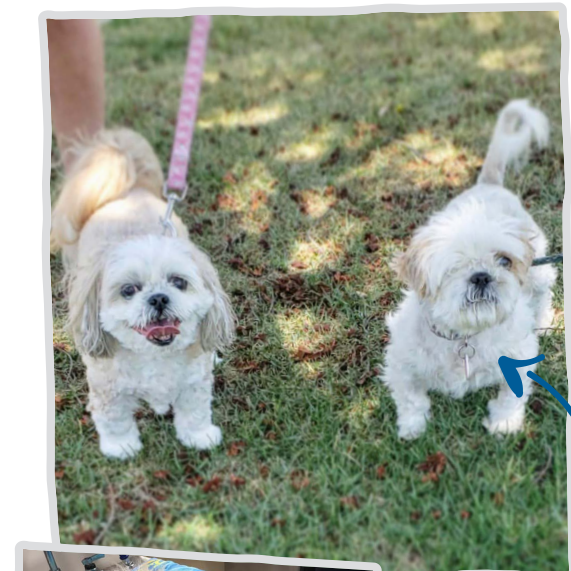
Yumi's story is an illustration of the dedicated work and compassion of DACC staff. When responding to a call to pick up a deceased animal, the responding officer realized the one-year-old Shih Tzu was not dead, but very injured and in need of immediate emergency treatment. He immediately rushed the dog, later named "Yumi," back to the Palmdale ACC where medical and animal caretaking staff sprang into action.

Yumi's severely matted body was shaved and staff had to remove hundreds of foxtails throughout her body. The foxtail infestation was so severe that Yumi had ulcerations in her eyes, as well as a severe infection in her ear. Many foxtails penetrated more than half their length into her body.

Staff completed the hours-long painstaking process of foxtail removal and provided immediate medical care. By the next morning Yumi was eating, drinking, resting comfortably, and would perk up when staff brought her more food. She was a true fighter and it was so rewarding to be able to save her life.

Based on Yumi's condition and need for further medical treatment, the Palmdale ACC team partnered with a trusted Adoption Partner rescue group to bring Yumi into their foster and convalescent care program. Yumi received further medical treatment, including the removal of her irreparably damaged eye, and was ultimately placed into a permanent, loving home.

The Foundation supports the care of animals like Yumi through its Grooming Gives Hope and Dreams Come True programs. Your donations help make the difference between life and death for these animals in desperate need for critical care. Thanks to you, the future is brighter for animals like Yumi.



Yumi
After

DACC RECOGNIZES ITS CERTIFIED ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

In 2020, new legislation created the Animal Control Officer Standards Act, which develops and maintains standards for a voluntary program to certify animal control officers. This program promotes and ensures a high level of professionalism in animal care and control by setting standards, minimum requirements, and ongoing educational requirements for animal control officers. This will also help local agencies identify, select, and train qualified officers to enforce animal welfare laws and protect public safety.

On September 21, 2020 the California Animal Welfare Association (CalAnimals) announced the inaugural group of 50 Certified Animal Control Officers. DACC is proud to report that this group included DACC officers Brenda Beougher, Matthew Davoodzadeh, Joshua Doud, Melody Emmick, Bethany Estes, Rachel Montez-Kemp, Aaron Reyes, Jerrica Salvador, Christopher Valles, Justin Vaughn, and Shannon Wahrman. Many more DACC officers are in the application process and will be joining the CACO ranks with their peers.

CACO Justin Vaughn of the Agoura ACC remarked, "I always want to be the best I can be in my profession. I enjoy the task and personal challenges to achieve my goal. Therefore, I take pride in strengthening and developing my skills based on the opportunities given to me."

Animal Control Officers serve a vital function for their communities in protecting animals, promoting public safety, investigating complaints of animal cruelty, and responding to disasters. CACO status for DACC officers underscores the professional and compassionate work performed by these officers every day.

