



OC Animal Care



PRESS RELEASE

OC Animal Care Expands Disaster Response Tools with New Trailers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jessica Novillo
Public Information Officer
(714) 796-6428

Jessica.Novillo@occr.ocgov.com

TUSTIN, Calif. (October 16, 2020) – OC Animal Care has expanded their stock of resources available for the community with the arrival of two fully stocked Pet Disaster Relief Units donated through the AKC Pet Disaster Relief Program.

“These trailers are designed to be mobile units during a disaster. They will allow families to remain close to their pets while they seek shelter themselves,” said Chairwoman Michelle Steel, Second District Supervisor.

Both 16.5’ enclosed trailers with a total market value of \$44,000 were funded by AKC Reunite, Animal Health Foundation, The Noble Friends Foundation, and Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County. Each unit is outfitted with enough supplies to house at least 65 pets for approximately 72 hours in times of need.

“These trailers will provide an immediate safe haven for pets while their family and community are focused on dealing with a crisis,” said Vice Chairman Andrew Do, First District Supervisor

Items housed in each trailer include a generator, bowls, collars, leashes, lighting, fans, cleaning supplies, pet crates, carriers, AKC Reunite microchips, microchip scanners, and more. These units are the 87th and 88th trailers donated through the AKC Pet Disaster Relief Program and can be used to set up emergency co-location shelters for pets displaced due to natural or man-made disasters such as fires.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved the donation of the Pet Disaster Relief Units in 2019 after California saw its most destructive wildfires in history in 2018 and 2017.

“These mobile units will help OC Animal Care provide boarding and care to pets whose owners are impacted by disasters in accordance with the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act,” added Supervisor Donald Wagner, Third District.

The PETS Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 2006, requires local emergency management agencies to address the needs of people with household pets or service animals in the event of a major disaster or emergency.

“Safe and immediate pet sheltering is crucial in the first few hours of an emergency,” said Supervisor Doug Chaffee, Fourth District. “We’ve already seen a number of fires this year in California and we want to be ready for the community we serve.”

OC Animal Care also reminds pet owners that the best way to keep pets safe in a disaster is to plan ahead.

“Being prepared can be the difference that will keep your family together during the most difficult times,” said Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District.

This partnership also highlights the positive impacts of working together to support the community.

“Supporting animals in our community is critical to our mission in the Orange and Los Angeles Counties,” noted Dr. Laura Weatherford, President of Animal Health Foundation. “We thank OC Animal Care for giving us the opportunity to help them in this way.”

“Our organization is thrilled to be able to contribute to the purchase of such incredible resources like the AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailers,” added Susan Hamil of the Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association. “The trailers will provide the OC Animal Care team with the tools necessary to assist their community in the case of a natural disaster.”

For more information on pet disaster preparedness please visit the OC Animal Care website at ocpetinfo.com.

###

OC Animal Care is the largest municipal animal shelter in Orange County. It services 14 cities and takes in over 18,000 animals each year. For more information about OC Animal Care please visit www.ocpetinfo.com

The Animal Health Foundation is a local Orange County non-profit dedicated to helping animals and their owners in Southern California. This donation comes as a part of their disaster relief program.

The Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County promotes responsible dog ownership and participation in a variety of dog sports and activities.

The Noble Friends Foundation for OC Animal Care was created to support the OC Animal Care vision of a safe and compassionate community for all.