



# AGENDA

## OC ANIMAL CARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



*Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.*

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

**Vacant**  
Chair  
Fourth District

**Elizabeth Cowan**  
Vice Chair  
Fifth District

**Dr. Leslie Malo**  
Committee Member  
First District

**Vacant**  
Committee Member  
Second District

**Kim Kane**  
Committee Member  
Third District

The Orange County Animal Care Community Outreach Committee welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Committee encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on an actionable item contained in the agenda, please complete a Speaker Form identifying the items(s) and return the form to the Clerk of the Committee prior to the Item you wish to speak on being called. If you wish to speak on a matter which does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Committee, please state your name, or a pseudonym if you do not wish to give your name, prior to providing your comments.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting must notify OC Animal Care at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 796-0212 or COCcomments@occr.ocgov.com.

*All supporting documentation is available for public review at OC Animal Care 1630 Victory Road, Tustin, CA 92782 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday  
[www.ocpetinfo.com/get-involved/community-outreach-committee](http://www.ocpetinfo.com/get-involved/community-outreach-committee)*



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*Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.*

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

### **I. Call to Order**

### **II. Roll Call of Members**

Danielle Thomas, Chair, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Elizabeth Cowan, Vice Chair, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Dr. Leslie Malo, Committee Member, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Vacant, Committee Member, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Kim Kane, Committee Member, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

### **III. Minutes**

Regular Meeting, October 22, 2025

Recommended Action: Committee approve the minutes of the October 22, 2025, regular meeting.

### **IV. Regular Business**

#### **1. Public Education Program Report**

This report summarizes the OC Animal Care Public Education Program, which includes Community Outreach, Public Awareness, Shelter and Community Events and Program Updates.

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

#### **2. Foster Program Report**

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

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

# AGENDA

## 3. Volunteer Program Report

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

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

## 4. Adoption Partner Program Report

This report summarizes the OC Animal Care Rescue/Adoption Partner program.

Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

## V. Director's Comments

## VI. Public Comment

At this time, members of the public may address the Committee regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee provided that no action will be taken on any items not on the agenda, unless authorized by law. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person, unless different time limits are set by the Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Committee.

## VII. Advisory Committee Comments

## VIII. Adjournment

The next regular meeting will be April 22, 2026, at 11:30 a.m., in the Learning & Training Center Room 100 located at 1630 Victory Rd. Tustin CA 92782.



### Staff Report Summary:

Highlights and Updates for following:

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



## Public Education Program

Our Public Education Program is about building strong connections with the community we serve. Through sharing valuable information on disaster preparedness, proper pet care, and responsible pet ownership, we aim to empower our community members. We are committed to providing essential resources, creating engagement opportunities by attending events, and keeping our community informed through our website, digital media and traditional media. From shelter announcements and education to adoption, community outreach, and animal safety, we remain committed to make a positive impact together.

**PET SAFETY TIPS HALLOWEEN**

Follow these tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday for you and your pet!

**Jack o' lanterns** are festive but beware of candles. A darting cat or dog can accidentally tip them over and create a fire hazard. Consider switching to battery operated tea lights this year.

**If handling only candy to trick or treaters**, be sure your pet is in a crate or another room. Pets can easily escape through frequently opened doors.

**Be sure your pets are wearing collars with ID tags.** Constant doorbell ringing, and disruption in their normal routine can spook even the most well-adjusted pet.

**Costumes can be fun**, but make sure it is not restrictive or overly stressful to your pet. Costumes should be loose enough around the neck and hockage. Be careful of anything that drapes which could cause a choking hazard.

**If your dog is easily stressed**, consider walking your dog earlier in the evening to avoid crowded sidewalks and costumed kids.

**Keep candy out of your pet's reach!** Candy and chocolate can be harmful to pets, causing major health concerns and possible choking hazards.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

*Let's Paws*

**PET SAFETY TIPS THANKSGIVING**

Here are a few Thanksgiving safety tips to keep your pets safe, healthy, and happy during the holiday.

**Food**  
Did you know many Thanksgiving staples are toxic to pets? Turkey skin, onion, raisins, grapes, chocolate, artificial sweetener (xylitol), yeast dough, and fatty acids, are toxic to dogs and cats, and can cause potentially fatal health conditions.

**Parties and Guests**  
If you know your pet gets anxious or ever excited around guests, consider keeping them in a separate room with food, water, and their favorite toy.

**Travel**  
If your holiday plans involve traveling elsewhere for multiple days, make sure you've made the proper accommodations for your pet. Consider boarding them at a pet hotel or hiring a trusted friend to care for your pet everyday while you're gone.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

*Let's Paws*

**PET SAFETY TIPS HOLIDAY FOOD**

Follow these pet safety tips to ensure you and your pet will have a wonderful holiday season!

**Onions**  
Onions are toxic to dogs, regardless of how thoroughly cooked they are. They can lead to a dangerous form of anemia.

**Grapes and Raisins**  
Both grapes and raisins are toxic for dogs and can cause a pet's kidneys to shut down.

**Turkey and Bones**  
Raw or undercooked turkey can contain salmonella. Bones can easily splinter and cause serious health problems.

**Mashed Potatoes and Gravy**  
Flaked with dairy, butter, sodium, and fat, these tasty treats can cause gastrointestinal upset, or, in the worst cases, pancreatitis.

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

*Let's Paws*

**PET SAFETY TIPS NEW YEAR'S FIREWORKS**

Follow these tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday for you and your pet!

Learn pet safety tips and check out the "Get Involved" page on [ocpetinfo.com](http://ocpetinfo.com)

- Exercise your pet before the fireworks so they can sleep through the main event!
- Microchip and tag your pet. They can get loose when spooked!
- Some pets may need medication to be comfortable. Ask your vet!
- Have a space designated for your pet, such as a quiet room or crate where your pet can go relax! The loud noises and flash of the fireworks can cause your pets to get scared and run away!

*Let's Paws*



## Social Media Statistics (October - December)

### Facebook

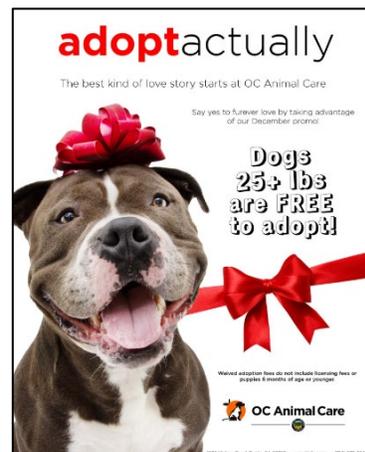
- Added 313 new followers
- 32.4K followers
- Content interactions up 1.45% to 8.5K
- Santa Paws Adoption Event was the most engaged post.

### Instagram

- Added 1.1K new followers
- 21.5K followers
- 972.6K views
- Content interactions up 4.4% to 28.2K
- Santa Paws, Love Actually adoption promotion most popular in quarter.

## Adoption Promotions

From October through December, the adoption promotion was extended to waive fees for dogs 25+ pounds.



## Other Promotions and Events



The La Jolla-based, Karen Cooper Foundation delivered five bags of pet toys to Orange County Animal Care on December 16<sup>th</sup>, ensuring each dog had a special treat for Christmas morning. Staff promoted the generous donation on social media and is thankful for the support of the foundation.



# OC Animal Care



Other social-media announcements and promotions included notification that OC Animal Care was open to accept dogs, cats, and small pets from residents in the OCAC service area who were evacuated during recent storms. Additionally, the Santa Paws adoption event and the foster program were promoted on social media.

**OC ANIMAL CARE EVACUATION ADVISORY**

**Residents Under Mandatory Evacuation Orders:**  
 \*OC Animal Care is open to house dogs, cats, and small pets for OC Animal Care service area residents under mandatory evacuation orders.  
 • The shelter is located at 1630 Victory Road Tustin, CA 92782  
 • If possible, pet owners should bring photo identification, veterinary/vaccination records, special food, and medications along with their animals.

\*OC Animal Care service areas include: Anaheim, Brea, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Lake Forest, Orange, Placentia, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Tustin, Villa Park, Yorba Linda, and the County unincorporated areas.

A large animal shelter has been established at the Orange County Fair Grounds, located at 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Large animal owners should call prior to arrival at 714-820-2830.

**Residents Under Voluntary Evacuation Orders:**  
 OC Animal Care encourages animal owners in voluntary evacuation areas to immediately implement their personal evacuation plans. Pet evacuation tips are available at: <https://ocpetinfo.com/education-resources/disaster-preparedness>.

Any person needing assistance with information about pets or large animal evacuations should call OC Animal Care at 714-935-6848 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 714-259-1122 from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVACUATION ORDERS, PLEASE VISIT [OCSHERIFF.GOV/AIRPORTFIRE](https://ocsheeriff.gov/airportfire)**

**SANTA PAWS**  
**ADOPTION EVENT AT OC ANIMAL CARE!**

December 6, 2025, 11am-4pm  
 1630 Victory Road, Tustin, CA 92782

Join us for Whisker Wonderland, Pooches on the Patio, resource booths, photos with Surfer Santa, and more!

OC Animal Care

In honor of Santa's favorite day of the year, dogs over 25 lbs are free and all other pets are \$25!

ocpetinfo.com • (714) 935-6848

In this season of love...

**fosteractually**

Give a shelter dog the gift of a warm home this holiday season! Become a foster today!  
 Foster a large dog (25+ lbs) and give them a safe place to decompress while waiting for a home in need.  
 A short stay of just two weeks or until adoption makes a huge difference.  
 Email [ocacprograms@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:ocacprograms@occr.ocgov.com) to foster!

In December, the City of Huntington Beach invited OC Animal Care to present an "Adoptable Pet of the Month". On December 16, OCAC Director, Monica Schmidt and Public Information Officer, Jonathan Volzke presented Nala, a 10-year-old, Pitbull found in November at a Huntington Beach intersection. The meeting was broadcast on the city cable channel and streamed on social media, providing excellent visibility. Following her appearance, Nala was fostered. The Communications team looks forward to continuing the program at future council meetings.





## Community Events and Partnerships

This quarter we continued to participate in the Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center. During the events, the City of Anaheim's Community Service Department partnered with various organizations to provide resources to underserved communities. During Mobile Family Resources events, we provided free pet tags to help get pets home, which was sponsored by Noble Friends, OC Animal Care information, along with resources for pet owners. We look forward to continuing this partnership and providing resources to the community to help keep pets with their families.



Anaheim Mobile Family Resource events continued throughout the quarter, making a positive impact in communities in need.

We had the opportunity to participate in several events to spread the word about responsible pet ownership, shelter programs, volunteer/foster opportunities, and resources available to pet owners. These events also created opportunities for us to highlight OC Animal Care adoptable dogs out in the community.



We showcased several available dogs at an adoption event hosted by Subaru, Orange Coast. We connected with many attendees about our shelter's services, spread awareness about responsible pet ownership, and shared information to promote our foster programs.



# OC Animal Care



We attended the Pet Adoption Expo, hosted by First District Supervisor, Janet Nguyen. We were able to share resources, plus seek out potential new fosters and volunteers, while showcasing some of our shelter animals. We were able to find forever homes for three (3) dogs and two (2) cats.



We attended an adoption event at a PetSmart store in Santa Ana. We showcased (three) 3 shelter dogs and successfully placed one (1) of them in a forever home. We were also able to provide the community with resources and information on OC Animal Care including but not limited to responsible pet ownership.

We hosted a Katy Cares and Heroes in Animal Care presentation in addition to numerous school projects, fundraisers, and outreach activities. These events host anywhere from fifty (50) to seventy-five (75) attendees, teaching young people about responsible pet ownership while interacting with amazing therapy dogs.





# OC Animal Care



We successfully participated in twenty (20) community events during this quarter.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
10/03/25	Putts for Mutts	Yorba Linda
10/04/25	Pet Adoption Event at Subaru Orange Coast	Santa Ana
10/04/25	Cypress Community Festival	Cypress
10/10/25	Supervisor Katrina Foley's Senior Summit Resource Fair Summit	Aliso Viejo
10/11/25	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
10/11/25	Pet Adoption Expo Sponsored by Supervisor Janet Nguyen	Fountain Valley
10/23/25	OCSSA & Orangewood Foundation Trunk Or Treat	Santa Ana
10/24/25	Pups n' Pints	Cypress
10/25/25	Adoption Event at PetSmart	Santa Ana
10/25/25	Halloweenfest	Villa Park
11/03/25	UCI Health 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Pet Adoption Event	Orange
11/05/25	Dog Days at Tustin Library	Tustin
11/08/25	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
11/13/25	Team Kids Carnival	Irvine
11/19/25	Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center	Anaheim
11/20/25	Team Kids Debrief	Irvine
11/20/25	Rossmoor Community Resources Forum	Rossmoor
11/22/25	Katy Cares	OC Animal Care
12/06/25	Santa Paws Adoption Event	OC Animal Care
12/13/25	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care



# OC Animal Care



## Pet Food Pantry

The success of the Family Fur-st Pet Food Pantry not only provides essential resources to pet owners in need, but also in fostering a great sense of community. This past quarter we had ninety-five (95) volunteers and support from various community groups.

## Community volunteer groups- Break down by month:

October: Advantech, UCI Red Cross Club, G4G Service Group

November: Del Taco/Jack in the Box, UCI Red Cross Club, SFHS Kiwanis, Santiago College

December: GGHS Boys Club, LifeGen, Solventum, OC Bar Association

Volunteers contributed 377 hours to preparation, staging, directing traffic, noting involvement, providing education, and connecting people with resources in the community. This quarter resulted in handing out over 71,865 pounds of food to help feed 3,353 animals, making this the biggest pantry quarter to date.

## Pet food dispensed - Break down by month:

October: 24,100 pounds to help feed 1,033 animals

November: 26,240 pounds to help feed 1,152 animals

December: 27,285 pounds to help feed 1,168 animals

## Pet Food Pantry donors this past quarter were:

Solventum, Advantech, Petco, Irvine Animal Care, and individual donors from the community.



**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.



## Foster Program

Animals are placed into foster homes for various reasons. They may be too young or too sick for adoption, receiving treatment, in need of additional socialization, or would benefit from a break from the shelter as they wait for their forever home. OC Animal Care's foster caretakers offer sanctuary for these animals in their homes, and provide around-the-clock care, comfort, and socialization until the pet is ready for adoption. The animals placed into foster are specially selected by our veterinary staff for their health and temperament.

Foster caretakers are a vital piece of the OC Animal Care family. This quarter, a total of 536 animals were placed into our Foster Program. These animals were supported by 632 foster homes, reflecting that some animals may have been placed in foster care more than once, due to either changes in foster homes or the need for multiple placements. Our foster caretakers support our efforts of providing refuge to animals in need.





## Foster-to-Adopt Program

The dog Foster-to-Adopt Pilot Program launched on June 6, 2024. This program offers potential adopters the opportunity to take select dogs home for two weeks before deciding if they are interested in permanently adopting. Participants receive essential supplies as well as guidance and support from the Foster Team to ensure the fostering process results in a meaningful and successful adoption match.

Shelter dogs benefit from this program as they get to decompress from the shelter environment and show off their unique quirks and personalities, giving the fosters an opportunity to explore if the dog will be a good fit for the family. If the match is not a good fit and the shelter pet returns, we are still able to gather invaluable information about the dog so we can pass along the information to future adopters.

During this quarter, a total of eighty-six (86) dogs participated in our Foster-to-Adopt Program. These animals were supported by ninety-nine (99) homes, reflecting that some dogs may have participated in the Foster-to-Adopt more than once. Successful adoption placement of 53 dogs resulted from this program.

As part of the program, staff gathers and reviews statistics inclusive of the number of participants, reasons for not adopting, and the return rate pets adopted. As with any programming, analysis is based on quantitative as well as qualitative information.

This quarter, Micah (A1848480) and Bronx (A1863402) found their forever home together through our Foster-to-Adopt Program. Both dogs came to OC Animal Care under different circumstances but formed a strong bond in playgroup. When Micah struggled to adjust at home, his foster asked if he had a buddy, and welcomed Bronx too! Micah and Bronx's bond deepened as they leaned on each other while adjusting to their new home. The foster could see their unique bond and made the decision to finalize their adoptions. Now, these best friends enjoy playtime every day in their big backyard.





## Large Dog Foster Program

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

Foster dogs are continuously promoted as being available for adoption on our website and through social media from photos, videos and information gathered during weekly check-ins. Foster dogs are provided with extra opportunities to find their forever homes by attending off-site adoption events. During this quarter, a total of eleven (11) dogs participated in our Large Dog Foster Program.



Nala (A1943337) taking a nap on a rainy day.

**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.



## Volunteer Program

This report summarizes this quarter's activities for OC Animal Care's Volunteer Program and includes contribution hours, program enhancements/opportunities, and volunteer participation. Volunteers contributed to exercising, grooming, handling, training, socializing, and enrichment for available animals. They also helped with cleaning, laundry, socializing and caring for kittens in the nursery, plus volunteering at our monthly Pet Food Pantry. Volunteers also showcased dogs and cats/kittens at our numerous offsite and onsite adoption and educational events. Additional duties included providing care, feeding, and adoption support at our offsite cat location in partnership with Petco.

### Volunteer Contribution Hours this Quarter:

Total Volunteers with Service: 275

On-Site Volunteer Hours: 8,510

### Volunteer Tasks - Hours Logged

Dog Walking/Enrichment Hours: 6,605; Cat Assistance/Enrichment Hours: 609  
Other (Includes Support Services, Rabbits, Groomers, and Clinic Volunteers): 1,296. We are so proud of and grateful for our dedicated volunteers.

### Volunteer Coffee

Our Volunteer Coffee meeting has been a great way for volunteers and department staff to connect. Volunteer Coffee is going strong as staff members from various teams meet once a month with our volunteers for an insightful peek into the many roles here at the shelter. This quarter's special guest was Sam Blankenship, Kennel Manager. We also hosted our quarterly Volunteer Roundtable which was attended by a variety of staff including: Monica Schmidt, OCAC Director; Jamie Link, Operations Manager; Alexandria Su, Interim Shelter Operations Manager, and Sam Blankenship, Shelter Services Manager.

We plan to continue hosting our coffee chats and quarterly roundtables to keep communications lines strong between volunteers and staff.

### Volunteer of the Month

We continue to celebrate our volunteers' contributions by awarding Volunteer of the Month to recognize those who go the extra mile through not just hours, but dedication to our shelter pets and creating a positive influence both at the shelter and in the community. The Volunteers of the Month for this quarter were:



**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.

## Adoption Partners Program

Through cooperative actions, the Adoption Partner Program seeks placement for animals in need of rehabilitation or additional support prior to successful placement in a permanent home. This report highlights steps taken to increase and improve adoptions and communication between OC Animal Care and Adoption Partners.

### Transports

This quarter, we organized a large transfer to several of our partners in the Pacific Northwest. We did this with the support of GreaterGood Charities. They coordinated with us and other shelters to arrange for forty-eight (48) kittens and five (5) dogs to be transferred from OC Animal Care to other adoption facilities. The selected dogs included long-time resident Frida, who had been with OC Animal Care for five (5) months.

This effort required extensive planning and collaboration. Staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to prepare crates, pack supplies, complete paperwork, and ensure a smooth departure. Thanks to this teamwork, dozens of pets found loving homes in the Pacific Northwest.





# OC Animal Care



## Partner Updates

Our rescue team continues to streamline opportunities for communication. In addition to dedicated, shared email inboxes, the rescue team now has a dedicated phone number, (714) 796-6441, which connects directly to staff working in the Rescue Department. This helps to ensure that all communications are received and responded to in a timely manner.

## Partner Adoptions

This quarter, over 700 pets were placed with non-profit rescue groups, local veterinarians, or with partner municipal and/or humane organizations. We sent out over 250 postings to our partners and networkers asking for assistance with our special needs pets, not including underage kitten postings that were shared separately by our Foster Team. Our amazing partners continue to be a big part of our success in placing animals in need.



## Shelter Medical Pets Program

We continue to have the Medical Pets Program to assist injured pets requiring specialized treatment, and we continue to welcome interest from veterinarians who wish to participate. This quarter, however, our rescue partners stepped in to provide advanced medical care for the pets in need. As a result, no animals required enrollment in the Medical Pets Program during this quarter.



## Success Story

This quarter, OC Animal Care formed a new rescue partnership that directly led to Snoopy, a young Parson Russell Terrier mix who was surrendered to our shelter, in finding the right family for him. Despite our best efforts, Snoopy struggled to adjust to the shelter environment, so we reached out to rescue organizations for specialized placement. A rescue we had not previously worked with stepped up, in early October, and by mid-December had placed him in a perfect home for him with an experienced terrier family.

Since then, this rescue organization has continued to assist OC Animal Care by taking in several more dogs with medical and/or behavioral needs. This collaboration, and others like it, helps us by strengthening our network and expanding opportunities for pets in need of extra support.



**Recommended Action:** The Committee receives and files the report.



**SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES**  
**ANIMAL CARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE**  
**ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 11:30 a.m.  
 Learning & Training Center Room 100  
 OC Animal Care  
 1630 Victory Road,  
 Tustin, CA 92782

**I. Call to Order** - The meeting of the OC Animal Care Community Outreach Committee called to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Learning and Training Room located at 1630 Victory Road, Tustin, CA 92782.

**II. Roll Call of Members**

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

**III. Minutes**

**Committee Members Comments**

- Approve the Summary of Minutes of the meeting held on July 23, 2025.
- Motion to approve minutes: Motioned by Committee Member Dr. Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane
  - All in Favor: Vote was unanimous

**IV. Regular Business**

**1. Public Education Program Report**

- a. Public Information Officer, Alexa Pratt, shared information on the Let’s Paws flyers that were distributed this quarter which included subject matter on Fourth of July holiday safety, the importance of microchipping, and hot weather safety tips.
- b. Alexa discussed the social media statistics for OCAC this quarter. Alexa described that the addition of three marketing interns has contributed to an increase in interactions and views across social media platforms.
  - OCAC added 111 new followers on Facebook and an increased reach of 12 percent.
  - OCAC Instagram added 1,000 new followers and an increased reach of 16 percent.
- c. Alexa discussed the OCAC Adoption Promotions that occurred this quarter including *Stars and Stripes* for July, *Clear the Shelters*, for August, and Ohana Means Adopt, for September, in addition to a 2-for-1 cat adoption promotion. Alexa added that in August, 80 pets were adopted during the Clear the Shelters event that was held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> which included sponsorships for free adoptions.
- d. Alexa stated there was a free microchip clinic held on September 20<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Noble Friends Foundation, and 37 dogs and cats were microchipped at this event.

**Committee Member Comments**

- Committee Member Kim Kane asked if anyone comments on the social media videos.
  - Alexa answered that the interns have been very creative and commented that they make social media videos that relate to current events such as Taylor Swift's new album.
  - Director Monica Schmidt added that for those who do not have social media, they are still able to see YouTube videos of adoptable dogs on the OC Animal Care website, which helps bring the dog to life.
  - Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if the videos can be tracked to see the number of views.
  - Alexa answered that she can track the number of views for all the videos posted.
  - Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if there was a way to link the videos to an increase in adoptions.
  - Alexa answered she has not tracked that yet, but that sometimes adopters will mention that they saw a specific available pet in a video before adopting.
  - Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan mentioned she does not have social media.
  - Alexa said that for those who do not have social media there is a Pet of the Week newsletter and a community newsletter which will be going out by email that contains OCAC updates.
  - Alexandra Su stated that with all adopters, they try to collect post adoption surveys and one of the questions is how they first heard about OCAC, which can sometimes be online or through social media.
- e. Alexandra Su shared that summertime is a busy time with many animals in OCAC's care and community events. Alexandra shared a summary of community events and partnerships that took place this quarter including the Anaheim Mobile Family Resource Center. Alex shared this is an opportunity to engage with the community and provide free pet tags and resources. Alexandra shared OCAC also attended two events at PetSmart Santa Ana to promote adoptable dogs and engage with the community. Alexandra shared Active Older Adults Events were also attended. Alexandra shared the events are great opportunities to spread the word about responsible pet ownership and recruit fosters and volunteers. Alexandra stated that August is a very popular time for the National Night Out, an event where OCAC Animal Control Officers attend to show kids their trucks and educate the community about animals, with other staff members attending as well.
  - f. Alexandra also described the Supervisor Chaffee Kids Fishing Derby, where OCAC had a booth set up where kids can stop by to fish in the kiddie pool full of rubber ducks.
  - g. Alexandra shared the Pet Food Pantry had 102 volunteers this quarter which helped with various tasks and contributed 400 hours of prep work, staging, and controlling traffic. Alexandra added over 67, 920 pounds of food was handed out to feed 2931 animals in need. Alexandra added that San Diego Humane Society, Herz, Across Borders Foundation, and community donations to OCAC helped to provide food donations this quarter.
  - h. Director Monica Schmidt added the Alexandra researched the months that needed the most support from donations.
  - i. Alexandra responded that she investigated the months that the Pet Pantry gave out the least food between 2024 and 2025 and found that they were June, August and January.
  - j. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo asked if the months listed above correlate to months OCAC is most in need for volunteers.

- k. Director Schmidt responded that for the Pet Pantry specifically, the Volunteer Coordinator can pre-book volunteers in advance and therefore can supplement any dips in volunteer attendance.
- l. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo said he is working with the Villa Park Rotary Club to donate to the Pet Pantry and possibly volunteer at the Pet Pantry.
- m. Director Schmidt said she would connect Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo with the Volunteer Coordinator, and that hopefully the Rotary Club could volunteer at the Pet Pantry where they have donated, so they can see their donation in action.
- n. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo said he is still coordinating the donation with the club.
- o. Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if the recent economic changes have affected the number of animals seen at Pet Pantry.
- p. Director Schmidt responded that the number of people who attend the Pet Pantry has been steady and may have increased, but there are never any significant dips in attendees. Director Schmidt added that economic factors and rising costs are what typically drives attendees to seek out the Pet Pantry.
  - o It was moved by Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane.
    - a. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

## **2. Foster Program Report**

- a. Alexandra Su reported that this quarter has been a busy time for the foster team due to kitten season, which started a little later than usual this year. Alexandra stated that 950 animals were placed in the OCAC Foster Programs this quarter, supported by 1,201 foster homes. Alexandra explained that the reason why the number of homes is higher than the number of animals is because some foster pets are cared for by more than one foster home. Alexandra stated that underage kittens made up the majority of fosters this quarter, and that there was also a medical foster that will be highlighted in the Adoption Program Report.
- b. Alexandra gave a brief overview of the Foster-to-Adopt Program and described that 112 dogs participated in the Foster-to-Adopt Program, supported by 128 homes. Alexandra shared that 63 dogs were ultimately adopted through the program.
- c. Alexandra shared that the Foster to Adopt program is beneficial for people who are apprehensive to adopt for a multitude of reasons, this is a great way to test out being a pet owner while receiving support and resources from the Foster Team.
- d. Alexandra went on to speak about the Large Dog Foster Program. Alexandra shared 10 dogs participated this quarter, supported by 11 foster homes.
- e. Alexandra highlighted the success story of Solar, who was in a foster home for a couple of months, and was adopted in July of 2025, directly from the foster home. Alexandra attributed this success to the foster actively networking Solar.
- f. Alexandra highlighted a unique approach to foster recruitment this quarter. Alexandra stated the Foster Team utilized kitten kits for underage kitten finders which included formula, a heating pad, bottles, and a feeding nipple. Alexandra continued that in addition to the kitten kits, the Foster Team has made it a priority to educate the public on “Wait, Watch, Win” which is a guideline to follow for when a kitten is found. Once a kitten is brought to the shelter, OCAC asks the finder if they are willing to foster the kitten, if they are interested, then OCAC will provide them with a kitten kit and step by step instructions.
- g. Alexandra highlighted the success story of Little Man, who was brought to OCAC by a finder at three weeks old. Alexandra shared that the finder was given a kitten kit and

agreed to care for the kitten, and he grew to two pounds. Alexandra shared he was then able to come to the shelter for vaccines and was quickly adopted. Alexandra then read a testimonial from the finder who fostered Little Man. The finder shared he was thankful to OCAC and that the kitten kit was very helpful. Alexandra added that this positive testimonial will hopefully help to recruit additional fosters.

- h. Director Schmidt added that the Foster Team, Intake Diversion Team, and the Field Services Team have given out over 100 Kitten Kits this season to families who have found kittens and are willing to become immediate fosters. Director Schmidt added OCAC is very grateful for their support.
- i. Alexandra added that information is gathered from those who have found kittens such as zip code, age of the kitten found, and if the kitten is kept by the foster family or brought back to the shelter.

### **Committee Member Comments**

- Committee Member Kim Kane asked if someone has found a dog, can they receive support from the Foster Team.
- Alexandra explained that if a pet is found, the finder can participate in the Found Program. Alexandra explained that if the pet does not have a microchip or owner information, the pet will be placed on the “found pets” page on the OCAC website. After 30 days, if no owners come forward, the finder can choose to adopt or rehome the pet. Alexandra added that sometimes the time for an owner to come forward can vary case by case, to make sure that every effort to connect with the original owner is made.
- Director Schmidt added that as soon as the pet is brought into the shelter, they are scanned for a microchip and phone calls are made, and sometimes the person who answers may not be the owner but knows who the owner is, whether it is a neighbor or a friend.
- It was moved by Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane.
  - a. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

### **Public Comments**

- Public Speaker Michael M said he believes OCAC has done a good job of filling the Animal Care Attendant positions, and thanked Director Schmidt and OCCR for filling the positions. Michael stated that he has seen an increase in volunteer numbers this year compared to the previous years, which he said is good, but they could be better. He added that he believes there is an issue with the volunteers who are unable to walk the perimeter of the shelter due to the Hangar Fire. He stated that going on longer walks outside of the shelter should be a privilege and something that is earned by the hours accumulated and skills demonstrated, so that at least some of the more experienced volunteers could go on a longer walk.

### **3. Volunteer Program Report**

- a. Alexandra Su described volunteers at OCAC assist with a variety of tasks including socialization for the animals, dog walking, sorting through donations, enrichment,

cleaning, laundry, grooming, and events. This quarter, there were 284 volunteers with 9,897 onsite hours logged.

- b. Alexandra stated a good way to connect with the volunteers is over Volunteer Coffee Events. For this quarter, special guests at the Volunteer Coffee included Nicole Williams, Animal Adoptability Assessment Specialist, and Lt. Fisk from Field Services. Alexandra stated the special guests act as subject matter experts who can answer any questions the volunteers might have.
- c. Alexandra shared that this quarter there was also a Volunteer Roundtable, which was attended by Alexandra Su, Director Schmidt, and Samuel Blankenship, Shelter Services Manager. Alexandra added it is a great way to connect with volunteers and share updates. Alexandra added that this quarter a lot of the discussions revolved around the mulch updates to the play yards.
- d. Alexandra shared the Volunteers of the Month for this quarter are Anna Whitelaw for the month of July, Lynna Heng, for August, and Helena Olsen, for September.
  - o It was moved by Committee Member Dr. Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane.
    - a. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

#### **4. Adoption Program Report**

- a. Tammy Osborn described the Rescue Team transported 48 dogs, 98 cats this quarter through collaboration with multiple rescue partners. Tammy described a new relationship with a rescue partner who has been coming to the shelter once a week to pick up 10-15 animals which includes cats, dogs and rabbits.
- b. Tammy shared that the Rescue Team is now located in a new office downstairs, where the redemption office is located. Tammy added that there is coverage 7 days a week for the Rescue Team, and they are in a more convenient location to meet with rescue partners.
- c. Tammy shared that the Rescue Team has also started open office hours on Wednesday between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. where any partner can come in without an appointment to ask questions or see an animal.
- d. Director Schmidt added that the open office hours are to accommodate rescue partners who would like to come in to see an animal not in a public space, for example a dog or cat who is in an oxygen chamber in the clinic or an animal in a quarantine hold. Director Schmidt clarified that if the dog or cat is in a public space, they can be seen during regular public viewing hours, 7 days a week.
- e. Tammy added that this quarter, 940 pets placed with nonprofit groups, local veterinarians and other animal shelter partners. Tammy added that 175 email postings were sent to OCAC partners via Gov Delivery, which included rescue partners, but also anyone who would like to help promote pets can be added to the email list. Tammy added that all available information on the pet is included in their posting, such as medical information and x-rays.
- f. Tammy described the medical program success story of Poppy. A dog who came to OC Animal Care with a broken femur and pelvis. Tammy added after seeing a surgical specialist, she was treated and recovered in a foster home. Tammy stated that the foster decided to adopt Poppy as they could not bear to part with her.
- g. Tammy described an additional success story of a dog who need special medical attention, and after the rescue team sent out a plea, they were able to find a specialty hospital where he could receive treatment. He recovered and is now in a foster home.

### **Committee Members Comments**

- Committee Member Kim Kane asked if the adoption partners were happy with OC Animal Care.
- Tammy Osborn replied that she believes that they are happy, and that many partners have been coming forward to provide help for special cases that need extra help from rescues.
- Director Schmidt added that Tammy Osborn and Monica Marshall do a great job of facilitating relationships with the rescue partners and will reach out to rescues with updated lists of animals in need. Director Schmidt added that Tammy Osborn and Monica Marshall recently created a video to inform rescue partners of the new office hours, and they partnered with Rancho Coastal Humane on the video.
- Committee Member Kim Kane asked which rescue has its own adoption center.
- Director Schmidt answered it is Rancho Coastal Humane, which is located near San Diego County. Director Schmidt added they have helped for three kitten seasons and have also rescued rabbits and small dogs.
- Tammy added that Rancho Coastal Humane took several polydactyl cats and several Persian cats from OCAC, one of which had a bad eye injury and needed specialized medical attention. Tammy added that a lot of coordination goes on between OCAC the rescue partners.
- Alex Su added that the partnerships took time to build, and it is celebrated to have such great relationships with the rescues. Alex added that when it comes to behavioral and medical problems, it is beneficial to know how much the rescues can handle and what they are looking for. Alex added that now that the Rescue Team is downstairs, it has been easier to show rescue partners to the animals they would like to see and has helped foster partnerships.
- It was moved by Committee Member Dr. Malo, seconded by Committee Member Kim Kane.
  - Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

### **V. Director's Comments**

- Director Schmidt shared that two OCAC staff members have attended a sponsored training seminar on a dog field trip program which would allow the dogs to leave the shelter for the day. Director Schmidt added that she hopes to start this program as a pilot project in 2026. Director Schmidt added that the new dog field trip program would allow dogs to leave OCAC, which has been successfully implemented in other shelters across the country. Director Schmidt added that it is agreed that OCAC would like to give the dogs more opportunities to leave the shelter, it is just a matter of having a structure in place for safety reasons. Director Schmidt said she is looking forward to sharing more about the program at the January COC Meeting.
- Director Schmidt added that playgroups are currently held at OCAC and led by the Animal Adoptability Assessment Specialist, Nicole Williams, and overseen by Shelter Services Manager, Sam Blankenship. Director Schmidt added that the playgroup was built by the philosophy taught by Shelter Playgroup Alliance, and other shelters have had great success with SPA as well. Director Schmidt added that they are looking to expand the playgroup but are in the final steps of a contract where SPA would come onsite to provide hands-on and virtual training for the kennel team. She added there is also an option for select volunteers to also take part in the training. Director Schmidt asked if Sam Blankenship would like to add anything regarding SPA.

- Sam Blankenship added that the philosophy behind SPA is to match dogs who would play well together by matching similar motivational factors and play styles, and not forcing dogs into any uncomfortable situations. Sam explained that introductions are always made on a parallel walk on a leash. Sam continued to share that Nicole the AAA, is very good at matching dogs, and so are some of the volunteers. Sam explained that the goal is to have as many pairs as you can, and the notes on each dog's behavior are then put in Chameleon software which can then be conveyed to potential adopters.
- Director Schmidt added that the notes in the Chameleon software are very helpful in matching dogs with potential adopters and OCAC is excited to formalize the SPA training in-house.
- Director Schmidt added that there is a Greater Good transport coming up, which is not as big as previous transports due to it being the tail-end of kitten season. Director Schmidt added that the Rescue Team at OCAC will provide a long list of animals, and the rescue will see how many they can take. She added primarily kittens, in addition to four or five dogs will be in the transport. Director Schmidt explained that the transports take a lot of coordination on both sides, and the flight costs are covered by Greater Good.
- Director Schmidt added that OCAC has partnered with *Tails that Teach*, which provides books for children in English and Spanish geared toward responsible pet ownership and how to care for pets. Director Schmidt shared the books will be available at the shelter for children that are visiting and will be brought to community events. Director Schmidt added the books have been well received at events so far.
- Director Schmidt added that there is an exciting pilot project right now where new organic groundcover was added to the play yards. Director Schmidt added that OCAC worked with OC Waste and Recycling to receive three different blends of groundcover which will then be surveyed by volunteers and staff who use the yards to help OCAC determine which is the favorite groundcover. Director Schmidt stated that new agility equipment has been added to the play yards as well, and it has been fun to see the dogs use the new equipment which encourages them to jump and play. Director Schmidt shared the OCAC facilities team and OCWR worked hard on the project, which was completed in one day, with the help of Team Rubicon.
- Director Schmidt added that Alexa Pratt created a flyer that might answer some frequently asked questions regarding the organic groundcover, and the flyers are available online and in the lobby.
- Director Schmidt added that there has been a hiring freeze in the county for a long time, and she stated she has continued to advocate to fill the animal handling positions at OCAC, which the County CEO has been supportive of. Director Schmidt added there was an eligible list established for kennel positions and two kennel attendants were hired, so now they are fully staffed.

### **Committee Member Comments**

- Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan said she is curious to see the new play yards and asked if the books from *Tails that Teach* offer books in any other languages.
- Director Schmidt said that this foundation is only providing English and Spanish books currently.
- Committee Member Kim Kane asked what the name was of the company providing playgroup training.
- Director Schmidt added that it is called SPA and added that it has been used by Pasadena Humane and San Diego Humane has been using them for years, and the company is California based.
- Committee Member Kim Kane stated she had previously worked with a company in the past, and the training was hard to implement, and stated that this company sounds much better.
- Director Schmidt stated that SPA is specific for dog shelters, which differs from other similar groups who may be applying the concept to doggy day cares or other models.
- Director Schmidt added that anything to make the implementation easier for staff the better, and it has had a lot of success so far.
- Sam Blankenship added that SPA minimizes risk, which will result in less dog bites.

- Director Schmidt added that training matches compatible dogs which decreases situations that are stressful or hazardous for people and dogs.
- Committee Member Kim Kane asked if there has been a Community Liaison hired yet.
- Director Schmidt said that the position is currently in the offer stage.

**VI. Public Comments**

**1. Public Speaker #1 Michael M**

a) Michael M said he values the transparency of OCAC and appreciates the updates Director Schmidt shared. Michael M also stated that he appreciates the monthly statistics that have been published online. He said he noticed there was a slight downtick in the save rate for this month but believes that is normal when looking at statistics that represent shorter periods of time. Michael M stated that he believes there should be more transparency regarding the Strategic Plan, and that he would appreciate a public update, and that it would improve OCAC’s relationship with the community, as the lack of transparency fuels speculation.

**VII. Advisory Committee Comments**

1. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo asked if anyone has spoken with Supervisor Sarmiento regarding a new committee member for their district, who would join the OCAC COC.
2. Director Schmidt responded that she has spoken to him briefly, but it is ultimately up to their office to appoint someone.
3. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo added that if anyone is interested, there will be a free lunch at the Orange County Emergency Pet Clinic, which is celebrating 50 years of saving lives in Orange County. Committee Member Dr. Leslie Malo stated that in addition to food trucks, there will be a tour of the facility, and it is a great opportunity to see a well-run, beautiful and modern facility.
4. Vice Chair Elizabeth Cowan stated that she is very impressed with all the updates OCAC has shared and she is appreciative for all the efforts that Director Schmidt has put in to hiring at OCAC.

**XI. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.