



Staff Report Summary:

Highlights and Updates for following:

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



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.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR YOU AND YOUR PET

Stay Active Together
Daily walks and playtime are enriching and healthy for both you and your pet!

Schedule a Vet Check-Up
Schedule a visit at least once a year to make sure your pet is happy and healthy!

Learn About Pet Safety
Learn something new like Pet CPR or check out Pet Safety Tips on our website to learn how to keep your pet safe in all environments!

Add Enrichment Activities to Your Pet's Day
Create an environment that is fun and stimulating for your pet!

Help Animals in Need
Check out the "Get Involved" page on our website to find out how you can make a difference in homeless animals' lives!

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on ocpetinfo.com

Let's Paws

PET SAFETY TIPS HOT WEATHER

Never Leave Your Pet in a Hot Car
Never leave your dog alone in a vehicle, even with the windows cracked. It only takes a few minutes for the temperature inside to reach 100 degrees. If a car ever becomes a hot car, try to locate the owner or call 911.

Watch Out for Hot Pavement
Don't have your pet standing on the hot pavement and keep walks to a minimum. Remember, if it's too hot for your feet, it's too hot for your pet's paws!

Always Provide Water and Shade
Keep your pet inside during the hot day and let them out indoors. Do avoid the needs of other owners or street vendors who are less concerned of the heat and should be kept deeper in shade until they are truly safe.

Limit Exercise
Don't let your pet overheat themselves in extremely warm weather. Exercise in the early morning and late evening to avoid the heat.

Watch for Signs of Heatstroke
Excessive panting and drooling, high heart rate, discolored gums, mobility problem, rigid body temperature, vomiting, and diarrhea are all symptoms of heat stroke. If your pet is experiencing these symptoms, contact your vet immediately.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on ocpetinfo.com

Let's Paws

Did You Find Kittens? Remember to Wait...Watch...Win!

WAIT!
Don't move the kittens just yet! If the kittens are in a safe location it's very possible that mom is out looking for food or hiding nearby watching over them. The kittens are safest with their mom, at least until they are eating on their own.

WATCH!
To keep the kittens safe, keep an eye on them but don't get too close as this may scare mom away. She should return in about 4 to 6 hours to feed and care for her kittens. Kittens do not need to be with their mom constantly.

IF MOM RETURNS

IF MOM DOES NOT RETURN
If you are able, caring for the kittens until they can eat on their own greatly improves their chance of survival. OC Animal Care can provide kitten kits to get you started caring for the bottle baby kittens. Contact our Foster Department at foster@ocac.org. OCAC is also available to take in kittens if you are unable to care for them yourself!

WIN!!!
By waiting before intervening with found kittens everyone wins! Here are a few of the reasons why:
• If the kittens are "Milk-shopped" Mom will lose the ability to provide essential nutrients and early socialization.
• Bottle kittens are resource and time intensive and many shelters do not have the ability to care for them.
• Kittens are given a better chance at survival!

ocpetinfo.com OC Animal Care

Scan the QR code to view other helpful Let's Paws tips!

Social Media Statistics (January - March)

Facebook

- Added 800 new followers
- 33K followers
- Content interactions up 42.2% to 11.9K
- Valentines Day "Share the Love" post for Pet Pantry donations garnered 79,458 views

Instagram

- Added 950 new followers
- 22.4K followers
- 891K views
- Content interactions up 26.6% to 35K
- Valentines Day, 78,125 views, and Dog Day Out, 51,268 views, most popular.

Our Pet Food Pantry is running low, and we need your help! We're looking for dog and cat food donations to support pets in our community, and we can't do it without you.

If you are able to help, please bring in dry or wet dog and cat food by Friday, February 13th. Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference. Please spread the word and help us keep tails wagging and bellies full.

PILOT PROJECT: DOG'S DAY OUT
KICKING OFF MARCH 26, 2026!

OC Animal Care is launching **Dog's Day Out**, a six-month pilot program that invites the community to make a difference by taking a dog for a fun activity outside the shelter.

Explore dog-friendly places in Orange County for a morning to help a dog get adopted. Dog's Day out is available from 8 a.m. to noon Thursday through Sunday.

Learn more at ocpetinfo.com/dogsdayout



Adoption Promotions

From January through March, the adoption promotion was extended to waive fees for dogs 25+ pounds and six months and older.



Other Promotions and Events

The Communications team helped with preparations for the Dog's Day Out Pilot Program and promoting the pilot program when it was launched.

The team:

- Designed flyers promoting the program
- Created a program landing page on the OC Animal Care website, www.ocpetinfo.com/dogsdayout
- Made individualized information flyers about each dog participating in the program, shelter information, how to adopt and how to get involved
- Recorded and edited a video explaining program guidelines for participating members of the public to watch before taking a dog out on an adventure
- Created social media to educate the public about Dog's Day Out Pilot Program and how to sign up for the pilot program





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- Coordinated with the Office of Orange County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Doug Chaffee for a promotional video highlighting the Dog's Day Out Pilot Program
- Worked with reporters and photographers from CBS Los Angeles and the Orange County Register who covered the Dog's Day Out Pilot Program launch

The project was a team effort across multiple departments at OC Animal Care.



The City of Huntington Beach continued to showcase OC Animal Care dogs at the second City Council meeting of each month, increasing the number of dogs to two at each meeting. OC Animal Care volunteers joined staff at the meetings promoting available dogs creating additional awareness of our volunteer program. Four dogs have been adopted after appearing at the meetings.



OC Animal Care took the lead on a joint Valentine's Day adoption promotion with five other additional shelters.

- Coastal Animal Services Authority
- Irvine Animal Care Center
- Laguna Beach Animal Shelter
- Mission Viejo Animal Services
- Newport Beach Animal Services
- OC Animal Care



The collaboration created a unified voice from the participating agencies encouraging the community to visit one or all of the participating shelters.



Communications staff created social media to promote the "Spring into Love" adoption event at OC Animal Care on March 28. The next quarterly event is California Adopt a Pet Day on June 6, 2026.

A cross-functional OC Animal Care team of subject matter experts, including professionals from the veterinary, programming, sheltering and dog behavior teams, reviewed and assessed the plan's current status and provided website updates for our 2026 Strategic Plan Progress Report.

Recommended Action: The Committee receives and files the report.

Community Events and Partnerships

We successfully participated in twenty-eight (28) community events during this quarter

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
1/8/26	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
1/10/26	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
1/17/26	PetSmart Adoption Event	Santa Ana
1/22/2026	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
1/23/26	Katy Cares Presentation	OC Animal Care
1/24/26	Paws and Nuggets	Santa Ana
1/24/26	Kapwa Connect Filipino Resource Fair	Anaheim
1/31/26	Adopt Joy at PetSmart	Orange
2/5/26	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
2/11/26	Ranch Discovery Day	Costa Mesa
2/14/26	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
2/19/26	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim



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2/21/26	Health and Wellness Resource Fair sponsored by BOS-2	Anaheim
2/26/26	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
2/27/26	Team Kids Carnival	Fountain Valley
2/28/26	All Abilities Resource Fair	Costa Mesa
2/28/26	Katy Cares Presentation	OC Animal Care
3/3/26	Easter seals Safety and Wellbeing Fair	Irvine
3/5/26	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
3/7/26	Boca de Oro: Creative Renaissance	Santa Ana
3/13/26	College and Career Day/ Resource Fair	Orange
3/14/26	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
3/14/26	BOS-4 Kids' Fishing Derby	Brea
3/19/26	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
3/21/26	Community Healthcare and Social Services Expo-Hosted by BOS-1	Fountain Valley
3/26/26	BOS-5 Town Hall on Senior Supports	RMV
3/28/26	Adoption Event	OC Animal Care
3/28/26	PetSmart Adoption Event	Santa Ana

Pet Food Pantry

The success of the Family Furst Pet Drive-Thru 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 122 volunteers and support from community groups.

Community volunteer groups break down by month:

January: Garden Grove High School, OC Bruins Alumni, the City of Cypress

February: Red Cross Club at UCI, G4G Service Club, PACT at UCI

March: Villa Park Rotary Club, Whole Foods, Jack in the Box

All of these volunteers contributed more than 428 hours to staging, directing traffic, taking stats, offering educational opportunities, and connecting people with resources in the community. OC Animal Care provided over 64,465 pounds to help feed 3,623 animals in need.



Monthly break down of pet food provided:

January: 19,100 lbs. to help feed 1,110 animals

February: 21,080 lbs. to help feed 1,157 animals

March: 24,285 lbs. to help feed 1,356 animals

Pet Food Pantry donors this past quarter were:

Irvine Animal Care Center - Noble Friends Foundation – Petco Tustin - San Diego Humane Society – Villa Park Rotary Club

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. The animals placed into foster are specially selected by our veterinary staff for their health and temperament.

Foster caretakers are a vital piece of the OC Animal Care family. This quarter, a total of 243 animals were placed into our Foster Program. These animals were supported by 260 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!





Dog's Day Out Pilot Program

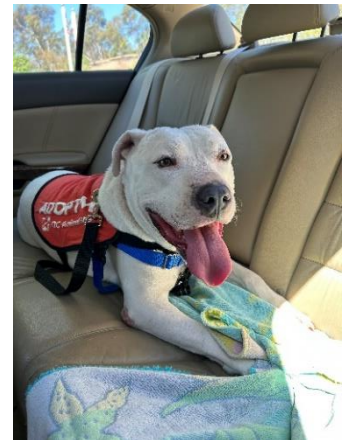
Beginning March 26, 2026, members of the public are invited to take a shelter dog on a field trip through Dog's Day Out, a new pilot project at OC Animal Care.

The program encourages participants to take adoptable shelter dogs on short field trips, giving the animals an opportunity to experience new environments, enjoy adventures throughout Orange County, and showcase their personalities to potential adopters. VCA Charities reports that the increased public exposure and improved socialization dogs experience on field trips make them five to 14 times more likely to be adopted.

Volunteers and our community can sign up to take selected dogs on a "Dog's Day Out" field trip Thursdays through Sundays from 8 a.m. - noon. Participants must be 18 years or older (families may accompany them) and have an enclosed, air-conditioned vehicle.

Participants sign up through an online scheduling calendar and complete a one-time waiver. On the day of, participants are paired with their shelter dog and receive an in-person onboarding by staff to review program expectations and guidelines. Dogs wear bright orange "Adopt Me" vests, and participants carry backpacks that include water bowls, waste bags, treats, and adoption information for members of the public who meet the dog. After the outing, participants are encouraged to complete a brief survey to help us learn more about how the dog did during their adventure.

Since the launch of the program, available appointment slots have filled up rapidly. We are so grateful for the community's support! New appointment openings are released every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., and 10 a.m. 2 weeks in advance.



Dog's Day Out dog Mayo (A1938270) has been enjoying his time exploring pet-friendly trails and shopping centers. He walks well on a leash and eagerly greets everyone he meets.



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 spend time in a home setting 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, 109 dogs participated in our Foster-to-Adopt Program. These animals were supported by 125 homes, reflecting that some dogs may have participated in the Foster-to-Adopt more than once. Seventy-two 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.



Tyson (A1945918), now Samson is living his best life. His family shared, "He's great with other dogs, gets along with the family cat, and spends his days soaking up as much affection as he can."



Large Dog Foster Program

The Dog Foster Program provides shelter pets with a "Stay-cation" in a foster parent's home. Our fosters complete an application and are paired with a shelter pet based on preference and abilities. Fosters are provided with essential supplies (i.e. martingale collar, ID tag, food, and leash) and support from our Foster Team with weekly check-ins, training guidance, and resources.

Foster dogs are continuously promoted as available for adoption on our website and through social media from photos, videos and information gathered during our weekly check-ins. Our foster dogs are provided extra opportunities to find their forever homes by attending off-site adoption events. During this quarter, a total of six dogs participated in our Large Dog Foster Program.

Klay (A1929380) has been in foster since March and this is a recent update from his foster parent: "Klay (A1929380) has been adapting to life at home wonderfully! he has a set feeding and walking routine and LOVES his walks. He particularly loves sniffing all the grass he can. When at home, he loves just being next to us. Whenever I'm cooking in the kitchen, he lays down on the floor. He LOVES affection and is always down to cuddle!"



Foster Engagement

This quarter, Foster Program hosted a Foster Appreciation Celebration celebrating all of their great accomplishments in 2025, to which more than 70 fosters RSVP'd. The celebration was our way of expressing our gratitude to our fosters for their



unwavering commitment and tremendous efforts in providing homes for animals and an opportunity for them to socialize and integrate into their families. Everyone who took part received a participation certificate, potted plant, and an entry to the prize raffle. Monica, Alex, and the Foster Team were on hand to thank fosters in person and a heartwarming video was shared including Dylan Wright and various staff across showing their gratitude.

Paws & Purrs
A Winter Wonderland of Gratitude
Saturday, January 31, 2026
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Agenda

- 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM Check-in & Continental Breakfast
- 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM Ice Breaker
- 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM Opening Remarks
- 11:45 AM - 11:50 AM Appreciation Video
- 11:50 AM - 12:30 PM Award Ceremony
- 12:30 PM - 12:50 PM Raffle
- 12:50 PM - 1:00 PM Closing

Thank You to our Raffle Sponsors

ESCAPES, INTREPID ESCAPE ROOMS, CAFFE YOGA, Lazy DOG, IMPROV, MAU, The Murder Detective Co., California FISH GRILL, BOWERS MUSEUM, THE REPTILE ZOO, OC ZOO, SANTA ANA RAILROAD, Santa Ana ZOO AT PRENTICE PARK



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 enriching available animals, as well as cleaning, laundry, socializing 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.



OC Animal Care



Volunteer Contribution Hours:

January 1 - March 31, 2026

Total Volunteers with Service: 236

On-Site Volunteer Hours: 7,621

Volunteer Tasks - Hours Logged

Dog Walking/Enrichment Hours: 6,702

Cat Assistance/Enrichment Hours: 379

Support Services: 521

Miscellaneous: 19

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 members of our management 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 Communications Manager Denise Woodside, Community Outreach and Liaison Manager Jonathan Volzke, and Chief Veterinarian Dr. Jones.

Volunteer Dog's Day Out Pilot Project Info Meeting:

Dedicated volunteers participated in an informative Town Hall with staff on February 25, where details of the Dog's Day Out Pilot Project were shared. Volunteers were additionally invited to beta test the pilot before the official March 26 launch to the public. We are grateful for integral feedback from our volunteers before launching the pilot project to the public and we even saw our first Dog's Day Out Pilot Project adoption occur with Joanie.

On Day 3 of our Dog's Day Out Pilot Project rollout to OCAC Volunteers, our first Dog's Day Out Pilot Project adoption happened. Mark and Amber teamed up to take out Joanie. They went to The Lab shopping center in Costa Mesa and met Tyler and Crystal who fell instantly in love with Joanie. They were attending an event at the shopping center so they couldn't follow our volunteers right back,



but 2 hours later they were in the lobby ready to take their new best friend home. Joanie was smiling so big and trying to get in both of their laps.



Volunteer Roundtable:

We also host quarterly Volunteer Roundtable events attended by a variety of staff including: OC Animal Care Director Monica Schmidt, Shelter Programs Manager Alex Su, Operations Manager Jamie Link, Communications Manager, Denise Woodside, and Shelter Services Manager, Sam Blankenship. On March 19, staff and volunteers met for the quarterly Volunteer Roundtable. In addition to expressed gratitude toward the volunteers, the meeting highlighted past and current programs and concluded with an interactive Q&A session. We will continue hosting our monthly 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 the first quarter were:



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 reviews steps taken to increase and improve adoptions and communication between OC Animal Care and Adoption Partners.

Transports

This quarter, we participated in a transport to one of our partners in the Pacific Northwest. Through the help of Greater Good Charities, they coordinated with us to arrange transfer of some of our shy adult cats to the other adoption facility.

In March, we worked with our partner in Idaho to transfer 22 dogs to their facility.

Transports are rewarding for OC Animal Care's team. Our staff comes together to do the planning, packing and paperwork that are necessary when moving a large group of pets. We continue to be so excited to see our pets get new opportunities.





OC Animal Care



Partner Updates

This quarter, we experienced technical issues with our OC Rescue Track web page. We made it our highest priority and worked with our Information Technology team to resolve the issue. Service was not interrupted, as we built in a safety feature to log all the requests when we designed Rescue Track. This ensures that communication is received and responded to in a timely manner. We are happy to report that OCIT was able to troubleshoot and fix any issues with no impacts to our community.

Partner Adoptions

This quarter, over 650 pets were placed with non-profit rescue groups, local veterinarians, or with partner municipal and/or humane organizations. We sent out over 150 postings to our partners and networkers asking for assistance with our special needs pets. That did not include underage kitten postings sent by our Foster Team. Our amazing partners continue to be a big part of our success in finding positive pathways for our pets.



Shelter Medical Pets Program

The Medical Pets Program continues to help injured pets that come into OC Animal Care requiring specialized treatment. We continue to reach out to veterinarians and welcome their interest in participating. This quarter, our rescue partners took in all the pets needing advanced medical care.



Success Story

Valentino (A1948101) was called in as a sick stray laying in the bushes by an apartment building. When our officer arrived, they found him shaking and vomiting. He was immediately taken to the emergency clinic for evaluation and



treatment. The after-hours emergency hospital found that Valentino had a very low temperature, cold limbs and nonpalpable pulses. Once he was stable, he was brought back to OC Animal Care. With his grave condition we knew he was going to need more care than we could provide him and that it was possible his kidneys were irreversibly damaged.

We reached out to our rescue partners to see if anyone could take on this challenging case. One of our partners, who specializes in bracycephalic breeds, offered to help him and immediately arranged an appointment with their veterinarian. He was able to get the treatment he needed and is now thriving in his foster home. This case shows what can be accomplished when we all work together to save a life. We are so grateful to everyone that made this happy ending for Valentino.

Recommended Action: The Committee receives and files the report.