



Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services

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October 2, 2025

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
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FROM: Johncito Peraza, Chair
Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL
CARE AND CONTROL**

We are writing to present recommendations for improving the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC), based on discussions from the June 11, 2024, meeting of the Commission on Local Governmental Services and the data provided by DACC. Addressing the ongoing challenges faced by the Department is crucial to ensuring the well-being of both animals and residents in the County.

Key Challenges Identified:

- 1. Overcrowding and Increased Pet Surrenders:** Dog and cat admissions have increased by 10%, leading to a shortage of space in shelters, particularly during peak seasons.
- 2. Veterinary Shortages and Rising Costs:** The nationwide veterinary shortage and increasing medical supply costs have strained the Department's ability to provide adequate medical care.
- 3. Budget and Staffing Constraints:** There is a critical need for additional funding to support staffing, veterinary services, and facility expansions.
- 4. Gaps in Community Outreach and Pet Retention Services:** Many pet owners struggle with the costs of pet care, leading to increased surrenders and decreased adoptions.

Recommended Actions:

1. **Expand Shelter Facilities and Resources**
 - Expedite funding approval for the **Palmdale Animal Care Center expansion** to accommodate the growing number of stray and surrendered pets.
 - Explore additional locations, such as the proposed **Victoria Park facility in Carson**, to increase capacity and services in underserved areas.
2. **Increase Veterinary Staffing and Support**
 - Advocate for policies that allow **Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs) to perform additional medical tasks** under supervision, alleviating the workload on veterinarians.
 - Establish **incentive programs and scholarships** for veterinary students willing to work in county shelters to address the staffing shortage.
 - Collaboration with veterinary schools and County animal shelters and encourage an MOU to provide students with life experiences while addressing staff shortages.
3. **Enhance Community Engagement and Pet Retention Programs**
 - Expand the **Pets Are Family (PAF) Program** and increase funding for pet care vouchers, allowing more families to keep their pets rather than surrendering them.
 - Partner with cities to **subsidize pet-friendly housing initiatives**, reducing pet surrenders due to housing restrictions.
4. **Streamline Services through Technology and Data Transparency**
 - Improve **public awareness of online services**, including the Rabies Vaccination Certificate (RVC) Tool and online voucher applications.
 - Expand the use of **Power BI and open-data tools** to track trends and optimize resource allocation in real-time.
5. **Strengthen Collaboration with Local Governments**
 - Work closely with contract cities like **Bell, Cudahy, and Maywood** to develop cost-effective animal control strategies that balance services with budget constraints.
 - Seek grants and partnerships with **nonprofit organizations** to fund mobile veterinary services and community outreach programs.

Conclusion:

By implementing these recommendations, Los Angeles County will improve the effectiveness of its animal control services, enhance community well-being, and create a more sustainable model for animal care. We urge the Board to prioritize these initiatives and work with the Commission on Local Governmental Services and DACC to develop a comprehensive action plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your leadership in addressing these critical issues.

JP:vsz
C: Chief Deputies