



FAITHFUL friends

SPRING 2024

VET@THEPARK EVENTS

Thanks to your generous support, Vet@ThePark has continued to provide vital services to animals in the community. Usually held monthly, these essential events bring our mobile veterinary unit to local parks, offering free services to pet owners in need. From pet



wellness exams to vaccinations, flea and tick medications, and free pet food and supplies, these clinics provide vital support to those who may otherwise struggle to afford these services. By bringing services directly to our communities, we also help reduce barriers for those without easy access to transportation for their pets.

In 2023, your donations enabled us to host 16 Vet@ThePark clinics, serving a total of 3,030 pets! The impact of these clinics is immeasurable, providing crucial care to beloved animals and easing the financial burden for their owners. In response to the ongoing



needs of our communities, we have plans to expand Vet@ThePark in 2024. However, the staffing costs associated with these events can be significant, and it is your continued support that allows us to cover them.

Your donations truly make a difference in the lives of pets and their owners, ensuring access to essential veterinary care and promoting the well-being of our furry friends.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our mission!

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MY FURRY VALENTINE

In the spirit of love and compassion, the Palmdale Animal Care Center welcomed pet lovers to its heartwarming *My Furry Valentine* adoption event on February 10, 2024. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, adoption fees were reduced to \$20 for all cats and dogs, covering essential services like spaying/neutering, vaccinations, and microchipping for all adopted animals.

The impact was immediate and heartening – twenty animals found loving homes on this single day! It was a joyous occasion, marking a special Valentine’s Day for these furry friends as they embarked on new adventures with their forever families.

These events play a crucial role in spotlighting adoptable animals, providing them with the exposure they need to find their perfect match. With your continued support, we can host more of these adoption events across all seven of our animal care centers, giving countless more animals the chance to find happiness and love.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions, which make moments of joy like *My Furry Valentine* possible and help us continue our mission of finding loving homes for all our furry companions.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

In the heartwarming tale of “Gordo the Heeler,” distance was no match for the power of love and dedication.

It all began when an Australian Cattle Dog (commonly called a “Heeler”) named Gordo was surrendered to the Lancaster Animal Care Center—one of Los Angeles County’s seven animal care facilities—because his previous owner had to move and his new residence did not allow dogs.

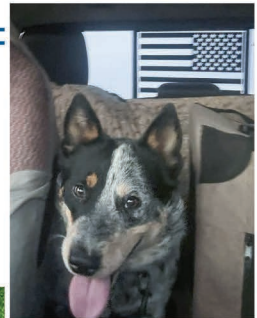
Mark Balentine, a devoted Heeler enthusiast from Georgia, caught wind of Gordo and began to do his research. Mr. Balentine wasn’t just a normal pet owner looking to add another member to his pack, but a man with over sixty years of experience specifically with Heeler dogs. Despite being separated by miles of land, Mr. Balentine’s determination to add Gordo to his Heeler family knew no bounds.

With the support of the Lancaster Animal Care Center team, Mr. Balentine embarked on a mission to bring Gordo home. From coordinating veterinary appointments required for interstate travel to navigating flight cancellations due to bad weather, every step was taken to facilitate Gordo’s safe journey to his forever home. Finally, after a whirlwind of logistics and travel, Gordo flew to Miami, Florida, to meet Mr. Balentine at his winter home.

Despite the long journey, Gordo’s spirit remained unbroken, and he was eager to meet his new family. Joined by his fellow Heeler siblings, Gordo seamlessly integrated into the Balentine family. His boundless love swiftly endeared him to Mrs. Balentine, now faithfully watching over her like a loyal service dog.

But this heartwarming tale doesn’t end there. It’s a testament to the incredible efforts of individuals like Mr. Balentine and the dedicated team at the Lancaster Animal Care Center, who work tirelessly to ensure animals like Gordo find their happily ever after.

At the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation, we believe every animal deserves a chance at a loving home. With your support, we can continue to make heartwarming stories like Gordo’s possible. Join us in our mission to make a difference, one wagging tail at a time. Donate today and help us transport more animals across the country, one loving home at a time.



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Stories like Gordo's exemplify the profound impact of partnerships and collaborations with other organizations in our shared goal of finding loving homes for as many animals as possible. However, despite our best efforts, budget and staffing limitations sometimes hinder our ability to provide the same opportunities for all potentially adoptable animals as we did for Gordo.

Your unwavering support is invaluable to the animals in our care centers and the dedicated staff and volunteers who tend to them daily. It enables us to sustain and implement programs that extend beyond basic animal care. These initiatives include intensified efforts to promote adoptable animals, reduced adoption fees, and providing resources to pet owners to prevent them from surrendering their pets. For instance, we were able to provide 2,066 Care Vouchers to pet owners in 2023, which were redeemed for crucial veterinary services. Without the availability of these vouchers, many pet owners would have no other option but to surrender their pets to a care center, resulting in a devastating experience for both the pet and its family. Our Care Voucher program is one of many initiatives made possible thanks to your support.

Our mission for this year remains steadfast: to help as many animals as possible by focusing on intake diversion programs and maximizing adoptions. We are excited about the new ideas we aim to introduce, such as my dream project of hiring a full-time groomer at



one of our care centers! This pilot project would show the positive impact this position would bring and ensure that our animals look their best, thus improving their chances of finding forever homes. However, the success of these programs hinges entirely on your generous support.

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation and the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for championing the welfare of animals in our communities. You are the driving force behind our ability to sustain existing programs and introduce innovative, life-saving initiatives.

With sincere appreciation,

Marcia Mayeda

Marcia Mayeda, CAWA
Director, Los Angeles County Department of
Animal Care and Control

KITTEN SEASON IS COMING

With the warmer months slowly approaching, our furry feline friends need a bit of extra love and care. As the breeding season's results kick in, we see an increase in the number of kittens needing our help. While we wish they could all stay with their moms, that's not always possible. So, we're reaching out for your support in caring for these little ones.

There are so many ways you can help! If you have the time and space, why not become a foster caretaker? You'd be providing direct care to a kitten in need, which can be incredibly rewarding. Or perhaps you're up for the challenge of bottle-feeding a kitten in your own cozy home? If that's not your cup of tea, don't worry! You can still make a big difference by caring for an older kitten until they find their forever home. And if your schedule is jam-packed, you can still lend a hand by donating directly to the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation. Your contribution will help us get essential supplies like kitten formula, litter pans, and litter.

Curious about becoming a foster caretaker? Learn more at www.animalcare.lacounty.gov/become-a-foster-caretaker. Every little bit of help counts, and together, we can make sure these kittens get the love and care they deserve!



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

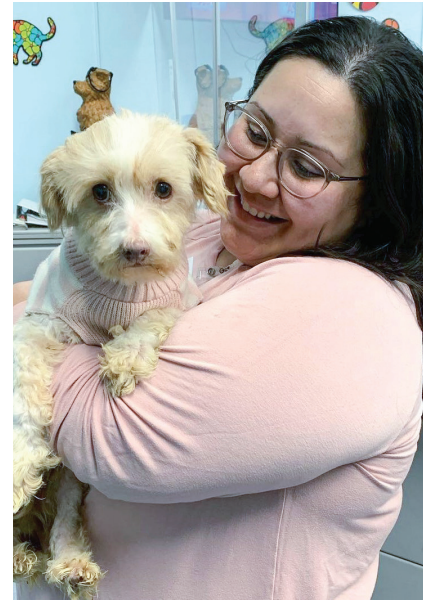
TOP NEEDS

VOLUNTEER FOR US!

Calling all animal enthusiasts! We're on the lookout for passionate volunteers to lend a helping hand at our animal care centers. Whether you're keen on providing basic medical support alongside our clinic staff, pampering our furry friends for their big adoption day, photographing pets for their adoption photos, or assisting with networking animals for adoption, there's a role for you! Plus, if you're 16 or older (minors need authorization from their parents), you're eligible to join the team. But hey, if being on-site isn't your thing, fret not! You can still make a huge impact from the cozy confines of your home by becoming a foster volunteer or helping network animals on social media.

Curious to know more about our vibrant volunteer community? Dive in and explore our program further!

www.animalcare.lacounty.gov/become-a-volunteer



URGENT NEEDS

Unable to donate your time? There are numerous alternative ways to contribute! The Foundation gratefully accepts monetary donations, in-kind goods, used vehicles, and legacy gifts. While all contributions are appreciated, monetary donations often have the greatest impact, providing us with the flexibility to allocate resources where they're most needed at that time. To learn more about how you can help, visit our webpage at www.lacountyanimals.org/way-to-give or contact us directly at info@lacountyanimals.org.



FOREVER FRIENDS LEGACY SOCIETY

Become a cherished member of our Forever Friends Legacy Society! Many compassionate individuals, like yourself, consistently contribute to support the vital work carried out by the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation. We're immensely grateful for the kindness demonstrated by those who hold a deep love for animals.

Thankfully, there are numerous ways for dedicated donors to leave a lasting legacy that continues to benefit animals long after they're gone. Planned giving opportunities offer avenues to make significant contributions that can fuel major programs, facilitate capital improvements, and support other high-impact initiatives, all while maximizing tax and financial benefits. These contributions enable the Foundation to plan for the future, ensure its financial well-being, and extend services to animals in need. Learn more by visiting www.lacountyanimals.org/way-to-give/planned-giving.



GIVE ONLINE
Scan the code for a direct link



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