

**LAKE COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL
ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

Fiscal Year 2025–2026

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To the Honorable Members of the Lake County Board of Supervisors:

Pursuant to the Lake County Animal Control Advisory Board By-Laws, the Animal Control Advisory Board respectfully submits this Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors. The Advisory Board is charged with reviewing and evaluating the community's animal control needs, services, facilities, fees, adoption procedures, grant expenditures, hours of operation, public education and outreach efforts, and special problems affecting Lake County Animal Care and Control (LCACC). The Board further serves as a liaison between the community, the Board of Supervisors, and Animal Care and Control administration.

During the monthly meeting over the past year, the Advisory Board reviewed departmental operations, adoption programs, grant-funded initiatives, public outreach efforts, facility needs, emergency preparedness capabilities, and animal welfare concerns. This report summarizes the Board's findings and recommendations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Lake County Animal Control Advisory Board

At Large/ Chair: Charmaine Weldon

Dist. 1: Janet Zumwalt

Dist 2/ Secretary: Ryan Peterson

Dist. 3: Lynne Kary-Rana

Dist. 4: Janice Hornby

Dist. 5: Vacant

At Large: Bruce Robinson

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lake County Animal Control Advisory Board conducted a comprehensive review of Lake County Animal Care and Control services during Fiscal Year 2025–2026. The Board evaluated shelter operations, adoption procedures, public education efforts, facility conditions, fee structures, grant-funded programs, emergency preparedness, and animal welfare standards.

The Board found that Animal Care and Control staff continue to provide essential public safety and animal welfare services despite significant operational challenges. The department maintains shelter operations, investigates complaints, responds to animal-related emergencies, conducts welfare checks, provides adoption services, supports vaccination and spay/neuter initiatives, and participates in disaster response activities throughout Lake County.

The Board identified several areas requiring continued attention, including modernization of adoption and public outreach systems, development of a structured foster and volunteer program, long-term facility improvements, enhanced public education efforts, and expansion of grant-funded animal welfare programs. The Board also identified emergency animal evacuation planning and disaster preparedness as significant concerns requiring future action.

Major recommendations include:

- Development of a modern public-facing Animal Control website.
- Expansion of adoption marketing and social media outreach.
- Creation of a foster and volunteer program.
- Continued support of spay/neuter initiatives.
- Investment in facility improvements and operational infrastructure.
- Expansion of public education and outreach programs.
- Review of animal welfare standards and enforcement tools.
- Development of sustainable animal disaster preparedness and evacuation capabilities.

I. PURPOSE OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

The Lake County Animal Control Advisory Board was established by the Board of Supervisors to provide citizen input and recommendations regarding matters affecting Lake County Animal Care and Control. The Board consists of seven members representing the supervisorial districts and at-large community interests. The Board serves in an advisory capacity and is responsible for reviewing animal control services, facilities, fees, adoption procedures, grant expenditures, public education efforts, and other issues affecting animal welfare within Lake County.

The Board's purpose extends beyond reviewing shelter operations. Members are expected to serve as a bridge between the community, the Board of Supervisors, and Animal Care and Control administration by evaluating existing programs, identifying emerging issues, and recommending improvements that support public safety and animal welfare. The annual report serves as one of the primary mechanisms through which the Board fulfills its responsibilities under the by-laws.

II. OVERVIEW OF LAKE COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

Lake County Animal Care and Control serves as the County's primary agency responsible for animal welfare services, animal control enforcement, sheltering operations, and public safety functions related to animals. The department operates the County's public animal shelter located at 4949 Helbush Drive in Lakeport and provides services throughout Lake County.

The department's mission encompasses protection of public safety, humane treatment of animals, reduction of animal overpopulation, and promotion of responsible pet ownership. Animal Control Officers respond to reports of stray animals, investigate dangerous animal complaints, conduct welfare checks, investigate animal bites, and enforce local and state animal control laws. Officers also respond to calls involving injured animals and assist with removal of deceased animals when necessary.

The shelter provides temporary housing and care for stray animals, owner-surrendered pets, animals confiscated during cruelty investigations, and animals involved in public safety incidents. While housed at the shelter, animals receive daily care, behavioral observation, intake processing, and medical monitoring. Shelter staff work to reunite animals with owners whenever possible and facilitate adoptions when animals become available for placement.

Additional services provided by the department include lost-and-found pet assistance, vaccination clinics, licensing support, microchipping programs, public education initiatives, spay/neuter support programs, and emergency animal response activities during disasters such as wildfires and evacuations.

III. ADOPTION PROGRAMS AND ANIMAL PLACEMENT

Current Adoption Procedures

The Advisory Board reviewed current adoption procedures and identified both strengths and challenges within the existing system. Adoption services remain a critical component of shelter operations, providing opportunities for dogs and cats to transition from the shelter environment into permanent homes.

Board members noted that adoption fees were recently reduced from previous levels in an effort to encourage adoptions. Current dog adoption fees were reduced from \$175 to \$140, while cat adoption fees were reduced to \$60. While the intention of the reduction was to increase adoption activity, Board members were informed that adoption rates have not yet demonstrated a significant increase. As a result, the Board recommends continued evaluation of adoption fee structures to determine whether current pricing effectively balances adoption incentives with operational cost recovery.

Operational Challenges Affecting Adoptions

A significant challenge identified by the Board involves delays associated with spay and neuter services. Because the shelter currently lacks an in-house veterinarian, animals often require transportation to private veterinary providers before adoption can be finalized. In some cases, adopted animals may remain in shelter kennels for extended periods while awaiting appointments. This situation impacts kennel availability and limits the shelter's capacity to accept additional animals.

The Board believes that reducing adoption delays should remain a priority and recommends continued exploration of partnerships, grant opportunities, and staffing solutions that may increase access to veterinary services.

Foster and Volunteer Program Development

One of the most significant opportunities identified by the Advisory Board is the development of a formal foster and volunteer program. Board members learned that the absence of a structured foster network limits the shelter's ability to move animals into temporary homes while awaiting adoption or veterinary services. This challenge is particularly evident when adopted animals must remain in shelter kennels for extended periods while awaiting spay or neuter appointments.

The Board found that a foster program could provide multiple benefits, including reducing kennel overcrowding, improving animal welfare, increasing adoption readiness, and expanding community involvement. Foster homes often provide valuable behavioral information about animals, making it easier to match pets with appropriate adopters and improve adoption success rates.

The Board also reviewed information indicating that volunteer participation has been inconsistent. While community members have periodically volunteered at the shelter, sustaining long-term participation has proven difficult. Shelter staff expressed concerns that volunteer efforts often lack coordination and continuity.

To address these challenges, the Board recommends evaluation of a dedicated position responsible for volunteer recruitment, foster program management, social media coordination, and community engagement. Such a position could serve as a central point of contact for volunteers, rescue partners, community organizations, and emergency response agencies. The Board believes this investment could significantly increase community participation while reducing operational burdens on existing staff.

Best Friends Network Participation

The Board reviewed information regarding preliminary efforts to participate in the Best Friends Animal Society network, a nationally recognized program designed to support shelters through adoption promotion, volunteer engagement, rescue partnerships, and lifesaving initiatives.

The Board understands that initial application efforts were started but not completed. Participation in such programs could provide access to valuable resources, training opportunities, networking support, and best practices utilized by high-performing shelters throughout the country.

The Board recommends continued evaluation of opportunities that support shelter modernization and improved adoption outcomes.

Special Adoption Events

The Board recognizes the success of special adoption events conducted through partnerships with organizations such as the SPCA and ASPCA. These events provide opportunities for fee-waived adoptions and have demonstrated measurable success in reducing shelter populations while increasing positive community engagement.

According to information reviewed by the Board, a recent adoption event resulted in the adoption of twenty-seven dogs and all available cats, with no animals subsequently returned to the shelter. Such outcomes suggest that carefully planned adoption promotions can serve as effective tools for reducing kennel occupancy while increasing community awareness of shelter services.

Board members further noted that special adoption events can improve staff morale by creating positive outcomes for animals that may have spent extended periods in the shelter. The Board supports continued exploration of funding mechanisms that would allow additional adoption events to occur throughout the year.

Website and Public Visibility of Adoptable Animals

The Board conducted a review of the County's current online adoption resources and identified significant opportunities for improvement. Members found that the existing County Animal Control webpage provides only limited information regarding adoptable animals and lacks many of the features commonly utilized by successful shelter and rescue organizations.

Board members observed that high-performing shelters generally utilize modern websites that provide:

- Detailed animal profiles.
- High-quality photographs.
- Behavioral and medical information.
- Adoption status updates.
- Mobile-friendly navigation.
- Integrated social media promotion.

The Board noted that information already maintained internally, such as vaccination status, spay/neuter status, and behavioral notes, could be made more readily available online to assist prospective adopters in making informed decisions.

The Board further recommends improving visibility of Shelter Love and other adoption-management platforms by creating more direct access through the County website. Increased visibility could substantially increase adoption inquiries while reducing barriers for residents interested in viewing available animals.

Lost and Found Animal Outreach

The Board reviewed current lost-and-found animal notification practices and found that community members frequently rely on social media platforms rather than traditional shelter bulletin boards when attempting to locate lost pets.

The Board believes Animal Care and Control can improve reunification rates through increased use of social media, improved website functionality, and stronger partnerships with local community groups that specialize in locating lost pets.

Expanded digital outreach could improve return-to-owner rates while reducing shelter intake and associated costs.

Cat Adoption Challenges

The Board devoted considerable attention to cat adoption challenges due to the continued overpopulation of cats throughout Lake County.

Board members noted that kittens generally have high adoption potential while adult cats often experience significantly longer shelter stays. The Board also observed that the existing cat

adoption room frequently contains few adoptable animals and may not provide the welcoming environment found in many successful adoption centers.

Recommendations discussed by the Board include:

- Enhancing the appearance of the cat adoption area through artwork, murals, seating, and educational displays.
- Increasing partnerships with rescue organizations to make adoption-ready kittens available.
- Improving public awareness of available cats and kittens.
- Expanding online promotion of adoptable cats.
- Creating a more inviting visitor experience that encourages interaction between potential adopters and animals.

The Board believes these improvements could increase adoption rates while improving public perception of the shelter.

Adoption Program Findings

Based upon information reviewed during the reporting period, the Advisory Board concludes that adoption programs represent one of the greatest opportunities for improving animal outcomes within Lake County.

The Board finds that meaningful improvements can be achieved through:

- Expanded foster and volunteer participation.
- Improved website functionality.
- Enhanced social media engagement.
- Continued adoption promotion events.
- Increased rescue partnerships.
- Greater access to veterinary services.
- Modernized adoption facilities.

Collectively, these improvements have the potential to reduce shelter populations, increase adoption rates, improve animal welfare outcomes, and strengthen public support for Animal Care and Control programs.

IV. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Public Education

The Advisory Board recognizes public education as one of the most important long-term strategies for improving animal welfare and reducing shelter intake throughout Lake County. Responsible pet ownership, vaccination compliance, licensing participation, and spay/neuter utilization are all influenced by the public's understanding of animal care responsibilities and available community resources.

The Board believes that an expanded public education program can help reduce the number of stray, neglected, abandoned, and surrendered animals entering the shelter system. Educational efforts also contribute to improved public safety by increasing awareness of leash laws, vaccination requirements, bite prevention strategies, and responsible animal ownership practices.

The Board recommends development of a year-round educational program utilizing multiple communication channels including printed materials, community presentations, local media, social media platforms, schools, libraries, community centers, and public events. Topics should include:

- Responsible pet ownership.
- Vaccination requirements.
- Spay and neuter benefits.
- Licensing compliance.
- Humane animal care.
- Animal welfare laws.
- Disaster preparedness for pet owners.
- Available community resources.

Youth Engagement and Education

The Board strongly supports development of age-appropriate educational opportunities for youth. Early exposure to animal welfare concepts can foster empathy, responsibility, and lifelong commitment to humane treatment of animals.

Potential programs include classroom presentations, reading programs featuring shelter animals, educational partnerships with local schools, and supervised volunteer opportunities for students.

The Board believes these programs would provide long-term benefits by cultivating future generations of responsible pet owners and community advocates.

Community Outreach

The Advisory Board believes that effective community outreach is essential to maintaining public trust, increasing awareness of available services, and encouraging participation in animal welfare initiatives throughout Lake County. While Animal Care and Control is often viewed primarily as an enforcement agency, the Board believes the department also serves an important role as a community resource and educational partner.

The Board recommends development of a comprehensive outreach strategy that emphasizes positive engagement between Animal Care and Control and the residents it serves. Outreach activities provide opportunities to educate the public, encourage compliance with animal welfare laws, increase adoption visibility, and strengthen relationships with community organizations.

Potential outreach activities include:

- Adoption events.
- Vaccination and microchipping clinics.
- Pet licensing assistance days.
- Participation in community fairs and public events.
- Presentations to civic organizations.
- Educational workshops.
- Collaborative events with local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The Board also encourages partnerships with schools, libraries, service clubs, rescue organizations, and veterinary providers to expand the reach of educational programming throughout the County.

Digital Outreach and Communication

The Board recognizes that public communication methods have changed significantly over the past decade. Residents increasingly rely upon websites, social media platforms, and digital communication channels when seeking information about government services, lost pets, adoption opportunities, and community events.

Board members noted that improvements to digital outreach would support many of the recommendations identified elsewhere in this report, including adoption promotion, lost-pet reunification, volunteer recruitment, emergency preparedness messaging, and public education initiatives.

The Board recommends continued investment in digital communication tools that provide timely, accurate, and accessible information to the public.

Community Partnerships

Throughout its review, the Board observed numerous examples of successful partnerships involving Animal Care and Control, rescue organizations, veterinary providers, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and community members. These partnerships have become increasingly important as the demand for animal welfare services continues to grow.

Examples include:

- SPCA of Lake County.
- Clearlake Animal Association.
- Dogwood Animal Rescue Project.
- Pet Fix – Lake County.
- Community cat programs.
- Local veterinary providers.
- Volunteer rescue organizations.

The Board believes future success will depend upon continued collaboration among these partners and encourages expansion of cooperative efforts whenever possible.

V. FACILITY ASSESSMENT AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS

Overview

One of the primary responsibilities assigned to the Animal Control Advisory Board under its bylaws is evaluation of Animal Care and Control facilities and operational needs. During the reporting period, the Board reviewed current facility conditions, operational challenges, grant opportunities, adoption-related infrastructure needs, and future capital improvement priorities.

The Board recognizes that the current shelter facility serves as an essential component of Lake County's public safety and animal welfare infrastructure. The facility provides housing for animals, supports adoption operations, serves as an intake and investigation center, and functions as the primary location for many public-facing Animal Care and Control services.

Animal Housing and Kennel Areas

The Board reviewed opportunities to improve animal housing conditions through modernization of kennel facilities and supporting infrastructure. Recommendations include continued evaluation of:

- Improved kennel ventilation.
- Enhanced drainage systems.
- Noise reduction measures.
- Increased exercise opportunities.
- Improved animal enrichment.
- Enhanced disease prevention practices.

The Board believes these improvements would support both animal welfare and operational efficiency while improving the experience of visitors considering adoption.

Medical and Isolation Facilities

The Board identified medical treatment capacity as an area requiring continued attention. The lack of an in-house veterinarian creates operational challenges that affect adoption timelines, medical treatment options, and shelter capacity.

The Board supports exploration of opportunities that may increase veterinary access, including:

- Expanded veterinary partnerships.
- Grant-funded veterinary programs.
- Mobile veterinary services.
- Future in-house veterinary capacity.

The Board further recommends evaluation of expanded isolation and treatment areas designed to reduce disease transmission and improve care for animals requiring medical attention.

Intake and Public Access Areas

Several Board members identified opportunities to improve intake and visitor areas within the shelter.

During discussions regarding future grant funding, suggestions included development of a dedicated intake area that would reduce the need for animals experiencing illness, injury, or hardship to enter through the primary public lobby. Such improvements could improve operational efficiency while reducing stress on animals and visitors alike.

The Board believes future facility planning should consider:

- Separate intake areas.
- Improved public reception space.
- Dedicated adoption meeting areas.
- Enhanced visitor accommodations.
- Expanded training and meeting space.

Adoption Facilities

The Board reviewed the physical environment used for adoption activities and identified opportunities to create a more welcoming and adoption-focused atmosphere.

Recommendations include:

- Improvements to the cat adoption room.
- Enhanced displays of adoptable animals.
- Improved visitor seating areas.
- Educational displays regarding responsible pet ownership.
- Better integration of adoption marketing within shelter facilities.

The Board believes a more welcoming adoption environment could contribute to increased adoption rates and improved visitor experiences.

Volunteer and Community Space

As volunteer and foster programs expand, the Board believes dedicated space for volunteer coordination, training, and community engagement will become increasingly important.

Several recommendations reviewed by the Board identified the need for meeting space that could support volunteer orientation, community education programs, foster recruitment, and collaborative planning with partner organizations.

The Board encourages consideration of these needs during future facility planning efforts.

Sustainability and Long-Term Infrastructure Planning

The Board supports exploration of capital improvement opportunities that increase operational sustainability while reducing long-term costs.

Potential improvements include:

- Solar energy systems.
- Energy-efficient lighting.
- Water conservation measures.
- Modernized HVAC systems.
- Environmentally sustainable facility upgrades.

Such investments may reduce operational expenses while demonstrating the County's commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources.

Livestock Facilities

The Board reviewed information regarding potential improvements to livestock housing areas and related infrastructure.

Board members were informed that recent private donations may provide opportunities to improve portions of the livestock area and address other facility-related priorities. The Board encourages careful evaluation of how available resources can best support long-term operational needs and animal welfare improvements.

Facility Findings

Based upon information reviewed during the reporting period, the Board concludes that continued investment in facility improvements remains necessary to support the long-term success of Animal Care and Control operations.

Priority areas include:

- Animal housing improvements.
- Medical and isolation facilities.
- Adoption areas.
- Intake and public access areas.
- Volunteer and training space.
- Sustainability improvements.
- Livestock facility upgrades.

The Board further concludes that facility improvements should be pursued through a combination of County resources, grant funding opportunities, private donations, and partnerships whenever possible.

VI. REVIEW OF FEES, ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS, AND ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES

Fee Schedule Review

The Animal Control Advisory Board is specifically charged by its bylaws with reviewing Animal Control fees and making recommendations regarding their effectiveness and fairness.

The Board reviewed current adoption fees, licensing fees, and other Animal Care and Control charges during the reporting period.

The Board recognizes the need to balance fiscal responsibility with accessibility to services. Fees that are too high may discourage compliance, while fees that are too low may reduce the department's ability to recover operational costs and sustain services.

The Board recommends periodic review of:

- Adoption fees.
- Animal licensing fees.
- Impound fees.
- Vaccination and clinic fees.
- Special service fees.

The Board further recommends consideration of incentive-based approaches that encourage responsible pet ownership, including reduced fees for spayed and neutered animals and potential discounts for qualifying populations such as seniors, veterans, and low-income households.

Animal Welfare Standards

The Advisory Board reviewed existing animal welfare standards and considered whether current standards provide sufficient guidance for Animal Control Officers when responding to cases involving neglect, inadequate care, and long-term confinement of animals.

Board members noted that existing standards generally address minimum requirements such as food, water, and shelter. While these requirements are essential, concerns were raised regarding situations where animals may technically meet minimum standards while still experiencing poor overall welfare due to prolonged confinement, inadequate protection from weather conditions, lack of exercise, or limited opportunities for normal behavioral activity.

The Board discussed the evolving understanding of animal welfare and recognizes that many jurisdictions now consider factors beyond basic survival needs when evaluating humane treatment. Contemporary animal welfare practices increasingly address physical health, behavioral health, environmental enrichment, and protection from chronic stress.

The Board does not recommend immediate regulatory changes without further study but believes future discussions regarding standards of care should consider:

- Adequate shelter from weather extremes.
- Appropriate housing size and sanitation.
- Access to exercise and movement.
- Protection from prolonged confinement.
- Behavioral and psychological well-being.
- Species-specific care requirements.

Animal Cruelty Investigations

The Board reviewed concerns regarding animal cruelty investigations and subsequent enforcement outcomes. Board members expressed concern that some cases involving repeated violations may not always result in meaningful corrective action or prosecution.

The Board recognizes that decisions regarding prosecution fall outside the authority of Animal Care and Control and involve multiple agencies, including law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts. Nevertheless, Board members believe continued collaboration among these entities is important to ensure that documented cases of animal cruelty receive appropriate review.

The Board recommends ongoing communication between Animal Care and Control, the District Attorney's Office, and other public safety agencies to identify opportunities for improving case preparation, evidence collection, and enforcement consistency.

Standards of Care for Dogs

The Board devoted considerable discussion to standards of care affecting dogs housed in outdoor environments.

Board members expressed concern regarding situations where dogs may spend extended periods of time in small kennels or enclosures that provide only minimal shelter. While such conditions may satisfy minimum legal requirements in some circumstances, concerns were raised regarding long-term welfare impacts associated with limited exercise, socialization, environmental enrichment, and weather protection.

The Board believes future policy discussions should consider whether additional guidance would assist Animal Control Officers when evaluating animal welfare complaints and determining whether intervention is warranted.

The Board further recognizes that standards must balance animal welfare considerations with practical realities faced by pet owners in rural communities.

Equine Welfare and Horse Care Standards

Lake County has a substantial equine population and horses remain an important part of the County's agricultural, recreational, and rural character. During the reporting period, Board members reviewed concerns regarding several cases involving horses that allegedly received inadequate care.

To better understand available guidance regarding equine welfare, the Board reviewed the University of California Davis publication entitled *A Guide: Minimum Standards of Horse Care in the State of California*, produced by the UC Davis Center for Equine Health.

Board members noted that the publication provides guidance regarding:

- Nutrition and water requirements.
- Shelter and environmental conditions.
- Veterinary care.
- Hoof care.
- Transportation considerations.
- General husbandry practices.

The Board believes the publication represents a valuable educational resource and recommends that Animal Care and Control continue to review available best-practice guidance when evaluating equine welfare concerns.

The Board further recommends exploring whether portions of recognized animal-care standards could serve as reference materials for officers, animal owners, and the public.

Animal Welfare Education

The Board recognizes that enforcement alone cannot address all animal welfare concerns. Public education remains an essential component of improving outcomes for animals throughout Lake County.

Educational efforts should continue to emphasize:

- Responsible ownership.
- Species-appropriate care.
- Vaccination and preventive health care.
- Proper shelter and housing.
- Nutrition and exercise requirements.
- Access to veterinary care.
- Emergency preparedness.

The Board believes educational initiatives may reduce the number of neglect cases while improving overall compliance with animal welfare standards.

Findings Regarding Animal Welfare and Enforcement

Based upon information reviewed during the reporting period, the Advisory Board finds:

1. Existing animal welfare standards provide an important baseline but may benefit from future review and discussion.

2. Continued interagency cooperation is important to achieving effective enforcement outcomes.
3. Public education remains one of the most effective long-term strategies for improving animal welfare.
4. Equine welfare presents unique challenges that warrant continued attention.
5. Additional guidance and educational resources may assist both animal owners and enforcement personnel.

The Board encourages continued evaluation of these issues through future Advisory Board discussions.

VII. GRANT FUNDING AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Overview

The Animal Control Advisory Board reviewed grant funding activities undertaken by Lake County Animal Care and Control during recent fiscal years. The Board recognizes that external funding sources have become increasingly important in supporting animal welfare initiatives, expanding services, and reducing pressure on local government resources.

Grant funding has enabled Animal Care and Control and its partners to pursue programs that may otherwise be difficult to implement through traditional County funding sources alone. These efforts have included spay and neuter programs, free vaccination programs veterinary access initiatives, community cat programs, shelter support activities, and other animal welfare services.

Animal Shelter Assistance Program Funding

The Board reviewed information contained within reports prepared by the University of California Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program regarding the California Animal Shelter Assistance Program.

According to materials reviewed by the Board, Lake County Animal Care and Control received funding through programs established to support California animal shelters and reduce euthanasia through expanded services and improved operational capacity. These funding opportunities were created to support shelter operations, veterinary services, staffing needs, and animal welfare programs.

The Board notes that the grant program was designed to assist shelters in several areas, including:

- Shelter intake and operational support.
- Veterinary services.
- Animal care improvements.

- Community-based animal control initiatives.
- Programs intended to improve live outcomes for shelter animals.

The Board recognizes that these grant opportunities have provided important resources for California shelters facing increasing demands and limited funding.

Welcome Grant and Sniptember Funding

The Board reviewed documentation indicating that Lake County Animal Care and Control received funding through the California for All Animals Welcome Grant program.

According to materials reviewed by the Board, Welcome Grant and Sniptember Grant funding was established, in part, to support shelters participating in statewide efforts to improve outcomes for animals and reduce euthanasia through expanded services and innovative programming.

The Board understands that grant funding has supported efforts related to:

- Shelter operations.
- Staffing support.
- Vaccinations.
- Spay and neuter services.
- Supplies and equipment.
- Community animal welfare initiatives.

The Board recognizes the importance of maintaining eligibility for future grant opportunities and encourages continued participation in state-supported animal welfare programs.

Role of Grants in Future Planning

The Board concludes that grant funding should remain a central component of long-term planning for Animal Care and Control.

Grant-funded programs have demonstrated the ability to:

- Expand services.
- Support innovation.
- Improve animal welfare outcomes.
- Increase access to veterinary care.
- Reduce shelter intake.
- Leverage community partnerships.

The Board encourages continued pursuit of grant opportunities while ensuring that funded programs remain sustainable and aligned with identified community needs.

Spay and Neuter Programs

Throughout its review of grant-funded activities, the Advisory Board repeatedly identified spay and neuter services as one of the most important tools available for reducing shelter intake, controlling animal overpopulation, and improving long-term animal welfare outcomes throughout Lake County.

Board members reviewed documentation indicating that a significant portion of recent grant funding has been directed toward increasing access to spay and neuter services for both owned animals and community cats. These programs have been supported through partnerships among Animal Care and Control, nonprofit organizations, veterinary providers, and state-supported grant initiatives.

The Board finds that these programs address one of the root causes of animal shelter overcrowding by preventing unwanted litters before they enter the shelter system. Board members further note that successful spay and neuter programs produce benefits extending beyond Animal Care and Control by reducing nuisance complaints, improving public health, decreasing animal suffering, and reducing future demands on shelter resources.

Pet Fix – Lake County

The Board reviewed information regarding Pet Fix, a collaborative effort involving the Clearlake Animal Association, SPCA of Lake County, Dogwood Animal Rescue Project, and community partners.

Pet Fix was established to provide affordable spay and neuter services to Lake County residents through periodic high-volume clinics. According to materials reviewed by the Board, the program was designed to address the longstanding shortage of affordable veterinary sterilization services available within the County.

Board members reviewed information indicating that clinics conducted during 2025 served hundreds of domestic dogs and cats while providing sterilization surgeries, vaccinations, and microchips at reduced cost to participants. The Board recognizes these clinics as a successful example of collaborative problem-solving among public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community volunteers.

The Board further notes that the reported cost of supporting individual clinics demonstrates both the value and financial challenges associated with providing large-scale veterinary services in a rural county. Continued grant support and community partnerships will likely be necessary to sustain and expand these efforts.

Community Cat Programs

The Board reviewed information regarding community cat sterilization efforts conducted during the reporting period.

Community cat populations continue to present significant challenges throughout Lake County. Uncontrolled breeding contributes to increased shelter intake, nuisance complaints, public health concerns, and strain on local animal welfare organizations.

Materials reviewed by the Board indicate that grant-supported community cat clinics resulted in the sterilization and vaccination of a substantial number of feral and free-roaming cats during 2025. These efforts were undertaken through partnerships involving Animal Care and Control and community organizations committed to reducing the feral cat overpopulation.

The Board believes community cat programs should remain a priority because they provide one of the most cost-effective methods of reducing future shelter intake, improving the safety and quality of our neighborhoods, and improving animal welfare outcomes.

The Board supports continued investment in:

- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) strategies.
- Community cat sterilization clinics.
- Public education regarding cat population management.
- Partnerships with rescue organizations.
- Grant-funded veterinary services.

Grant Application Procedures

The Board reviewed information regarding the process used by Animal Care and Control staff to identify, evaluate, and pursue grant opportunities.

According to information gathered during discussions with shelter personnel, grant opportunities are identified through a variety of sources, including:

- California for All Animals.
- California Animal Welfare Association.
- Grants.gov.
- State and federal funding announcements.
- Animal welfare foundations and nonprofit organizations.

The Board recognizes that identifying and applying for grants requires substantial staff time and administrative effort. Successful grant applications often require detailed budgets, operational data, performance metrics, program descriptions, and supporting documentation.

Board members noted that many grant opportunities are highly competitive and require coordination among multiple County departments to obtain necessary financial and operational information.

Challenges in Pursuing Grant Funding

The Board identified several challenges that may affect the ability of Animal Care and Control to maximize available funding opportunities.

Among the challenges identified were:

- Limited staff time available for grant research and preparation.
- Difficulty obtaining required financial information from multiple departments.
- Administrative reporting requirements.
- Sustainability concerns associated with temporary funding.
- Competition for available grant resources.

The Board recognizes that grant funding should not be viewed as a replacement for stable operational funding. Instead, grants are most effective when used to supplement core services, pilot innovative programs, support capital improvements, and expand community partnerships.

Potential Future Uses of Grant Funding

Board members reviewed several potential projects identified by Animal Care and Control personnel that may be suitable for future grant funding opportunities.

These potential projects include:

1. Expanded Spay and Neuter Services

Increasing access to affordable sterilization services remains one of the most frequently identified priorities throughout this report. Additional grant funding could support expanded clinics, transportation assistance, community cat programs, and veterinary partnerships.

2. Adoption Area Improvements

The Board reviewed suggestions involving improvements to adoption spaces, visitor areas, landscaping, and other enhancements intended to create a more welcoming environment for prospective adopters.

3. Medical and Isolation Facilities

Future funding opportunities may support construction or renovation of dedicated medical and isolation areas designed to improve disease prevention and treatment capacity.

4. Volunteer and Community Engagement Programs

Several Board members identified volunteer development, foster recruitment, and community engagement as areas where additional staffing and program support could

significantly improve outcomes. Grant funding may provide opportunities to establish or expand such programs.

5. Training and Meeting Facilities

The Board reviewed recommendations regarding development of conference and training space capable of supporting staff development, volunteer training, community education activities, and collaborative planning efforts.

Financial Stewardship and Accountability

The Board recognizes that grant funding carries significant responsibilities related to financial management, reporting, performance measurement, and accountability.

The Board encourages continued efforts to:

- Maintain compliance with grant requirements.
- Track program outcomes.
- Document measurable benefits.
- Coordinate with County financial staff.
- Ensure transparency in the use of public funds.

These practices improve the likelihood of securing future funding opportunities while maintaining public confidence in grant-supported programs.

Findings Regarding Grant Funding and Resource Development

Based upon information reviewed during the reporting period, the Advisory Board finds:

1. Grant funding has become an essential resource supporting animal welfare initiatives in Lake County.
2. Spay and neuter programs provide significant community-wide benefits and should remain a funding priority.
3. Pet Fix and community cat programs have demonstrated measurable value.
4. Continued pursuit of grant opportunities should remain a strategic objective.
5. Future grant funding may support facility improvements, adoption initiatives, volunteer development, veterinary services, and public education efforts.
6. Strong partnerships among public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community groups are critical to maximizing available resources.

The Board commends Animal Care and Control staff and community partners for their efforts to secure and effectively utilize external funding in support of animal welfare programs.

VIII. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, ANIMAL EVACUATION, AND DISASTER RESPONSE

Overview

Lake County faces recurring threats from wildfires, severe weather, and other emergencies that create significant risks for both residents and animals. The Advisory Board reviewed current emergency animal response capabilities and evaluated the County's preparedness to address the needs of companion animals and livestock during disasters.

The Board recognizes that animal evacuation and sheltering are critical public safety functions. Experience throughout California has demonstrated that many residents are reluctant to evacuate if they are unable to safely relocate their animals. Effective animal disaster planning therefore benefits both animal welfare and human safety.

History of Lake Evacuation and Animal Protection (LEAP)

The Board reviewed the history of Lake Evacuation and Animal Protection (LEAP), a volunteer-based organization that emerged to assist with animal evacuation and protection during emergencies.

LEAP developed as a cooperative effort involving community volunteers, Animal Care and Control personnel, first responders, and local residents committed to protecting animals during disasters. The organization played a significant role during wildfire responses and demonstrated the value of having a coordinated volunteer network capable of supporting animal evacuation efforts.

Board members reviewed information indicating that LEAP benefited from strong volunteer leadership and extensive community involvement during its most active years. These efforts helped establish procedures, communication systems, and working relationships among organizations involved in emergency response.

Transition and Current Status

The Board reviewed information indicating that LEAP's effectiveness was closely tied to a relatively small number of key volunteers and leaders. As those individuals relocated, retired, or reduced their participation, the organization gradually became inactive.

The Board found no evidence that a formal succession structure was developed to ensure long-term sustainability of the program. As a result, Lake County currently lacks a volunteer animal evacuation organization comparable to the one previously provided through LEAP.

Current Emergency Response Capacity

The Advisory Board reviewed the current capacity of Lake County Animal Care and Control to respond to animal-related emergencies during wildfires, floods, severe storms, and other

disasters. The Board recognizes that Animal Care and Control personnel remain one of the few governmental resources specifically tasked with addressing animal needs during emergencies.

Animal Control Officers frequently respond to situations involving displaced animals, livestock concerns, animal sheltering needs, and requests for assistance from emergency management personnel. However, unlike a dedicated disaster-response organization, Animal Care and Control must continue providing routine services even during emergencies. These responsibilities include responding to stray animal complaints, bite investigations, cruelty investigations, licensing activities, and shelter operations.

The Board recognizes that the existing staff performs these duties with professionalism and dedication. However, the Board also concludes that the current system relies heavily upon a limited number of personnel and resources that may become overwhelmed during a large-scale disaster.

Large Animal Response Capacity

The Board reviewed available resources supporting livestock evacuation and large-animal rescue activities.

Board members learned that regional resources exist that may assist Lake County when requested. Among those identified was Nor Cal Livestock Rescue, which has experience supporting livestock evacuation and animal rescue operations during emergencies throughout Northern California.

The Board believes these partnerships represent an important component of emergency preparedness planning. Continued communication and coordination with regional organizations may improve the County's ability to respond effectively during future disasters.

The Board further recommends that existing partnerships be reviewed periodically to ensure that contact information, operational expectations, and mutual aid arrangements remain current.

Small Animal Response Capacity

While some resources exist for livestock evacuation, the Board identified significant gaps in the County's ability to support large-scale evacuation and sheltering of companion animals.

Dogs, cats, and other household pets frequently require transportation assistance, temporary sheltering, reunification services, veterinary support, and volunteer staffing during disasters. The Board found that Animal Care and Control currently bear much of this responsibility despite having limited personnel and resources.

The Board believes this issue represents one of the most significant emergency preparedness concerns identified during the reporting period.

Without a trained volunteer network, dedicated sheltering resources, and clearly defined coordination systems, future disasters may place substantial strain on Animal Care and Control operations.

Governance and Sustainability Lessons from LEAP

During its review of LEAP, the Board identified several lessons that may inform future emergency preparedness efforts.

The Board found that LEAP's success was largely attributable to dedicated volunteers, strong community support, and effective relationships with public safety agencies. However, the program's long-term sustainability was limited by its dependence upon a relatively small number of key individuals.

Board members also reviewed information indicating that questions remain regarding historical LEAP records and possible financial assets associated with the former organization. The Board makes no findings regarding those matters but notes that unresolved governance questions highlight the importance of transparency, accountability, and clear organizational structures within any future emergency-response program.

The Board believes future efforts should focus on building a sustainable, institutionalized program capable of continuing regardless of changes in volunteer leadership.

Findings Regarding Emergency Preparedness

Based upon information reviewed during the reporting period, the Advisory Board finds:

1. Lake County remains highly vulnerable to wildfire and other disasters affecting animals.
2. Animal Care and Control continue to provide essential emergency-response services despite limited resources.
3. Existing large-animal resources provide important support but may require additional coordination.
4. Significant gaps remain in small-animal evacuation and sheltering capacity.
5. The former LEAP program demonstrated the value of organized volunteer participation.
6. Future disaster preparedness efforts should emphasize sustainability, accountability, training, and coordination.

Emergency Preparedness Recommendations

The Advisory Board recommends:

- 1. Development of a New Animal Disaster Response Program**

The County should explore creation of a new animal disaster-response program that incorporates lessons learned from LEAP while establishing clear governance, accountability, training requirements, and operational oversight.

2. Volunteer Disaster Response Corps

The Board recommends evaluation of a structured volunteer corps focused on animal evacuation, temporary sheltering, transportation assistance, and emergency support activities.

3. Formal Emergency Planning Integration

Animal evacuation and sheltering should be clearly incorporated into County emergency operations planning documents and disaster preparedness exercises.

4. Regional Partnership Development

Existing relationships with livestock rescue organizations, veterinary providers, nonprofit organizations, and emergency management agencies should be strengthened whenever possible.

5. Public Education and Preparedness

Educational materials should encourage residents to develop evacuation plans that include pets and livestock.

The Board believes these recommendations would significantly improve the County's ability to protect both animals and residents during future emergencies.

IX. SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND EMERGING ISSUES

Introduction

The Animal Control Advisory Board's Bylaws direct the Board to identify and evaluate special problems affecting animal welfare and animal control services within Lake County. Throughout its review, the Board identified several recurring issues that affect multiple aspects of Animal Care and Control operations.

While many of these issues have been discussed within previous chapters, the Board believes they warrant additional emphasis because of their long-term significance.

Limited Veterinary Access

One of the most frequently identified challenges involves limited access to veterinary services.

The absence of an in-house veterinarian affects multiple areas of operation, including:

- Adoption timelines.
- Medical treatment capacity.
- Spay and neuter services.

- Disease management.
- Community animal welfare programs.

The Board recognizes that this issue reflects broader veterinary workforce shortages affecting many rural communities throughout California. Nevertheless, continued exploration of partnerships, grant opportunities, and innovative service-delivery models remains important.

Animal Overpopulation

Animal overpopulation remains a significant concern affecting shelter intake, adoption capacity, and community resources.

Board members identified both dog and cat overpopulation as ongoing challenges, with cat populations representing a particularly persistent issue. Community cat colonies, unplanned breeding, and limited access to affordable sterilization services all contribute to shelter demands.

The Board believes expanded spay and neuter programs remain one of the most effective long-term solutions.

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

The Board identified volunteer recruitment and retention as a recurring challenge.

Volunteer participation affects:

- Foster programs.
- Adoption activities.
- Public outreach.
- Community education.
- Disaster preparedness.
- Animal enrichment.

The Board believes structured recruitment, training, supervision, and recognition programs may improve volunteer retention and participation.

Public Awareness and Community Engagement

Several Board members expressed concern regarding public awareness of Animal Care and Control services.

The Board believes many residents remain unaware of:

- Available adoption opportunities.
- Licensing requirements.
- Community resources.
- Vaccination programs.

- Spay and neuter services.
- Emergency preparedness resources.

Improved communication and outreach represent important opportunities for strengthening community engagement.

Infrastructure and Facility Limitations

The Board identified ongoing facility needs affecting both animal welfare and operational efficiency.

While staff continue to provide quality services within existing resources, improvements to housing areas, medical facilities, adoption spaces, and public access areas remain important priorities.

Funding Sustainability

The Board recognizes that many successful programs currently depend upon grant funding, community partnerships, and donations.

While these resources provide important support, the Board believes long-term planning should ensure that critical services remain sustainable regardless of fluctuations in external funding opportunities.

X. BOARD FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

After reviewing shelter operations, adoption programs, public outreach efforts, facility needs, grant activities, emergency preparedness capabilities, and animal welfare concerns, the Animal Control Advisory Board offers the following findings and recommendations for consideration by the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

The recommendations below reflect the collective work of Advisory Board members during the reporting period and are organized according to the Board's responsibilities under its bylaws.

Adoption Programs

Finding

The Board finds that adoption programs represent one of the greatest opportunities for improving animal outcomes and reducing shelter populations.

Recommendations

1. Continue evaluation of adoption fee structures to balance affordability and fiscal sustainability.

2. Improve visibility of adoptable animals through website modernization and expanded social media outreach.
3. Expand foster and volunteer programs.
4. Continue support for no-fee adoption events and adoption promotions.
5. Strengthen partnerships with rescue organizations.
6. Explore opportunities to reduce adoption delays associated with veterinary service availability.

Public Education and Outreach

Finding

The Board finds that public education and community outreach are essential components of long-term animal welfare improvement.

Recommendations

1. Develop a year-round public education strategy.
2. Expand youth education initiatives.
3. Increase participation in community events.
4. Enhance digital outreach and communication.
5. Strengthening partnerships with community organizations.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Finding

The Board finds that the Animal Care and Control facility remains a critical component of Lake County's public safety and animal welfare infrastructure. While the facility continues to meet many operational needs, opportunities exist to improve animal housing, medical capacity, adoption spaces, visitor accommodations, and long-term operational efficiency.

Recommendations

1. Continue prioritizing facility improvements that enhance animal welfare and disease prevention.
2. Evaluate expansion of medical and isolation facilities.
3. Improve kennel ventilation, drainage, and noise reduction measures.
4. Enhance adoption areas to create a more welcoming environment for visitors and prospective adopters.

5. Evaluate future needs for volunteer training space, meeting rooms, and community education facilities.
6. Pursue capital improvement funding through grants, partnerships, and available County resources.
7. Consider sustainability improvements, including energy-efficient lighting, water conservation measures, and renewable energy opportunities.

Fees and Fiscal Sustainability

Finding

The Board finds that periodic review of fees remains important to ensuring both accessibility and financial sustainability.

Animal Care and Control fees influence public participation in licensing programs, adoption activities, and compliance with animal welfare requirements. Fee structures should remain responsive to changing economic conditions while supporting the department's operational needs.

Recommendations

1. Conduct regular reviews of adoption fees, licensing fees, and impound fees.
2. Compare fee schedules with neighboring jurisdictions and regional best practices.
3. Evaluate incentives that encourage responsible pet ownership, including reduced fees for spayed and neutered animals.
4. Consider targeted discounts for seniors, veterans, and low-income residents when fiscally appropriate.
5. Establish a recurring review process to ensure fees remain current and effective.

Animal Welfare Standards and Enforcement

Finding

The Board finds that animal welfare standards and enforcement practices remain important components of Animal Care and Control operations.

While current standards establish minimum requirements for animal care, future discussions may benefit from consideration of evolving best practices related to housing conditions, environmental enrichment, behavioral welfare, and species-specific needs.

Recommendations

1. Continue evaluating animal welfare standards and available best-practice guidance.

2. Promote interagency collaboration among Animal Care and Control, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors.
3. Expand public education regarding humane animal care.
4. Continue reviewing educational resources such as the UC Davis *Minimum Standards of Horse Care in the State of California*.
5. Explore opportunities to strengthen public understanding of animal welfare requirements and responsibilities.

Grant Funding and Resource Development

Finding

The Board finds that grant funding has become an essential component of animal welfare programming within Lake County.

Recent grant-supported initiatives have expanded access to spay and neuter services, supported community cat programs, improved veterinary access, and strengthened community partnerships.

Recommendations

1. Continue pursuing state, federal, and nonprofit grant opportunities.
2. Maintain participation in California animal welfare funding programs.
3. Prioritize grant applications that support spay and neuter services, facility improvements, veterinary access, volunteer development, and public education.
4. Continue strengthening partnerships with nonprofit organizations and community stakeholders.
5. Maintain strong financial accountability and program reporting practices to improve competitiveness for future funding opportunities.

Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

Finding

The Board finds that emergency preparedness remains one of the most significant long-term issues affecting animal welfare and public safety within Lake County.

The Board recognizes the valuable contributions historically provided by LEAP and concludes that substantial gaps remain in the County's capacity to support large-scale companion animal evacuation and sheltering efforts during disasters.

Recommendations

1. Explore development of a new county-supported animal disaster response program.

2. Establish a structured volunteer disaster-response network.
3. Strengthen partnerships with regional livestock rescue organizations.
4. Integrate animal evacuation planning into County emergency management activities.
5. Expand public education regarding disaster preparedness for pet owners and livestock owners.
6. Develop sustainable governance and operational structures that ensure continuity regardless of volunteer turnover.

Long-Term Strategic Priorities

Finding

The Board finds that many of the challenges facing Animal Care and Control are interconnected. Adoption outcomes, facility needs, veterinary access, volunteer participation, grant funding, and public education efforts all influence one another.

Accordingly, the Board believes future planning efforts should focus on integrated solutions that address multiple needs simultaneously rather than treating individual issues in isolation.

Recommendations

1. Develop a long-term strategic plan for Animal Care and Control.
2. Establish measurable performance objectives for key program areas.
3. Strengthen partnerships with nonprofit organizations, veterinary providers, rescue groups, and community stakeholders.
4. Expand opportunities for public participation and volunteer engagement.
5. Continue evaluating innovative approaches utilized successfully by other California shelters and animal welfare organizations.
6. Utilize data collection and program evaluation to guide future decision-making.

CONCLUSION

The Lake County Animal Control Advisory Board recognizes the dedication and professionalism of Animal Care and Control staff, volunteers, community partners, and residents who contribute to animal welfare efforts throughout Lake County.

During the reporting period, the Board reviewed a broad range of issues affecting Animal Care and Control operations, including adoption programs, public education, facility needs, animal welfare standards, grant-funded initiatives, emergency preparedness, and community engagement. While the Board identified challenges requiring continued attention, it also observed numerous examples of innovation, collaboration, and commitment among staff and community partners.

The Board believes that continued investment in adoption programs, public outreach, volunteer development, facility improvements, grant funding opportunities, and emergency preparedness initiatives will strengthen Animal Care and Control's ability to serve both animals and residents in the years ahead.

The Board respectfully submits this report to the Lake County Board of Supervisors and looks forward to continued collaboration in support of animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, and public safety throughout Lake County.

Respectfully submitted,

Lake County Animal Control Advisory Board

Fiscal Year 2025–2026

APPENDIX

Appendix A

Grant Funding Documentation and Supporting Materials

The following materials were provided by Board Member Janet Zumwalt in support of Chapter VII, Grant Funding and Resource Development. These materials include grant-related documentation, funding information, and supporting exhibits referenced throughout the report.



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Michael V. Drake, MD
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March 22, 2023

Office of the President
1111 Franklin St.
Oakland, CA 94607

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

universityofcalifornia.edu

Dear Senator Skinner:

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Santa Cruz

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If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President David Alcocer would be pleased to speak with you. David can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9113, or by e-mail at David.Alcocer@ucop.edu.

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Mr. Jack Zwald, Department of Finance

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND
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Organization Name	Amount	Description of activities
Invine Animal Care Center	\$55,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$50,000 Open Grant for special programs including foster care, veterinary medical care, spay/neuter, behavior training, and supplies.
Jameson Rescue Ranch (DBA Jameson Humane)	\$110,000	\$110,000 Open Grant for mobile veterinary unit, staffing and supplies.
Kern County Animal Services	\$409,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$200,000 Open Grant for supplies, staffing, spay/neuter, veterinary care, and marketing for pet retention program. \$204,000 Sniptember Grant for spay/neuter services.
Kings County Animal Services	\$5,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant.
Kitten Central of Placer County	\$5,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant.
Kitty Bungalow Charm School for Wayward Cats	\$55,000	\$55,000 Open Grant for a transport vehicle.
Lake County Animal Care and Control	\$159,077.25	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$154,077.25 Sniptember Grant for staffing, spay/neuter services, and supplies.
Lathrop Police Department	\$5,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant.
Lodi Animal Services	\$10,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$5,000 Open Grant for training, supplies and kennel improvements.
Long Beach Animal Services	\$25,000	\$25,000 Sniptember Grant for spay/neuter program.
Los Angeles Animal Services	\$205,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$200,000 Open Grant for spay/neuter services, supplies and veterinary medical care.
Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control	\$161,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$136,000 Open Grant for veterinary care, supplies, boarding and grooming for voucher program. \$20,000 Open Grant for dog training program with external partner.
Los Baños Animal Shelter	\$50,000	\$50,000 Sniptember Grant for spay/neuter services.
Madera County Animal Services	\$118,700	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$63,000 Sniptember for spay/neuter services with external partners. \$50,700 Open Grant for veterinary care, supplies, and kennel improvements.
Marin Humane	\$709,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$704,000 Sniptember Grant for partnership with Community Animal Medicine Project (CAMP) to train 15 veterinarians per year in High Quality High Volume spay/neuter surgeries over the period of three years for a total of 45 veterinarians from the central and northern regions of the state
Mendocino Coast Humane Society	\$22,000	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$17,000 Open Grant for medical equipment and supplies.
Mendocino County Animal Care Services	\$120,000	\$100,000 Sniptember Grant for mobile veterinary clinic for spay/neuter services. \$20,000 through the California Animal Welfare Funder's Collaborative for veterinary care and subsidized reclaim fees.
Monterey County and Salinas Animal Services	\$238,230	\$5,000 Welcome Grant. \$43,200 Sniptember Grant for spay/neuter services with an external partner. \$190,030 Open Grant for subsidized reclaim fees, medical equipment, supplies, consultant, and website redesign.



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Open Grants (\$5,518,134 and 36% of the total expended to date)

Introduced in May 2022, the spring Open Grants cycle offered municipal animal shelters, private shelters with municipal contracts, and private shelters without municipal contracts the opportunity to apply for four categories of funding, which align with the four types of best practices described in the Animal Shelter Assistance Act:

- Shelter Intake Prevention and Community Support
- Care of Animals in the Shelter
- Field Services (Animal Care and Control Activities in the Community)
- Live outcomes (Foster, Adoptions, Return to Home)

110 animal shelters and animal control agencies submitted applications. In addition to the competitive grant criteria listed above, priority was given to proposals that demonstrated an innovative approach that had the potential for spread and scale, and that leveraged novel partnerships and community engagement. Animal shelters with existing programs or the ability to create new programs to provide subsidized services to animal shelters in high vulnerability index areas were also given priority. **A total of 66 agencies received \$ 5,518,134 in grant funding. The smallest grant was \$5,000 and the largest was \$200,000.**

Sniptember Spay/Neuter Grants (\$8,660,501 and 56% of the total expended to date)

The final grant cycle of 2022 was created in response to the urgent need, sparked by the veterinary access to care crisis, to shore up and increase spay/neuter capacity across the state. Launched in September 2022, the “Sniptember” request for proposals asked applicants to increase their capacity to provide spay/neuter services through training of veterinarians or support staff, increasing staff support, partnering with veterinary care clinics, and other novel solutions. Short-term requests for help were also considered – some shelters have a backlog of hundreds of animals awaiting surgery as a result of ongoing lack of access to care. Agencies across the state submitted 103 applications totaling over \$46 million in requests. In addition to the competitive grant criteria listed above, proposals were evaluated based on the availability of spay/neuter in the community or lack thereof, ability to implement a program or project quickly, and potential to build on the strength of existing organizations or new partnerships. **42 grants totaling \$8,660,501 were awarded in December 2022-January 2023. The smallest grant was \$16,000, and largest was \$739,780.** The grant award process included meeting with applicants to discuss potential partnerships and provision of services to regions where spay/neuter is limited to non-existent. Animal shelters with mobile veterinary clinics and mobile teams that could travel to areas of high need were identified and connected with smaller animal shelters as needed.



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California Animal Welfare Funders Collaborative (\$50,000 and 0.3% of the total expended to date)

In 2022, California for All Animals joined the California Animal Welfare Funders Collaborative (CAWFC), whose mission is to “bring together grant-makers to creatively and flexibly respond to the needs of animal shelters throughout the state of California.” Other members include Annenberg Petspace, Best Friends Animal Society, Maddie’s Fund, Michelson Found Animals Foundation, and California Community Foundation. The Collaborative funding opportunity is open to animal shelters and animal control agencies in California that have innovative programs representing new or expanded projects. Each funding organization contributes grant money that is collectively awarded by the Collaborative. California for All Animals committed and awarded \$50,000 to California shelters through this collaborative, in alignment with the same criteria that guided all other grant funding provided through the program.

Welcome Grants (\$580,000 and 4% of the total expended to date)

All shelters participating in the program funded through the Animal Shelter Assistance Act must provide 10 years of annual intake and euthanasia data, the five years before the program started (2017-2021) through the duration of the program (2022-2026). With the launch of California for All Animals, municipal animal shelters and private animal shelters with municipal contracts were eligible to receive \$5,000 in funding to assist in compliance with this requirement if needed (e.g. through upgrades to software systems used to track data), as well as to engage with the California for All Animals program and address the shelters’ most pressing needs. An additional goal was to rapidly engage the majority of shelters functioning in the state. The Welcome Grant opportunity was publicized on the KSMP website and on a dedicated website for the program, through social media, press releases, industry email lists, and professional networks. As of December 31, 2022, 116 animal shelters and animal control agencies had received Welcome Grants.

Special Grants (\$640,270 and 4% of the total expended to date)

In July 2022, Fresno Humane Animal Services was contracted by the City of Fresno to perform animal sheltering and animal control services for the city in addition to their contract with the County. As part of KSMP’s ongoing commitment to the Central Valley, the program provided a grant to Fresno Humane Animal Services to provide spay/neuter services, veterinary care, training, new staff positions, and other services to assist the pets and people of the City of Fresno.

In September 2022, the San Francisco SPCA was granted \$40,270 to conduct a survey of animal shelters in California to assess available veterinary care services. This survey received a 47% response rate (111 shelters out of 237 surveyed); the results are described in more detail below in the section on “Addressing the crisis in access to veterinary care” and the full report can be found at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5ae46f84f8c3438d9c32126d54681936>.



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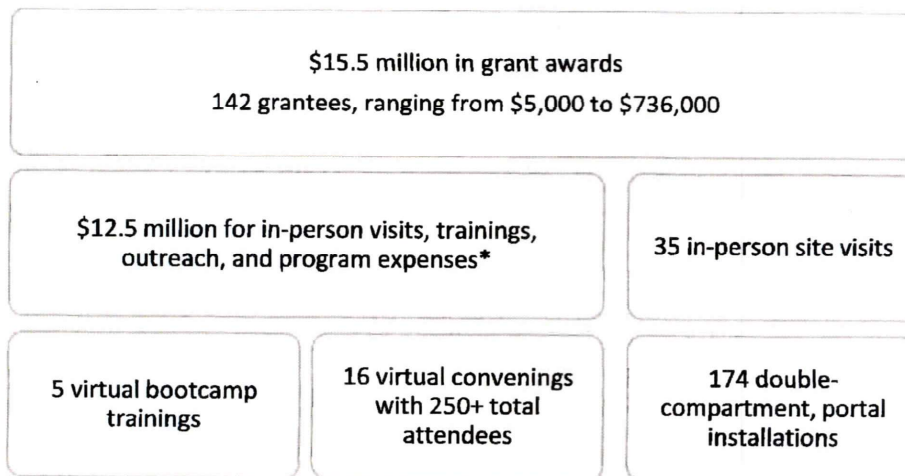
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Mr. Jack Zwald, Department of Finance

1. Executive Summary

In 1998, in response to the ongoing euthanasia of over half a million pets annually in California animal shelters, the State of California enacted Senate Bill 1785 (Chapter 752 of the Statutes of 1998) to establish the state's policy that "no adoptable or treatable animal should be euthanized." Although the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals has decreased since then, over 180,000 animals still lost their lives in animal shelters two decades after SB 1785 was enacted and this trend has recently accelerated. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, programs were in place to help keep pets out of shelters, which included free and low-cost veterinary care, spay/neuter services, and supplies to keep pets in homes; however, the COVID-19 pandemic drastically reduced the availability of affordable and accessible spay/neuter services and growing economic hardship has led to an increase in animals brought to shelters. In particular, animal shelters are taking in puppies and large dogs at a rate that has not been seen in many years¹.

In recognition of the urgent need to provide resources to reduce the euthanasia of healthy and adoptable animals, and fulfill the state's 20-year-old policy goal, Governor Gavin Newsom and the California state legislature allocated funds in 2021 to "create new minimum standards for California animal shelters and establish the state's policy that no adoptable or treatable animal should be euthanized." To achieve these goals, the Koret Shelter Medicine program (KSMP) at UC Davis was entrusted with implementing the "California for All Animals" program through the provision of "support to all California animal shelters in the form of outreach, regional conferences, and provision of web-based resources based on current best practices," along with grant funds for shelters. The program recruited a team of shelter medicine veterinarians, shelter directors, program managers, and experts from across the state in support of the program. From July 2021 through December 2022, the following activities occurred:

Figure 1. \$28 million of \$50 million awarded or committed for grants and program expenses²



* allocated through June 2026

¹ [Q1-Q4 2022 Analysis, Shelter Animals Count, 2023.](#)

² [Portals: opening the Door to Lifesaving](#)

E



RECOMMENDED BY:
Susan Parker, County Administrative Officer
COMPILED BY:
Jenavive Herrington, Auditor-Controller

COUNTY OF LAKE, CALIFORNIA
ADOPTED BUDGET
Fiscal Year 2025-2026

ADOPTED BY THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Eddie Crandell, Chair—Helen Owen—Bruno Sabatier—Brad Rasmussen—Jessica Pyska

County Budget Act
January 2010 Edition, revision #1

Detail of Financing Sources and Financing Uses
Governmental Funds
Fiscal Year 2025-26

Fund 190 Function Public Protection		Budget Unit 2711 - Animal Medical Clinic Activity Other Protection		
Detail by Revenue Category and Expenditure Object	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Recommended	2025-26 Adopted by the Board of Supervisors
1	2	3	4	5

PERMITS

21-01 Animal	6,477	4,775	0	0
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CHARGES FOR SERVICES

66-72 Humane Services	32,935	34,260	35,000	35,000
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MISCELLANEOUS

79-82 Other Agencies-Private	0	120,600	0	0
79-99 Donations	10,164	63,739	21,753	21,753

OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

81-22 In	135,000	135,000	135,000	165,000
Revenue - Total	184,576	357,775	191,753	221,753

SALARIES AND BENEFITS

01-11 Permanent	5,553	15,476	173,699	111,205
01-13 OT, Holiday, Stby	634	206	5,000	5,000
02-21 FICA	473	1,151	13,288	8,507
02-22 PERS	1,294	3,969	44,693	28,613
03-30 Health/Life	12	6,982	13,868	6,996
03-31 Unemployment	448	402	347	347
04-00 Worker's Compensation	635	721	988	988

SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

14-00 Household Expense	0	0	25,000	25,000
17-00 Maintenance-Equipment	0	0	7,500	7,500
18-00 Maint-Bldgs & Imprvmts	0	0	0	1,200
19-40 Medical, Dental & Lab Exp	11,710	27,272	35,000	35,000
23-80 Professional & Specialize	112,818	265,056	250,000	315,962
28-30 Supplies & Services	0	2,363	30,000	30,000
28-72 Spay-Neuter Program	0	0	5,000	5,000
38-00 Inventory Items	206	4,663	10,000	10,000

CAPITALIZED ASSETS

62-74 Other	0	23,273	0	0
Expenditures/Appropriations - Total	133,783	351,534	614,383	591,318

Net Cost:	(50,793)	(6,241)	422,630	369,565
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F

More low-cost spay/neuter clinics coming to Lake County in 2025

By Lake County News Reports | Oct. 13, 2024



Puppies abandoned with their mother under a porch in Clearlake, California, were recently rescued by the Clearlake Animal Association. Photo courtesy of the Clearlake Animal Association.

LAKE COUNTY, Calif. — Next year, a new partnership amongst animal welfare organizations is planning to bring more low-cost spay/neuter clinics to Lake County.

Pet Fix – Lake County recently made its debut on Facebook, announcing badly needed affordable spay/neuter services for Lake County dog and cat owners.

Pet Fix is the result of a partnership between the Clearlake Animal Association, SPCA of Lake County and Dogwood Animal Rescue Project, based in Santa Rosa. All three organizations are 501 (c) 3 animal welfare nonprofits.

“The core team from the three nonprofits have been working on the logistics for these clinics with Animal Balance for a few months now, and are very pleased to be able to offer low-cost spay/neuter programs to the community,” said Charmaine Weldon, president of Clearlake Animal Association.

Animal Balance is a global organization that provides logistics and veterinary services in support of local low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

The first clinic is scheduled for February 2025 and will serve 200 cats and dogs. The plan is to hold five clinics during 2025, potentially serving hundreds more owned dogs and cats.

Spaying and neutering will considerably reduce the number of puppies and kittens and positively impact the pet overpopulation in Lake County.

“As a veterinarian holding spay-neuter clinics in Lake County since 2015, I’m so excited and proud for this coalition of Lake County animal groups to be coming together to increase the access to spay and neuter for all Lake County animals in 2025,” said Dr Jennifer Eisley DVM from Lake County SPCA.

“I am also thrilled that we are partnering with Animal Balance, a group with over 20 years of experience bringing spay-neuter campaigns to underserved communities internationally and nationally,” Eisley added. “These campaigns, plus the ongoing efforts of the SPCA of Lake County, will hopefully help us to make a bigger impact to improve the lives and health of Lake County Animals going forward.”

“Dogwood has long recognized the desperate need for low-cost spay/neuter in Lake County, we’re thrilled to be partnering with Clearlake Animal Association and the SPCA to curb the overpopulation crisis and end suffering,” said Charlotte Pearce, Dogwood Animal Rescue, co-founder and board member.

“What we are seeing,” said Denise Gilmer, administrator of the Clearlake Community Canine Coalition Facebook page, “is the number of loose, intact dogs with an increase during peak female heat seasons of spring and fall guarantees an increase in litters of puppies being posted for rehoming and reports of abandoned puppies on social media two to three months later.”

A recent survey of puppies needing homes, or found abandoned tallied 319 puppies from mid-August until Oct. 2, and that number is growing daily.

From December 2023 through April 2024, 1,355 individual loose dogs reported on social media in Lake County were counted by a Clearlake Animal Association volunteer.

That tally included 116 puppies and 12 nursing mothers. Only a few nursing mothers had puppies with them, indicating there were unidentified litters of puppies somewhere near where the mothers were sighted.

Over 60% of the loose dogs were observed within the approximately 10 square miles of the city of Clearlake.

"This is a community project and an example of what can be accomplished when local animal welfare organizations work together for solutions," said Weldon. "Successful spay/neuter clinics depend on volunteers and donations."

Volunteers can help make the day of a clinic go smoothly by helping with various jobs. Donations help offset the cost of the clinics.

Interested community members are encouraged to follow Pet Fix – Lake County on [Facebook](#). There is a current call for volunteers to help at the upcoming clinics.

The minimum cost to support reduced-fee spay/neuter services is \$37,000 per clinic. Pet Fix – Lake County aims to raise a total of \$185,000 to fund all five clinics.

Donations to Pet Fix are being accepted through the Dogwood Animal Rescue Project at their [website](#).

G

Spay / Neuter Programs

Join Us in Reducing Pet Overpopulation

Spay & Neuter in Lake County

Spaying and neutering are one of the most effective ways to reduce pet overpopulation and improve the welfare of animals in Lake County. At Lake County Animal Care and Control, we are deeply committed to supporting our community in these efforts, within the limits of our current resources.

In 2025 alone, we've committed nearly **\$90,000** toward spay and neuter efforts throughout the county. These funds, made available through a grant, are already supporting local organizations and community-led efforts. So far, they've helped bring **two Pet Fix clinics** and **three community cat clinics** to life—and there's more to come. It's expected to positively impact over 500 animals and their human families.

While we continue an active search for a shelter veterinarian or veterinary partners to expand our in-house capabilities, we are currently **unable to provide spay and neuter surgeries directly at our facility**. We know how important access to these services is, and we want our community to know: **we're not sitting still**. We are investing in impactful partnerships and solutions to ensure as many animals as possible are reached.

We look forward to the day we can announce a new in-house veterinary program and provide even more direct services to our community. Until then, we will continue to do all we can to be a part of the solution.

For current spay/neuter resources and information about feral cat programs, please visit:

SPCA of Lake County

www.spcaoflakecounty.com

SPCA of Lake County

Call 707-279-1400 or visit the website at <http://www.spcaoflakecounty.com> for information about spaying/neutering and feral cat programs

Feral / Community Cat Program (PAUSED)

X

H

Pet Fix - Lake County's Post

X



Pet Fix - Lake County
August 6, 2025 · 🌐

...

Please join us in thanking [Lake County Animal Care & Control](#) for sponsoring our 3rd Pet Fix clinic coming up this weekend. Thanks to LCACC we will be spaying/neutering 200 'owned' animals with a co pay of just \$25.

Pet Fix is collaboration of volunteer run rescue groups that are bringing high volume spay/neuter to animal owners in [SPCA of Lake County](#) , Clearlake Animal Association and [Dogwood Animal Rescue Project](#) ❤️

Thank You!

Lake County Animal Care & Control

for sponsoring our 1st Spay/Neuter clinic in 2025





Our Mission:

To support animals and the people who love them through spay/neuter

X



- ♥ Clearlake Animal Association
- ♥ SPCA of Lake County
- ♥ Dogwood Animal Rescue

We are a partnership of volunteer-led, animal rescue organizations committed to helping spay/neuter Lake County's owned animals, with your support.



Our Mission: To support animals and the people who love them through spay/neuter.

Follow Facebook: [Pet Fix Lake County](#) for current information

- Jan 31st - Feb 2nd Clinic #1 203
- June 13th - 15th Clinic #2 204
- August 8th - 10th Clinic #3 203
- Sept 12th - 14th Clinic #4 203
- Oct 10th - 12th Clinic #5 198

When ideas turn into action, amazing things can happen. Thousands of volunteer hours, generous sponsors and a plan have made this years Pet Fix Lake County a success.



Pet Fix - Lake County

October 23, 2025 · 🌐

...

Pet Fix Lake County has altered 1,011 dogs and cats in 2025.

Let that number sink in

- 1,011 dogs & cats not adding to the animal over-population crisis
- 1,011 dogs & cats living longer, healthier lives
- 1,011 dogs & cats not taking up limited services at full service vets

👍👍 174

46 🗨️ 38 🗨️

👍 Like

🗨️ Comment

J



**APPOINTMENTS FOR
2026 COMING SOON**

**Pet Fix Dog Applications
\$25**

- All Vaccinations & Microchip Included
- For Dogs Under 80 lbs
- No Flat Faced Breeds (like Pug)
- Accepting Multiple Applications per Household
- Appointments not Guaranteed

List Full

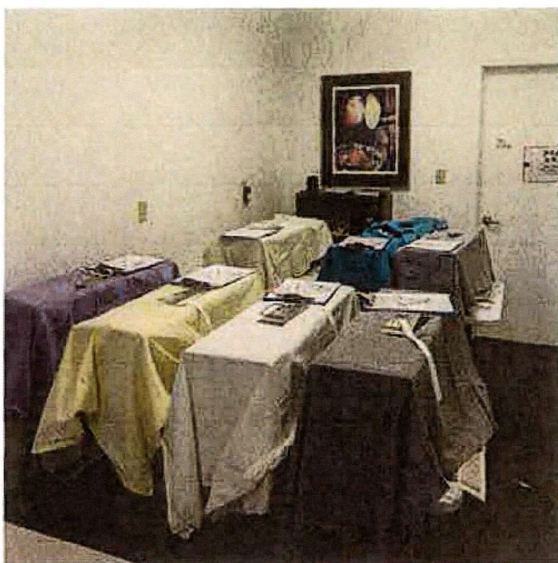
**Pet Fix Cat Appointments
\$25**

- All Vaccinations & Microchip Included
- Accepting ONE Appointment per Household

List Full



K



Cat - Feral (Sponsored Clinics Only)

Spay/Neuter

FVRCP / Rabies / Ear Tip

FREE

Feral Cat Clinics are on specific days only and are sponsored by various rescues and organizations. Schedule as a Lion.

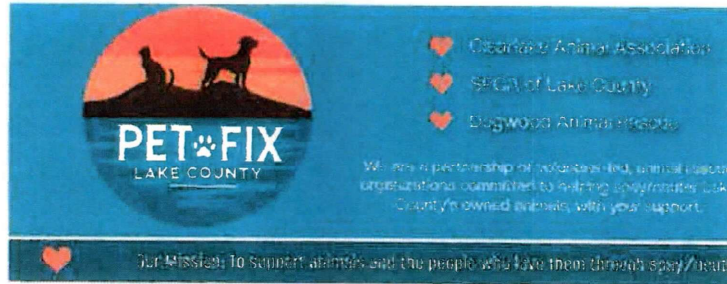
Feral Cats can still be scheduled at regular clinics at FULL PRICE. . Schedule as a Cat

No Discounts Available

[I have a Cat the I Can't Pick Up](#)

facebook

L



All The Info

www.spcaoflakecounty.com

Follow the Spay/Neuter Clinic directions

Owned Pets Only

Dogs

- No Dogs over 80 lbs (SPCA eligible)
- No Flat Faced Breeds (SPCA eligible)
- Multiple applications accepted
- Limit of one appointment per household per clinic
- Application does not guarantee a Pet Fix appointment
- 200 Applications will be accepted
- The list will roll over to the next Pet Fix
- There are a limited number of appointments based on gender and weight
- No applications accepted after portal closes
- Co-payment due 48 hrs after appointment is offered*
- All appointments include - spay/neuter, rabies, DHPP and microchip

Cats

- APPOINTMENTS require \$25 co-payment at the time of scheduling*
- One appointment per household
- All appointments include spay/neuter, rabies, FVRCP, and microchip

Clinic Dates

August 8th - 10th

Drop Off

8 am Dogs / 8:30 am Cats

Pickup

you will be contacted when ready for pickup

*Co-payment non-refundable
Appointments can't be rescheduled



Pet Fix - Lake County
June 30, 2025 · 🌐

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Pet Fix Lake County tab at www.spcaoflakecounty.com