



FAITHFUL *friends*

SUMMER 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we move through 2026, the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation's mission has never been more important.

Los Angeles County continues to face significant financial challenges, placing increased pressure on public services and resources throughout our communities. At the same time, our Department of Animal Care and Control is responding to growing needs from both animals and pet owners who are struggling with rising costs and limited access to veterinary care.

This year alone, our Department has already managed two major animal seizure cases, including the historic Lake Hughes operation that resulted in the rescue of over 300 animals from severe neglect and hoarding conditions. These large-scale investigations require extraordinary resources, including emergency medical care, food, shelter, staffing, and long-term rehabilitation for hundreds of animals.

While the Department works tirelessly to protect animals and serve our communities, the Animal Care Foundation plays a critical role in filling gaps that public funding alone cannot address. Through donor support, we fund emergency medical treatments, foster care programs, spay and neuter assistance, pet retention services, and specialized care for animals with extraordinary needs.

Every day, your generosity helps us respond when emergencies arise, provide lifesaving care, and keep beloved pets with the families who love them. In a time when resources are stretched thin, your support ensures that compassion remains available for animals and people who need it most.

Thank you for standing with us and making this work possible.

Marcia Mayeda

Marcia Mayeda, CAWA

Director, Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control



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A MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION PRESIDENT RENEE SIKAND

Dear Friends,

As President of the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation, I have the privilege of seeing firsthand the extraordinary impact that compassionate supporters make every day.

This year has reminded us just how critical the Foundation's work has become. From helping hundreds of animals rescued during the historic Lake Hughes seizure to funding lifesaving medical treatment through our Dreams Come True program, donor support continues to provide resources that would otherwise be unavailable to animals in need.

At the same time, Los Angeles County faces significant financial challenges, placing increased pressure on public services and limiting the availability of resources. The Foundation exists to help bridge that gap. Through the generosity of donors, grantmakers, and community partners, we can fund programs that keep pets with their families, provide emergency medical care, support foster homes, and create second chances for vulnerable animals.

This year, we were honored to receive significant support from the Sobrato Foundation, which will help

fund a dedicated Foster Coordinator position and expand access to spay and neuter services for pet owners throughout Los Angeles County.

These investments are more than programs, they represent lives changed, families preserved, and suffering prevented.

Whether you have donated, fostered, volunteered, adopted, or simply shared our mission with others, you are part of every success story featured in this newsletter. Together, we are building a stronger safety net for animals and the people who love them.

Thank you for standing with us and believing that every animal deserves compassion, care, and a chance for a brighter future.

With gratitude,

Renee Sikand
President, Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation



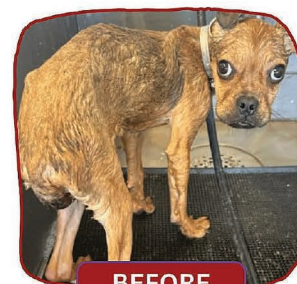
EMERGENCY RESPONSE: THE HISTORIC LAKE HUGHES RESCUE

In one of the largest animal rescue operations in Los Angeles County history, Department of Animal Care and Control personnel recently responded to a severe hoarding and neglect case in Lake Hughes that resulted in the rescue of more than **300 animals**. The operation involved 233 dogs, 65 cats, and six other animals living in unsafe and overcrowded conditions. Many of the animals arrived at County care centers suffering from malnutrition, untreated medical conditions, and behavioral trauma resulting from prolonged neglect.

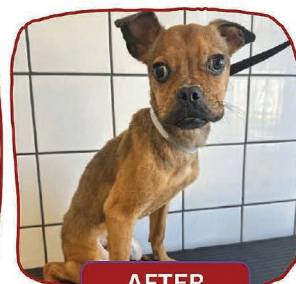
Transporting, housing, feeding, and medically evaluating hundreds of animals required an extraordinary effort from staff, volunteers, rescue partners, and supporters. The rescue operation continued throughout the day and into the night as teams worked to ensure every animal received immediate care and shelter.

While the rescue marked the beginning of a new chapter for these animals, their recovery journey continues. Many require ongoing medical treatment, behavioral rehabilitation, and possible foster care to receive the healing they need.

Events like the Lake Hughes rescue demonstrate why the Animal Care Foundation's support is so critical. Donations help provide emergency medical treatment, specialized nutrition, enrichment, foster supplies, and lifesaving care for animals rescued from crisis situations. Because of supporters like you, hundreds of animals now have a second chance at life.



BEFORE



AFTER

DREAMS COME TRUE: DREAM'S SECOND CHANCE

Dream is a sweet two-year-old Pit Bull mix whose name couldn't be more fitting. After being found as a stray on April 20th, Dream was brought to the Carson/Gardena Animal Care Center where staff quickly discovered she was suffering from a fractured and displaced right tibia and fibula. Without specialized treatment, her future was uncertain.

Thanks to generous donors supporting the Animal Care Foundation's Dreams Come True Program, Dream received the surgery she desperately needed, including orthopedic repair and pin placement in her right hind leg.

Dream recovered beautifully and became a favorite among staff. Despite everything she endured, she never lost her loving spirit and continued to greet everyone she met with a wagging tail and a happy smile.

The best part of Dream's story came on June 2, 2026, when she found her forever home and officially became part of a loving family.

Dream's journey is a powerful reminder that when donors support the Dreams Come True Program, they are giving animals access to lifesaving medical care and a future filled with hope.



SCOUT'S JOURNEY HOME

Scout, a handsome three-year-old Shepherd, arrived at the Santa Clarita Animal Care Center (formerly known as the Castaic Animal Care Center) as a stray in March 2026 facing significant mobility challenges.

Upon examination, veterinary staff determined Scout was suffering from bilateral hind limb issues and required specialized treatment, including a custom lateral splint to support his recovery.

Through the Animal Care Foundation's Dreams Come True Program, Scout received the advanced medical care needed to regain his strength and mobility. Today, Scout is healthy, active, and enjoying life once again. While his recovery has been a

tremendous success, Scout is still waiting for his forever home.

Animals like Scout often require medical care beyond what traditional shelter budgets can provide. Thanks to donors, the Dreams Come True Program ensures that animals with extraordinary medical needs receive the treatment they deserve and the opportunity for a brighter future.

EXPANDING LIFESAVING CARE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The Animal Care Foundation is proud to partner with organizations that share our commitment to increasing lifesaving outcomes for animals in our care. This year, two important partnerships are helping expand access to spay and neuter services for adoptable animals:

- CAMP LA is providing spay and neuter support for animals at the Carson/Gardena Animal Care Center.
- Caravita Foundation is funding spay and neuter surgeries for adoptable animals at Lancaster Animal Care Center.

These partnerships help ensure animals are ready for adoption more quickly, reduce barriers to placement, and increase our ability to move animals into loving homes. By working together, we are creating more opportunities for animals to receive the care they need while supporting the Department and Foundation's lifesaving missions.

SOBRATO FOUNDATION AWARDS \$100,000 TO SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED

The Animal Care Foundation is honored to announce the receipt of a \$100,000 grant from the Sobrato Foundation.

The grant includes \$20,000 for spay and neuter support, helping increase access to spay and neuter surgeries for animals in our care and supporting efforts to reduce pet overpopulation. It also includes \$80,000 to fund a dedicated Foster Coordinator for one year, who will help recruit, support, and place animals into foster homes.

This position will especially impact vulnerable animals needing specialized care, including:

- Unweaned kittens
- Animals recovering from illness or surgery
- Nursing mothers and litters
- Dogs requiring medical foster placement

Foster homes provide lifesaving support by giving animals a safe, nurturing environment while they await adoption or complete medical treatment. The addition of a dedicated coordinator will help expand our foster network and increase positive outcomes for animals throughout Los Angeles County.

We are deeply grateful to the Sobrato Foundation for investing in programs that save lives and strengthen our community's capacity to care for animals in need.

Interested in serving as a foster caretaker? Learn more at www.animalcare.lacounty.gov/volunteer-opportunities



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

From emergency rescues like the Lake Hughes operation to lifesaving medical care through Dreams Come True, every success story begins with compassionate supporters like you.

Your gift helps provide:

- Emergency medical treatment
- Pet retention assistance
- Foster care support
- Food and supplies for animals in need
- Spay and neuter services

Together, we can continue providing hope, healing, and second chances for animals across Los Angeles County.

Donate today and help us save lives.

PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE: NATIONAL MAKE-A-WILL MONTH

August is National Make-A-Will Month, a reminder that creating a will is one of the most important ways to protect the people and pets you love. The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation is proud to partner with FreeWill, a free online tool that helps you create or update a legally valid will in about 20 minutes.

With FreeWill, you can name guardians, outline your wishes, and gain peace of mind. You can also consider including the Foundation in your estate plans to help ensure animals in need continue receiving lifesaving care for years to come.

Get started here: www.lacountyanimals.org/freewill



GIVE ONLINE
Scan the code for a direct link



562.728.4610 | www.lacountyanimals.org

P.O. Box 743887 | Los Angeles, CA 90074-3887

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