



# AGENDA

## OC ANIMAL CARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



*Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.*

OC Animal Care  
Learning & Training Center, First Floor  
1630 Victory Road  
Tustin, CA 92782

**Kim Kane**  
Chair  
Third District

**Dr. Leslie Malo**  
Vice Chair  
First District

**Danielle Thomas**  
Committee Member  
Fourth District

**Vasila Ahmad**  
Committee Member  
Second District

**Elizabeth Cowan**  
Committee Member  
Fifth District

The Orange County Animal Care Community Outreach Committee welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Committee encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on an actionable item contained in the agenda, please complete a Speaker Form identifying the item(s) and return the form to the Clerk of the Committee prior to the Item you wish to speak on being called. If you wish to speak on a matter which does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Committee, please state your name, or a pseudonym if you do not wish to give your name, prior to providing your comments.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting must notify OC Animal Care at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 796-0212 or [COCcomments@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:COCcomments@occr.ocgov.com).

*All supporting documentation is available for public review at OC Animal Care 1630 Victory Road, Tustin, CA 92782 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday  
[www.ocpetinfo.com/get-involved/community-outreach-committee](http://www.ocpetinfo.com/get-involved/community-outreach-committee)*



# AGENDA

## ANIMAL CARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



*Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.*

Learning & Training Center, First Floor  
OC Animal Care  
1630 Victory Road  
Tustin, CA 92782

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call of Members

Kim Kane, Chair, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Dr. Leslie Malo, Vice Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Vasila Ahmad, Committee Member, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Danielle Thomas, Committee Member, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Elizabeth Cowan, Committee Member, 5<sup>th</sup> District

III. Minutes

Regular Meeting, October 23, 2024

Recommended Action: Committee approve the minutes of the October 23, 2024, regular meeting.

IV. Regular Business

1. Community Outreach Team Goals for 2025

This report summarizes the OC Animal Care Community Outreach Team 2025 goals, which includes overall team goals, Public Education Program goals, Volunteer Program goals, and Adoption Partner Program goals.

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

2. Public Education Program Report

This report summarizes the OC Animal Care Public Education Program, which includes Community Outreach, Public Awareness, Shelter and Community Events and Program Updates.

# AGENDA

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

## 3. Foster Program Report

This report summarizes the third quarter for OC Animal Care's Foster Program.

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

## 4. Volunteer Program Report

This report summarizes the third quarter activities for OC Animal Care's Volunteer Program.

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

## 5. Adoption Partner Program Report

This report summarizes the OC Animal Care Rescue/Adoption Partner program.

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

## V. Director's Comments

## VI. Public Comment

At this time, members of the public may address the Committee regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee provided that no action will be taken on any items not on the agenda, unless authorized by law. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person, unless different time limits are set by the Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Committee.

## VII. Advisory Committee Comments

## VIII. Adjournment

The next regular meeting will be April 23, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., in the Learning & Training Center Room 100 located at 1630 Victory Rd. Tustin CA 92782.



# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## ANIMAL CARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

### ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 11:30 a.m.  
Learning & Training Center Room 100  
OC Animal Care  
1630 Victory Road,  
Tustin, CA 92782

- I. **Call to Order** - The meeting of the OC Animal Care Community Outreach Committee called to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Learning and Training Room located at 1630 Victory Road, Tustin, CA 92782.
  
- II. **Roll Call of Members**
  - Kim Kane, Chair, 3rd District PRESENT
  - Dr. Leslie Malo, Vice Chair, 1st District, PRESENT
  - Vasila Ahmad, Committee Member, 2nd District PRESENT
  - Danielle Thomas, Committee Member, 4th District PRESENT
  - Elizabeth Cowan, Committee Member, 5th District PRESENT
  
- III. **Public Comment**
  - Public speaker Michael M requested that all county officials introduce themselves if they are present, and the names of officials should be noted in the minutes. Michael M requested that Director Monica Schmidt face the taxpayers rather than the committee.
  
- IV. **Minutes**
  - Correction made to previous minutes on page 7. It was Chair Kim Kane speaking not Committee Member Elizabeth Cowan.
  - Approve the Summary of Minutes of the meeting held on July 24, 2024.
  - Motion to approve minutes: Vice Chair Dr. Malo, seconded by Committee Member Cowan
  - All in Favor: Vote was unanimous
  
- V. **Regular Business**
  1. **Public Education Program Report**
    - a. Public Information Officer Alexa Pratt shared safety tips initiatives that were distributed last quarter which included Fourth of July pet safety awareness, information on heat waves, and disaster preparedness information during the Airport Fire. Alexa noted that the flyer design had been updated, and that the website is also being updated to be more user friendly.
    - b. Alexa discussed the social media statistics for OCAC this quarter.
      - OCAC added 402 new followers on Facebook and an increase in engagement.
      - OCAC Instagram added 1375 new followers and an increase in engagement.
    - c. Alexa discussed the OCAC Adoption Promotions that occurred this quarter including a Fourth of July promotion for dogs 25 lbs. and over, \$50 Feline Fridays, Two-for-one adoption special for cats and kittens, and NBC 4's Clear the Shelters promotion which occurred from August 10, 2024, to September 10, 2024.

- d. In July, OCAC partnered with a Vet Care Pet Clinic in addition to H.E.A.R.T. to provide low-cost vaccine clinics. Vet Care will provide services once a month on Sunday mornings.
- e. On August 13, 2024, OCAC was featured on the news for NBC 4's Clear the Shelters campaign.
- f. OCAC hosted a free microchip clinic on August 17, 2024, where 12 cats and 30 dogs were microchipped.
- g. In September, OCAC responded to the Airport Fire by providing housing for pets whose owners were under fire evacuation orders. OCAC housed four dogs and one cat during this time. OCAC also provided resources for large animal evacuations and coordinated with nearby large animal shelters to assist the public.

**Committee Member Comments**

- o Committee Member Elizabeth Cowan asked for clarification on what is a social media "interaction" and how is it measured.
  - o Alexa clarified this is a "like" on a post or a share.
  - o Chair Kim Kane asked if OCAC is planning on offering a low-cost spay/neuter clinic.
  - o Alexa responded that we have resources for clinics on the OCAC website, but confirmed it is not something OCAC currently offers.
  - o Director Monica Schmidt mentions Vet Care as an additional low-cost spay and neuter clinic.
- h. Alexandra Su shared a summary of community events and partnerships that took place this quarter. OCAC continued their partnership with Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center to engage with the community and provide free pet tags. Alexandra explained flyers were provided to the public outlining resources for low-cost clinics and spay/neuter clinics. Other summer community events included the Pet Palooza in July where foster dogs were showcased with their fosters to promote adoption. In addition, the OCAC Field services team attended District Four's kids fishing derby event.
  - i. In September, the Summer Pet Adoption Fair took place. 20 adoptable dogs and cats were showcased at this event. Four dogs and five cats were adopted. In September, Alexandra describes attending the Veteran Stand Down Event which was an opportunity to connect with seniors and 111 free pet tags were provided. Alexandra described hosting four Katy Cares seminars with an average 50 to 75 attendees where Heroes in Animal Care presentations took place, and there were numerous school projects and outreach activities to teach young adults responsible pet ownership while interacting with therapy dogs.
  - j. Alexandra described 40 community events were attended this quarter, OCAC also hosted the Pet Food Pantry, which happens on the second Saturday of every month, which allowed OCAC to provide 47,000 lbs. of dog food to approximately 2,500 animals.

**Committee Member Comments**

- o It was moved by Committee Member Danielle Thomas, seconded by Vice Chair Dr. Malo.
  - a. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

## 2. Foster Program Report

- a. Alexandra Su reported that 767 animals were placed in the OCAC Foster Programs this quarter. This included sick and underage animals, animals recovering from surgery, and dogs that were in the Foster-to-Adopt pilot program. Alexandra gave a brief overview of the Foster-to-Adopt Program and describes 80 dogs were placed in Foster-to-Adopt and 43 were adopted. Alexandra described the benefits of the Foster-to-Adopt Program including ongoing support from staff, and zero dogs from the program have been returned. Alexandra highlighted the story of Luca, a dog who was adopted 14 days after participating in the Foster-to-Adopt program. Alexandra also highlighted the story of a hesitant family who adopted a dog named Alma through the program.
- b. Alexandra described the Sittin' with Kittens program which occurs every Saturday from 1pm-3pm. She said it is a successful event that fosters enjoy and where they can interact with potential adopters.

### Committee Member Comments

- Committee Member Elizabeth Cowan asks Alexandra how do you choose who is a good candidate for Foster-to-Adopt? Alexandra responded Foster-to-Adopt is reserved for hesitant people who are not ready to fully commit. Director Schmidt added that good candidates are dogs that might need extra help getting adopted.
- Committee Member Elizabeth Cowan asked how does the percentage of returned Foster-to Adopt dogs relate to the overall percentage of dogs returned at OCAC? Samuel Blankenship explained it is a difficult comparison to make between Foster-to-Adopt dogs which are mostly large dogs, and the general population of dogs which includes puppies and other highly adoptable dogs.
- Vice Chair Dr. Malo asks what percentage of dogs are returned? Samuel answered that he believes it is 6%, and Director Schmidt said she will double check.
- Vice Chair Dr. Malo asks how does the shelter communicate with adopters? Alexandra Su answered that automated emails are sent out to adopters at intervals.
- Chair Kim Kane asks what can be done if an adopter wants to bring a dog back in for training? Samuel answered that while staff don't provide training to adopters, they do have phone conversations to help adopters with advice, and Alexandra added that the Intake Department provides further resources.
- Committee Member Vasila Ahmad asks about adoptions that occur during Sittin' with Kittens. Alexandra answered that the program focuses on fosters and their foster kittens to promote community engagement and because it overlaps with regular adoption hours, adoptions were not counted specifically for this event.
- Committee Member Ahmad proposed the idea of a cat café, with cats and coffee to promote adoptions.
- It was moved by Vice Chair Dr. Malo, seconded by Committee Member Danielle Thomas.
  - a. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

## 3. Volunteer Program Report

- a. Alexandra Su thanks Volunteers and states that there was a total of 8,464 hours logged this quarter. Alexandra explains that this quarter volunteers were able to bottle feed kittens to provide support for foster department. OCAC also held a volunteer coffee event with training demonstrations from Samuel Blankenship. There was also the quarterly round table event. Alexandra explains This event allows volunteers to

- connect with staff. Manager Link, Director Schmidt, and Manager Su were also in attendance. Alexandra explained that this quarter, corporations funded a pet food drive and the Iranian Bar Association pledged \$500.00 to the next food drive.
- b. Alexandra concluded by mentioning that they celebrated “Volunteer of the Month” during August, September, and October, to show appreciation to volunteers.

#### **Committee Members Comments**

- Committee member Danielle Thomas asks how do you connect with corporations and how do you identify partners? Director Schmidt answers that they start by looking at people who have donated in the past.
- Committee Member Danielle Thomas mentioned that Amazon and Boeing inquired about donating.
- Chair Kim Kane asked when dogs can be walked offsite. Director Schmidt responded that it is being evaluated. Chair Kim Kane responds that it would be nice if they had more space.
- Chair Kim Kane mentions that the Dogs 101 class is very popular. Samuel agreed, and Director Schmidt said the next class is Cats 101, but they will plan more Dogs 101 classes in the future.
- It was moved by Vice Chair Dr. Malo, seconded by Committee Member Danielle Thomas.
  - a. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

#### **4. Adoption Program Report**

- a. Tammy Osborn described animal transports and partner adoptions that occurred this quarter. A volunteer transported 30 kittens this year, most of which were in the foster program. Tammy described two vans with four staff members dropped off 21 dogs in Idaho. Tammy speaks specifically of Wanda and Moose, dogs who were apart of the Idaho transport, and detailed that Wanda and Moose were both later adopted. Tammy described the San Francisco SPCA assisted in the transport of 42 cats and 11 dogs during the Airport Fire.
- b. OCAC received a grant from Best Friends to help cats get adopted this quarter. 38 cats have been adopted so far using this grant. Tammy explains almost 1000 pets were placed with other shelters, rescue groups, and local vets this quarter.
- c. Tammy spoke about a special case this quarter where hundreds of domestic quail came to the shelter and were rescued within a week of when they became available.
- d. Tammy explained this quarter there was a large influx of injured and sick kittens who were helped by the Noble Friends Foundation to help pets get discounted care. Tammy concluded by sharing a success story of Liberty, a dog who had medical issues and had been neglected and was rescued and rehabilitated and will soon be ready for adoption.

#### **Committee Members Comments**

- It was moved by Vice Chair Dr. Malo, seconded by Committee Member Elizabeth Cowan.
- Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

#### **VI. Director’s Comments**

- Director Monica Schmidt started by thanking staff and acknowledging their hard work. Director Schmidt highlighted the staff response to the Airport Fire, describing the efforts that were made including

Alexandra Su's foster efforts, staff coordination with large animal shelters to assist horse evacuations, and staff who worked long hours. Director Schmidt spoke about the quail case and how it is one of the several unique cases that required staff to go above and beyond to care for the shelter animals. Director Schmidt then commented on the statistics report for this quarter, and noted that unhealthy, young kittens are the biggest factor affecting the save rate.

- Director Schmidt explains Noble Friends is sponsoring a free microchip clinic and pet pantry, describing a consistent sponsorship. Director Schmidt mentioned the November Adoption Special which highlights senior dogs and cats. She explained the next free quarterly microchip clinic is November 16<sup>th</sup>, which is a collaborative effort between staff and volunteers.
- In a staffing update, Director Schmidt described recruitment is now closed for new Animal Care Attendants, and a Senior Animal Care Attendant. Both roles are in the final stages and being reviewed by HR. There are also new Animal Control Officers in the interview process. In addition, OCAC is recruiting for AAA specialist, which will be part of the shelter team, where Samuel Blankenship will be the direct supervisor.
- Samuel described how the new shelter roles will allow for specialized planning for animals and expand TLC program. The AAA will assist on every aspect of behavior.

### **Committee Member Comments**

- Chair Kim Kane asked Samuel if volunteers would assist with behavior roles.
- Samuel answers that there are TLC2 volunteers.

## **VII. Public Comments**

### **1. Public Speaker #1 Janella Simpson**

a) Janella wanted to know if OCAC can open to stray cats. She also stated she is concerned that advertisements for microchip clinic are not effective, and advertisements should start earlier. Janella said the Low-Cost Clinic information on website is not up to date.

### **2. Public Speaker #2 Michael M**

a) Michael M states that the return rate statistics for OCAC are not accurate and is worried this will poorly affect the decision-making process. Michael said the return rate for dogs is 10-15% and 20-25% for large dogs.

b) He proposed following up with adopters via phone calls more often to mitigate returns.

### **3. Public Speaker #3 April Josephson**

a) April commented that dogs should be walking off-campus. She proposed foster for the day, or overnight foster programs to give them time away from the shelter.

b) April mentioned she is happy with the Foster to Adopt program.

c) April spoke about cats that are not being scanned for microchips and being turned away from the shelter.

d) April commented about the Spay/Neuter and Low-Cost Clinic list and said it needs to be updated. She mentions there is a new low-cost clinic in Mission Viejo she would like to be added to the list.

e) April announced she is hosting an event at her shelter on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with Santa photos.

## **VIII. Advisory Committee Comments**

1. Community Committee Member Elizabeth Cowan asks what are the reasons dogs are being returned? Samuel answers that it could be a clash with another animal in their house, rental issues, allergies, or many other complications. Committee Member Cowan responded that it is important to consider qualitative data in addition to quantitative data.



2. Vice Chair Dr. Malo requested a low-cost clinic handout that is up to date, mentions that “low-cost” is subjective, and the document should have varying options.
3. Chair Kim Kane comments that vets are small business owners and not all always in the position to give discounts and that discounts vary.
4. Committee Member Elizabeth Cowan mentions utilizing Postmaster (currently used to follow up with Foster-to-Adopt), and proposed using it for all adopters, and asks what it would take to implement.

**XI. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm.



### **Staff Report Summary:**

This report identifies the 2025 calendar year goals for OC Animal Care's Community Outreach Team. It includes goals for the Foster, Volunteer, Adoption Partner, and Public Education Programs.

### **Public Education Program**

1. Post a new "Let's Paws" education initiative each month across various OCAC social media platforms to provide responsible pet ownership education.
2. Continue to utilize social media communication regarding adoptable pets by posting and sharing at least four adoptable pets each week.
3. Spotlight shelter resources and provide at least two pieces of responsible education information at quarterly on-campus events.
4. Continue to utilize YouTube videos on the OCpetinfo.com website to spotlight dogs available for adoption, and prioritize efforts to ensure new dogs have a video on their profile within two weeks of being made available.
5. Update OC Animal Care's flyers each quarter to ensure all program information is accurate and in various county approved languages.
6. Onboard one to two new interns each quarter for Marketing Program.

### **Foster Program**

1. Develop standardized training for common foster needs such as bottle feeding of kittens by the start of 2025 kitten season and incorporate into all foster trainings.
2. Provide digital access to quick references and additional education available online 24/7 to all fosters via automated email correspondences.
3. Commit to hosting one large Foster Kitten Shower kickoff event along with monthly foster orientation events throughout the months of April – August, the height of kitten season.
4. Host an annual foster appreciation event to thank foster families for their efforts to help pets in need.
5. Host weekly Sittin' with Kittens events during peak kitten season.
6. Continue to identify automated work processes i.e. weekly check-ins to dog foster caretakers and providing onboarding resources with a goal of added at least two permanent automated processes in 2025.
7. Increase volunteer involvement in Foster Program through regular bottle-feeding shifts during business hours.
8. Onboard one to two new interns for Foster Program.
9. Onboard at least 25 new foster caretakers.



## **Volunteer Program**

1. Work with the shelter team to expand pet enrichment opportunities for volunteers to assist with.
2. Host monthly volunteer orientation classes to onboard new volunteers with a goal of onboarding at least 10 new volunteers each month.
3. Track and maintain list of volunteers meeting training requirements ensuring every active dog volunteer has completed Dogs101 training by March 31, 2025, and future volunteers have 30 days to complete their 3 areas of training: Mentor Training (hands on), Dogs 101 (classroom), and Fear Free Shelter Certification (online). They are recommended to do the trainings simultaneously so they can put what they are learning to practice.
4. Host an annual volunteer appreciation event to thank volunteers for choosing to give their time to help at OC Animal Care.

## **Adoption Partner Program**

1. Continue to identify and foster new rescue and shelter partnerships to maximize positive placement options.
2. Create a dedicated adoption partner service desk to help expedite and improve the partner adoption process by June 2025.
3. Review and update application processes as needed when renewing or becoming a new rescue partner.
4. Engage in new professional partnerships with rescue organizations locally as well as within the State of California and across the Nation.
5. Send updated Adoption Partner application out to all partners by March 31, 2025, to review and update their information to best communicate with them.

**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.



### Staff Report Summary:

Highlights and Updates for following:

- Public Education Program
- Foster Program
- Volunteer Program
- Adoption Partner Program



# OC Animal Care



## Public Education Program

Our Public Education Program is about building strong connections with the community we serve. Through sharing valuable information on disaster preparedness, proper pet care, and responsible ownership, we aim to empower our community members. We're committed to providing essential resources, attending events, and keeping our community informed through our website, digital media and traditional media. From shelter announcements and education to adoption, community outreach, and animal safety, we're here to make a positive impact together.

### PET SAFETY TIPS HALLOWEEN

**Follow these tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday for you and your pet!**

**Trick-or-treating:** Never allow your pet to be dressed in costumes, accessories, or makeup at or near any event where they will be around children. Costumes should be loose enough around the neck area to allow for easy removal and should not be too tight. Costumes should be removed if your pet shows any signs of distress or discomfort.

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Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

Let's Paws

### PET SAFETY TIPS COLD WEATHER

**Make Some Noise**  
A silent, unexplained stranger can be an alarming sight source for outdoor cats. Check underneath your car and bang on the hood and/or starting the engine.

**Outdoor Walks**  
Shorter walks and be mindful of elderly pets who may have difficulty walking in colder weather.

**Cold Weather**  
Cold cars are just as dangerous, and pets should not be left unattended.

**Frostbite and Hypothermia**  
Shivering, shivering, and slowing down are signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

**Heavy Precipitation**  
Check your pet's paws for signs of cracked paw pads or bleeding due to cold weather.

**Poisons Frequently Used in Winter**  
Antifreeze and ice melt are poisonous. They're not common in Orange County, but be mindful about traveling.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

Let's Paws

### PET SAFETY TIPS THANKSGIVING FOOD

**Make sure your pet does not come into contact with these common Thanksgiving foods that are dangerous to pets.**

**Candy**  
Sharing chocolate is a great idea, but regular chocolate due to the higher amount of caffeine and theobromine.

**Sage**  
Sage and other herbs often found in stuffing have essential oils that can cause an upset stomach and central nervous system stimulation. Cats especially are more sensitive.

**Turkey and Bones**  
Raw or undercooked turkey can contain salmonella. Bones can easily splinter and cause serious health problems.

**Onions**  
Onions are toxic to dogs, regardless of how thoroughly cooked they are. They can lead to a dangerous form of anemia.

**Grapes and Raisins**  
Both grapes and raisins are toxic for dogs and can cause a pet's kidneys to shut down.

**Turkey and Bones**  
Raw or undercooked turkey can contain salmonella. Bones can easily splinter and cause serious health problems.

**Pruned Potatoes and Onions**  
Pruned potatoes, horseradish, radish, and fat, these holiday treats can cause gastrointestinal upset, or, in the worst cases, pancreatitis.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

Let's Paws

### PET SAFETY TIPS THANKSGIVING

**Here a few Thanksgiving safety tips to keep your pets safe, healthy, and happy during the holiday.**

**Food**  
Did you know many Thanksgiving staples are toxic to pet? Turkey skin, onion, raisins, grapes, chocolate, artificial sweetener (xylitol), yeast dough, and fatty acids, are toxic to dogs and cats, and can cause potentially fatal health conditions.

**Parties and Guests**  
If you know your pet gets anxious or over-excited around guests, consider keeping them in a separate room with food, water, and their favorite toy.

**Travel**  
If your holiday plans involve traveling elsewhere for multiple days, make sure you've made the proper accommodations for your pet. Consider boarding them at a pet hotel or bringing a trusted friend to care for your pet every day while you're gone.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

Let's Paws

### PET SAFETY TIPS HOLIDAY HAZARDS

**Follow these pet safety tips to ensure you and your pet will have a successful holiday season!**

**Tree Falls**  
Always remember to secure the Christmas tree, lights, and ornaments. Don't let your pet climb on the tree.

**String Candles**  
Always remember to keep the candles and don't leave them unattended.

**House Rules**  
Always remember to keep your pet from a pool and if your pet needs to be outside, remember to be conscious of strong odors, obnoxious or loud sounds, and to be supervised.

**Hot**  
Remember to check on wrapped paper, candles, and don't leave gifts unattended especially if they contain food.

**Holiday Food**  
Remember to check on wrapped paper, candles, and don't leave gifts unattended especially if they contain food.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

Let's Paws

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Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

Let's Paws

### PET SAFETY TIPS CHRISTMAS TREES

**Christmas trees are a delightful part of the holiday season. Ensure a joyful and safe celebration for both you and your pet by following these essential pet safety tips!**

- Anchor the tree to the wall for extra support.
- Take down any chords to prevent electrocution risks.
- Avoid using fragile decorations that may shatter on the ground.
- Avoid using real food as decoration.
- Sweep up pine needles frequently to avoid ingestion.
- Use twist ties or string, to firmly secure your decorations to your tree.
- Use a gate or large presents to wall off your tree.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

Let's Paws

### PET SAFETY TIPS NEW YEAR'S FIREWORKS

**Follow these tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday for you and your pet!**

- Exercise your pet before the fireworks so they can sleep through the main event!
- Microwave and tag your pet. They can get loose when spooked!
- Some pets may need medication to be comfortable. Ask your vet!
- Have a space designated for your pet, such as a quiet room or crate where your pet can go when.
- The loud noises and flash of the fireworks can cause your pets to get scared and run away!

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

Let's Paws





## Social Media Statistics (October - December)

### Facebook

- Added 232 new followers
- 31.7K followers
- Increased content interactions 5.8%

### Instagram

- Added 583 new followers
- 19.6K followers
- Increased reach 2%
- Increased content interactions 1.8%

## Adoption Promotions

From October through December, the adoption promotion was extended to waive fees for dogs 25+ pounds. In November, there was a special adoption promotion for all senior pets for National Adopt-a-Senior Pet month.





On Saturday, November 16, 2024, OC Animal Care hosted a Free Microchip Clinic for dogs and cats. Thanks to sponsorship by the Nobel Friends Foundation for OC Animal Care, 8 cats and 14 dogs were microchipped free of charge, which included the registration of owner information during the event.

**FREE\***  
Microchip Clinic  
for Dogs and Cats

OC Animal Care  
NOBEL FRIENDS FOUNDATION  
@ocanimalcare

**DATE:**  
Saturday, August 17, 2024

**TIME:**  
8 - 11 a.m.

**LOCATION:**  
OC Animal Care  
1630 Victory Rd.  
Tustin, CA 92782

- Free microchip clinic for the first 100 dogs and cats
- Limit 2 pets per household; all pets must be 8 weeks of age+
- For safety purposes, all pets must be well-socialized
- Dogs must be on a 6-foot leash or shorter at all times (no retractables)
- Cats must be in a secure pet carrier at all times (no feral traps)

For more info:  
OCpetinfo.com  
714-935-6848

\*Attendees must reside in an OC Animal Care contract city. A California ID or photo ID with a utility bill, rental/lease agreement, or similar document providing proof of residency in a contract city needed to participate in this event.

Contract cities include: Anaheim, Brea, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Lake Forest, Orange, Placentia, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Tustin, Villa Park, Yorba Linda, and the County unincorporated areas.

On December 13, 2024, the Karen Cooper Foundation stopped by OC Animal Care to deliver 250 treats and toys to the dogs in our care. Thanks to their generosity, each dog had a special treat and new toy on Christmas morning.







On December 14, 2024, OC Animal Care hosted a festive adoption event. There was a special adoption fee of \$25 for all pets, resource booths, and a Surfer Santa. 18 dogs, 45 cats and 1 small animal were adopted that day.



## Community Events and Partnerships

This quarter we continued to participate in the Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center where the City of Anaheim's Community Service Department partners with various organizations to provide resources to underserved communities. During the Mobile Family Resources, we provided free pet tags sponsored by Noble Friends, information, and resources for pet owners. We will continue this partnership and providing resources to the community to help keep pets with their families.



Anaheim Mobile Family Resource events continued throughout the quarter, making a positive impact in the communities most in need.





# OC Animal Care



We also had the opportunity to participate in several community events to help spread the word about responsible pet ownership, shelter programming, volunteer and foster opportunities and resources available to pet owners. As well as showcasing a multitude of our adoptable dogs



We showcased 4 dogs at Barktoberfest at Tewinkle Park in Costa Mesa. Two of the dogs that attended were in foster care, and it gave our foster caretakers a chance to show them off to potential adopters. One of our dogs even won Best Dressed in the Costume Contest.



We attended an adoption event hosted by the Subaru Orange Coast dealership in Santa Ana on Saturday, November 2. We showcased 6 dogs, 3 of which were in foster care. We adopted 3 dogs into their new forever homes. 2 of the dogs were successfully placed in our Foster To Adopt Program. By promoting our adoptable pets at the event, one of the attendees visited our shelter later that day and adopted one of our cats.



We attended a Wellness Fair at the Pendry Hotel in Newport Beach on Friday, November 15. We hosted an information booth and brought 3 adoptable cats. We connected with many attendees about our shelter's services, spread awareness about responsible pet ownership, and shared information about our foster programs.



# OC Animal Care



We attended an adoption event at a Petco store in Santa Ana on Saturday, December 7. We showcased 4 dogs and successfully placed 1 of them into a new forever home. The store is very generous to us and continually donates pet food for our monthly pet food pantry.

Additionally, we hosted 1 Katy Cares and Heroes in Animal Care presentation in addition to numerous school projects, fundraisers, and outreach activities. These events host anywhere from 50 to 75 attendees, teaching young people about responsible pet ownership while interacting with amazing therapy dogs.



We participated in 30 community events during this quarter:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
10/02/24	City of Fullerton Employee Health Fair	Fullerton
10/04/24	Supervisor Foley's Senior Summit	Aliso Viejo
10/05/24	Cypress Run	Cypress
10/05/24	Puptoberfest	Fullerton
10/08/24	Placentia Health Fair	Placentia
10/10/24	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim



# OC Animal Care



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10/11/24	Team Kids Carnival	Santa Ana
10/12/24	Cypress Community Festival	Cypress
10/12/24	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
10/16/24	Paws and Stripes	OC Animal Care
10/19/24	Pet Adoption and Vaccination Event	Irvine
10/24/24	Feed the Pets Pet Food Fundraiser	Mission Viejo
10/24/24	Oranewood Trunk or Treat	Santa Ana
10/26/24	Barktoberfest	Costa Mesa
10/26/24	Halloweenfest	Villa Park
11/02/24	Adoption Event at Subaru Orange Coast	Santa Ana
11/09/24	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
11/12/24	UCI Health Annual Pet Adoption Event	Orange
11/14/24	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
11/15/24	Wellness Fair at the Pendry Hotel	Newport Beach
11/16/24	Microchip Clinic	OC Animal Care
11/20/24	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
11/22/24	Team Kids Carnival	Tustin
12/4/24	Katy Cares	OC Animal Care
12/7/24	Petco Adoption Event	Santa Ana
12/11/24	CAS Pop-Up Adoption Event	Santa Ana
12/12/24	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
12/14/24	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
12/14/24	Santa Paws Adopt-a-Pet Day	OC Animal Care
12/18/24	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim





## Pet Food Pantry

The success of the Family Fur-st Pet Food Pantry not only lies in providing essential resources to pet owners in need, but also in fostering a great sense of community. This past quarter we had 125 volunteers and support from community groups.

## Community volunteer groups- Break down by month:

October: Marshall McLellan Agency, LatinX, UCI Red Cross Club, Cornerstone of Southern California

November: UCI Red Cross Club, KHS&S Contractors, Marshall McLellan Agency

December: OC Bar Association, Garden Grove High School Boys Service Club, Marshall McLellan Agency

And contributed 500 hours to staging, directing traffic, taking stats, providing education, and connecting people with resources in the community, handing out over 55,695 pounds of food to approximately 3,127 animals in need.

## Pet food dispensed- Break down by month:

October: 21,470 lbs. to help feed 1,198 animals

November: 17,355 lbs. to help feed 1,006 animals

December: 16,870 lbs. to help feed 923 animals

## Pet Food Pantry donors this past quarter were:

A Hidden Vine on the Lake, Private donor on behalf of San Juan Capistrano Toyota, Boeing, Private donor OCAC volunteer, Irvine Animal Care Center, Noble Friends Foundation, Petco Tustin



**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.



## Foster Program

Animals are placed into foster homes for various reasons. They may be too young or too sick for adoption, receiving treatment, in need of additional socialization, or a break from the shelter as they wait for their forever home. OC Animal Care's foster caretakers offer sanctuary for these animals in their homes, and provide around the clock care, comfort, and socialization until the pet is ready for adoption. Animals placed into foster are selected by staff and based on need.

Foster caretakers are a vital piece of the OC Animal Care family. This quarter, a total of 459 animals were placed into our Foster Program. These animals were supported by 551 foster homes, reflecting that some animals may have been placed in foster care more than once, due to either changes in foster homes or the need for multiple placements. Our foster caretakers are saving lives!





## Foster-to-Adopt Program

The Dog Foster-to-Adopt Pilot Program launched on June 6, 2024. This program offers potential adopters the opportunity to take select dogs home for two weeks before deciding if the relationship is meant to be. Participants receive essential supplies as well as guidance and support from the Foster Team to ensure the fostering process results in a meaningful and successful adoption match.

Shelter dogs benefit from this program as they get to decompress from the shelter environment and show off their unique quirks and personalities, giving the fosters an opportunity to learn if the dog will be a good fit for the family. If the match is not right and the shelter pet returns, we are still able to gather invaluable information about the dog so we can pass along the information to future adopters. During this quarter, 80 dogs participated in the Foster-to-Adopt Pilot Program and 43 dogs were adopted through the program.

As part of the program, staff gather and review statistics such as number of participants, reasons for not adopting, return rate of those adopted. As with any programming, analysis is based on quantitative as well as qualitative information.

Buzz (A1883250) now adoringly known as Beaux found his family through our Foster-to-Adopt program.

After the 14-days participating in the program, the adopter reported, "I'm happy to let you know that we've decided to adopt Buzz. Thank you so much to everyone at OC Animal Care for making the foster to adopt process so pleasant. We are super excited and look forward to finalizing things."

Buzz now enjoys his days being the passenger prince, looking forward to car rides and soaking in every moment to look out of the car window.







## Foster Engagement

This quarter, we hosted a special Sittin' with Kittens event which we promoted as Whisker Wonderland during our winter Santa Paws Adoption Event. Former foster kittens were featured for adoption while their foster caretakers sat alongside their kittens to share about the kitten's unique personality to potential adopters.



**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.

## Volunteer Program

This report summarizes this quarter's activities for OC Animal Care's Volunteer Program and includes contribution hours, program enhancements/ opportunities, and volunteer participation. Volunteers contributed to exercising, grooming, handling, training/socializing, and enrichment for available animals, as well as cleaning, laundry, socializing and caring for kittens in the nursery, and volunteering at our monthly Pet Food Pantry. Volunteers are also responsible for showing dogs and cats/kittens at our numerous offsite Adoption and Educational events. As well as care and feeding shifts for our cats/kittens at Petco.

### Volunteer Contribution Hours this Quarter:

Total Volunteers with Service: 538

On-Site Volunteer Hours: 7,699

### Volunteer Tasks - Hours Logged

Dog Walking/Enrichment Hours: 5,039; Cat Assistance/Enrichment Hours: 2,660

Pet Food Pantry Dedicated Hours: 500



# OC Animal Care



This is an extraordinary number of hours and we are so proud of our dedicated volunteer team.

## Volunteer Coffee

Our volunteer coffee is a great way for volunteers and department managers to connect. Volunteer coffee is going strong as staff members from various teams meet once a month with our volunteers for an insightful peek into the many roles here at the shelter. This quarter's special guests included: Dr. Jones Chief Veterinarian educating us on fomites. We also hosted our quarterly Volunteer Roundtable which was attended by a variety of staff including: Monica Schmidt, OCAC Director; Jamie Link, Operations Manager; Sam Blankenship, Shelter Services Manager. We will continue hosting our coffee chats and quarterly roundtables to keep sharing news and volunteer ideas and input.

## Volunteer of the Month

We continue to celebrate our volunteers' contributions by awarding Volunteer of the Month to recognize those who go the extra mile through not just hours, but dedication to our shelter pets and creating a positive influence both at the shelter and in the community. Our Volunteers of the Month for this quarter are:



**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.

## Adoption Partners Program

Through cooperative actions, the Adoption Partner Program seeks placement for animals in need of rehabilitation or additional support to be successful in their forever home. This report also shares steps taken to increase rescue placements and communication efforts between OC Animal Care and Adoption Partners.





## Transports

This quarter we organized multiple transports, including a transport to Idaho in November. Four staff members in 2 vans drove 26 dogs of all sizes and 2 hamsters, to their new adoption location in Idaho, where they quickly started finding their new homes. We are so happy to have this successful out-of-state partnership. We were especially excited to see how quickly Winifred and Potter found their forever families!



Transport pets finding their forever homes

## Partner updates



This quarter, we completed our participation in the generous grant offered by Best Friends Animal Society to the Noble Friends Foundation. Through their partnership, this grant assisted 53 cats (49 adults, 4 kittens). A total of Eleven groups helped cats, including long stay cats, some with severe medical or from special cases.



# OC Animal Care



## Partner Adoptions

This quarter, approximately 545 pets were placed with non-profit rescue groups, local veterinarians, or with partner municipal and/or humane organizations. We sent out over 130 postings to our partners and networkers asking for assistance with special needs pets. Our amazing partners continue to be a big part of our success in placing hard to adopt pets.



## Shelter Medical Pets Program

We continue to use the Shelter Medical Pets Program to help injured pets that come into OC Animal Care requiring more specialized treatment. We continue to reach out to veterinarians and welcome their interest in participating. This quarter, four pets received outside medical treatment, and the estimated cost for care of those pets was \$15,500.

With the help of Noble Friends Foundation, private donations, and our wonderful participating surgeons who provide generous discounts, we were able to help these pets get the specialized care they needed to be adopted into forever homes. This quarter's medical pets were young cats and a boxer mix puppy.

Leota	femur fracture	\$	2,500.00
Hope	Multiple leg fractures	\$	8,000.00
Magpie	fractured leg	\$	3,000.00
Tinsel	fractured leg	\$	2,000.00





# OC Animal Care



## Success Story

Mr. Deebo came into the shelter as a stray with multiple injuries consistent with being hit by a car including a fractured leg and pelvis, as well as a possibly fractured tail. Our veterinary team provided him with stabilizing care and treatment, but due to the severity of his condition, we reached out to our partners for help. Luckily, one of them was able to provide the prolonged treatment and out of shelter recovery that he needed. After a few weeks and surgery, he started to be more of himself! He has been making great progress and will soon be ready for his adoptive home where he has two siblings and a bed with his name embroidered on it waiting for him!



Mr. Deebo, before and after his medical treatment.

**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.