



AGENDA

OC ANIMAL CARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

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

Vacant
Chair
Fourth District

Elizabeth Cowan
Vice Chair
Fifth District

Dr. Leslie Malo
Committee Member
First District

Hollis Lenore
Committee Member
Second District

Kim Kane
Committee Member
Third 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.

*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*



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ANIMAL CARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 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

Vacant, Chair, 4th District
Elizabeth Cowan, Vice Chair, 5th District
Dr. Leslie Malo, Committee Member, 1st District
Hollis Lenore, Committee Member, 2nd District
Kim Kane, Committee Member, 3rd District

III. Minutes

Regular Meeting, January 28, 2026

Recommended Action: Committee approve the minutes of January 28, 2026, regular meeting.

IV. Regular Business

1. 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.

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

2. Foster Program Report

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

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

AGENDA

3. Volunteer Program Report

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

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

4. 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. Election of a Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

The Chairperson shall call for nominations from the Committee members and the Chairperson will initiate a vote.

As provided by the Committee's bylaws, elections for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be conducted by the full Committee and shall occur in April of each year. The Chairperson shall call for nominations from the Committee members and the Chairperson will initiate a vote. A majority vote of the Committee members present is required for each candidate to be elected as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Once a member has served as Chairperson for two (2) consecutive years, the member may not serve as Chairperson again until after two (2) succeeding years have elapsed.

Recommended Action: Elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for a one-year term that becomes effective immediately.

VIII. Advisory Committee Comments

IX. Adjournment

AGENDA

The next regular meeting will be July 22, 2026, 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, January 28, 2026, 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

- Vacant, Chair, 4th District
- Elizabeth Cowan, Vice Chair, 5th District PRESENT
- Dr. Leslie Malo, Committee Member, 1st District PRESENT
- Vacant, Committee Member, 2nd District
- Kim Kane, Committee Member, 3rd District PRESENT

III. Minutes

Committee Members Comments

- Approve the Summary of Minutes of the meeting held on October 22, 2025.
- Motion to approve minutes: Motioned by Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane
 - All in Favor: Vote was unanimous

IV. Regular Business

1. Public Education Program Report

- a. Jonathan Volzke shared information on the Let's Paws flyers distributed this quarter that included subject matter on pet safety tips during the holidays, including what food is harmful to animals and how to minimize fireworks-related pet trauma.
- b. Jonathan discussed the social media statistics for OC Animal Care this quarter. Jonathan noted audience increases across OC Animal Care's social media platforms.
 - OC Animal Care added 113 new followers on Facebook, which increases the number of followers to 32,000.
 - OC Animal Care Instagram added 1,000 new followers, hitting 21,000 followers. The channel received more than 972,000 views in the fourth quarter.
- c. Jonathan discussed the OC Animal Care Adoption Promotions that occurred this quarter including *Too Cute to Spook* for October, *Falling Fur You* and *Pets for Vets* for November, and *Adopt Actually* in December, in addition to the *Santa Paws* quarterly adoption event.
- d. Jonathan stated the Karen Cooper Foundation based in La Jolla brought five bags of dog toys to OC Animal Care.

- e. Jonathan announced that Huntington Beach invited OC Animal Care to bring adoptable dogs to the second City Council meeting of each month to promote pet adoption and OC Animal Care. He noted two of three dogs presented were placed after the meetings.

Committee Member Comments

- o Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if anyone saw a dog at the Huntington Beach City Council meeting and tried to claim it was their pet.
- o Jonathan answered that one of the three dogs was placed in Huntington Beach and that the outreach team works with shelter staff to identify appropriate dogs for the meetings.
- o Committee Member Kim Kane asked if the program could expand to other municipalities.
- o Jonathan responded that the outreach team would be interested in expanding the program.
- f. Alexandra Su shared community event partnerships in the fourth quarter. She highlighted some of the events, including the Anaheim Mobile Family Resources event, and adoption events at Subaru Orange Coast, the Pet Adoption Expo With 1st District Supervisor Janet Nguyen, and a Pet Smart Store event in Santa Ana. OC Animal Care hosted Katy Cares and participated in roughly 20 community events, including:
 - o The Cypress Community Festival
 - o The Senior Summit Resource Fair, sponsored by 5th District Supervisor Katrina Foley
 - o Dog Days at Tustin Library
 - o The Rossmoor Community Resources Forum
- g. Alexandra reported that the Pet Food Pantry had 95 volunteers this quarter and handed out 71,865 pounds of food [sic.; correct amount 77,725 pounds] to feed 3,353 animals to make the fourth quarter the largest yet. The pantry was supported by various donors, including Petco, Irvine Animal Care, and individuals.
- h. Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan noted two events were sponsored by Supervisors and asked whether other Board offices contact OC Animal Care to participate in events.
- i. Director Schmidt responded that other Board offices do include OC Animal Care in their event planning.
- j. Director Schmidt added that OC Animal Care has a partnership with *Tails That Teach*, which donates responsible pet ownership books and activity books for OC Animal Care staff to share with children at events. The books are available in English and Spanish.
- k. Alexandra noted the books were more popular than candy at the trunk-or-treat event at Orangewood Children and Family Center.
- l. Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if the materials are available in any other language.
- m. Director Schmidt answered that the books are currently only available in English and Spanish but noted Orange County has five threshold languages, so OC Animal Care hopes additional languages will be added.
- n. Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if OC Animal Care asked for additional languages, and Director Schmidt said the request was made.
 - o It was moved by Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane.
 - a. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

2. Foster Program Report

- a. Alexandra Su reported the foster program in the fourth quarter tends to slow down with kittens exiting the program, and fewer underage kittens coming in because fewer cats give birth in the lower temperatures. Alexandra reported 536 animals were placed in the OC Animal Care Foster Programs in the fourth quarter, supported by 632 homes. She explained the number of homes is higher than the number of animals because sometimes one foster animal supported by more than one foster family.
- b. Alexandra said the Foster-to-Adopt Program continues to be a valuable option for potential adopters, with 86 dogs supported by 99 homes in the fourth quarter. She shared staff was able to successfully find adoption homes for 53 dogs. She said the 14-day trial period provides enough time for family to get to know the animal and make a responsible decision whether the dog is the right fit. Even if the family returns the dog, OC Animal Care uses a questionnaire to garner additional information about the dog for next potential adopter.
- c. Alexandra shared a Foster-to-Adopt Success story about Micah and Bronx, who came to OC Animal Care separately but bonded in a playgroup. A foster took Micah home, where the dog struggled. The foster asked OC Animal Care if Micah had a buddy, and took Bronx home, too. The foster adopted both dogs.
- d. Alexandra said the Large Dog Foster Program is more traditional foster arrangement. In the fourth quarter 11 dogs participated. One transferred into Foster-to-Adopt.

Committee Member Comments

- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan clarified that the dog, Nala, started in traditional fostering, but another community member took her as a Foster-to-Adopt. Alexandra confirmed that, and that the new foster was getting automated emails and other support.
- It was moved by Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane.
 - a. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

3. Volunteer Program Report

- a. Alexandra Su reported that 275 program members volunteered at OC Animal Care this quarter, logging more than 8,000 onsite volunteer hours exercising animals, training dogs and performing other tasks. She expressed sincere thanks to the volunteers on behalf of OC Animal Care. Volunteers also helped at the Petco off site cat adoption location, where volunteers clean and care for OC Animal Care kittens. She broke down the volunteer time:
 - 6,605 hours of dog walking/enrichment
 - 609 hours of cat assistance, enrichment
 - Over 1,200 other hours volunteered with assorted shelter activities, such as sorting donations and pantry items, providing rabbit enrichment, and helping in the clinic.
- b. She said OC Animal Care leadership continues to connect with volunteers. This quarter, volunteers were invited to coffee with Shelter Services Manager Sam Blankenship. OC Animal Care also hosted volunteer roundtable as well and noted Director Schmidt and Operations Manager Jamie Link attended that event, along with Sam.

- c. Alexandra reported the Volunteer of Month was Tyler in October, Robin in November, and Justin in December.
- d. Director Schmidt asked Shelter Services Manager Sam Blankenship to explain new programs and procedures for rabbit enrichment. Sam shared a new system was implemented to better document enrichment time with our rabbits. Additionally, rabbit specific volunteers and staff work together to provide enrichment through a variety of expanded options.

Committee Member Comments

- Committee Member Dr. Leslie Mayo asked if OC Animal Care reached out to high schools to recruit volunteers. He offered to connect OC Animal Care with AHT schools.
- Director Schmidt noted OC Animal Care's minimum age is 18 for volunteers who work with animals. She said some high school seniors volunteer, and high-school clubs have supported the Pet Pantry. Students, primarily in college, also intern with OC Animal Care in clinic, fostering, and communications.
- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked whether volunteer hours dropped in the fourth quarter because of holidays.
- Director Schmidt said volunteer attendance can be a little more sporadic, but that volunteers coordinate with each other on a private Facebook group to cover each other's shifts. She said the biggest volunteer drop is with those who volunteer with cats and kittens, because of limited demand. Those numbers pick up next quarter.
- It was moved by Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane.
 - a. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

4. Adoption Program Report

- a. Alexandra Su reported Greater Good Charities reached out to OC Animal Care because partners in the Pacific Northwest expressed there was demand for animals. Greater Good Charities transported 48 kittens and five dogs to adoption facilities in the Pacific Northwest. Alexandra credited staff and volunteers for preparing the crates and animals for transport.
- b. Alexandra also said more than 700 animals were placed with non-profit rescue groups and other partners this quarter. OC Animal Care sent out over 250 communications to partners and rescue groups specific to special needs animals.
- c. Alexandra said OC Animal Care is continuing its Medical Pets Program, but all animals needing advanced medical care in the fourth quarter were helped by OC Animal Care rescue partners.
- d. Alexandra shared a success story with a new rescue partner. OC Animal Care finds new adoption partners by word of mouth or through our postings and social media. One dog, Snoopy, was surrendered to OC Animal Care, but was struggling to adapt to the shelter environment. OC Animal Care notified our rescue partners, and a new group came forward. After vetting that group, Snoopy was placed and ultimately found his forever home. Alexandra said the new rescue group continues to step up and pull animals from our shelter.

Committee Members Comments

- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked whether OC Animal Care tracks the disposition of animals once they are transferred out to partners.
- Alexandra said OC Animal Care is not usually notified of placements after an animal transfers out.
- It was moved by Committee Member Dr. Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane.
 - Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

V. Director's Comments

- Director Schmidt introduced Jonathan Volzke, OC Animal Care's new PIO and Community Liaison, and Communications Manager, Denise Woodside. She also noted OC Animal Care revamped a recruitment to accept Animal Control Officer lateral hires from other agencies. That allowed OC Animal Care to recruit three experienced ACO officers who would be on the streets much faster than a traditional training class.
- She also announced that the shelter team was fully staffed.
- Director Schmidt said OC Animal Care was working with Shelter Playground Alliance (SPA), to provide a playgroup, dog behavior, and de-escalation training for staff. The training will help decompress dogs before meet-and-greets with potential adopters, allowing them to show their true selves.
- Director Schmidt gave kudos to Alexandra and Public Education Officer Michael Hoopes for their work developing the Dog's Day Out Pilot Program, scheduled to launch in March. She noted the tremendous amount of work necessary to launch a program.
- Director Schmidt said that GoodPup, which previously provided virtual training for new dog adopters, was absorbed by a company that would no longer offer the program used by shelters. Irvine Animal Center also used GoodPup; now Irvine and OC Animal Care are moving to a virtual program through Wags and Wiggles.
- Director Schmidt said she was at a Cal Animals forum and heard the results of a study that found shelters with veterinarians on staff have a lower length-of-stay for animals. The study showed the average length of stay is under 22 days if a veterinarian is on staff and an average of 49 days without one. She said the study shows that all components of OC Animal Care help reduce length-of-stay, including our veterinarian staff and the work of Sam Blankenship and Nicole Williams in the kennels.

Committee Members Comments

- Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo said the ACO lateral transfers were an advantage. He asked if OC Animal Care received personnel information about transfer applicants.
- Director Schmidt said OC Animal Care was limited to asking experience-related questions and field-related situational questions.
- Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo asked Director Schmidt if she had a feeling why transfers might leave one agency and join OC Animal Care.
- Director Schmidt said it was not unlike other careers, when transfers might be from this area, or that salaries are better here.
- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan said she was pleased the kennel positions were filled. She asked if applications were continually accepted.
- Director Schmidt explained that a job is open for applications for a specific period, applicants are screened, and a list is created after interviews. That list is good for a year, which can be used for a new hire.
- Committee Member Kim Kane asked whether someone interested in working at OC Animal Care can get notified of openings.

- Director Schmidt said the website Government Jobs, which is not a County site, can notify job seekers of openings.
- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked about the effectiveness of the new organic groundcover in the play areas.
- Director Schmidt said they were affected by the severe rain but did better than surrounding areas. She said all of the agility equipment was installed and invited committee members to see the areas. She noted all play areas now had new equipment for the first time since 2018. Three blends of groundcover were used, and a survey was underway to see which staff and volunteers thought worked best.
- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if the agency OC Animal Care worked with on the groundcover was still supportive.
- Director Schmidt said they were still very supportive. OC Animal Care toured other facilities that used organic groundcover. OC Waste and Recycling, which created the groundcover from local green waste, was a great partner and the savings allowed OC Animal Care to use the resources elsewhere.

VI. Public Comments

1. Public Speaker #1 Michael M

Public Speaker Michael M said he looks forward to hearing about the implementation of the new programs, which he said was very exciting. He suggested contacting community colleges to recruit new volunteers. He also said tracking transfers between shelters and partners does not occur nationwide. He said OC Animal Care appears to transitioned to managed intake, which he said he did not see as inherently good or bad, but he requested more public discussion about it.

2. Public Speaker #2 Margo B

Public Speaker Margo B said she recently volunteered to foster four bottle-fed kittens, which was hard work but very rewarding. She said she thought OC Animal Care provided all of the supplies she would need but said that was not the case in her experience. She suggested OC Animal Care ensure that fosters are aware of what they would need to supply.

- Alexandra Su said the Foster Team and Communications Team created a video on what is supplied. Fosters are given what OC Animal Care has on-hand. She said OC Animal Care can have thousands of kittens that need fostering, so it is not financially feasible to provide all of the canned food they might need but can provide additional help if a foster requests it.
- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if OC Animal Care provides formula, litter and other supplies.
- Alexandra said neo-natal food is provided. OC Animal Care supplies a bag of non-clumping litter and fosters can use shredded newspaper and similar materials for litter. She also clarified that OC Animal Care supplies bottles and special nipples for the neo-natal kittens.
- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan said she recognized caring for neo-natal kittens is emotional and difficult, and thanked Margo B for fostering.

VII. Advisory Committee Comments

1. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo thanked public speaker Michael M for suggesting OC Animal Care contact community colleges for interns.
2. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo suggested OC Animal Care send letters soliciting sponsorships to corporations that might be looking for good publicity.

3. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Mayo shared a quote that “you make a living from what you do but make a life from what you give,” and credited OC Animal Care volunteers for what they give, and staff who helps attract volunteers.
4. Committee Member Kim Kane said she was pleased with OC Animal Care’s efforts.
5. Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan thanked public speaker Michael M for statistics he shared regarding adoption rates.
6. Vice Chair Cowan welcomed new staff and said she was happy all kennel attendants were filled, and OC Animal Care was accepting lateral transfers for Animal Control Officers.

XI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



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.



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.





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





- 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



OC Animal Care



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

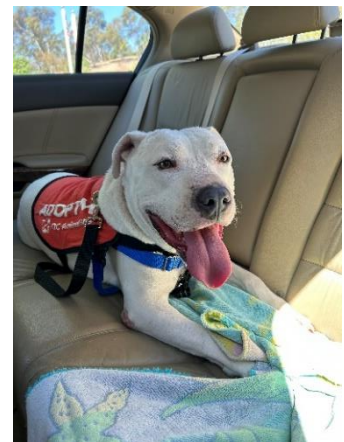
Beginning March 26, 2026, members of the public are invited to take a shelter dog on a field trip through Dog's Day Out, a new pilot project at OC Animal Care.

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.



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.



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.





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.