AGENDA

OC ANIMAL CARE
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

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

Elizabeth Cowan
Chair
Fifth District

Kim Kane
Vice Chair
Third District

Dr. Leslie Malo
Committee Member
First District

Hollis Brannon
Committee Member
Second District

Vacant
Committee Member
Fourth District

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

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting must notify OC Animal Care at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 796-6430 or COC_comments@occr.oc.gov.

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
https://animalcare.oc.gov/get-involved/community-outreach-committee

AGENDA

ANIMAL CARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Wednesday, October 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

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

III. Minutes

Regular Meeting, July 22, 2026

Recommended Action: Committee approve the minutes of July 22, 2026, regular meeting.

IV. Regular Business

1. Public Education Program Report

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

   Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

2. Foster Program Report

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

   Recommended Action: Committee receives and files the report.

3. Volunteer Program Report

   This report summarizes the second 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 second quarter activities for OC Animal Care's 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 January 27, 2027, at 11:30 a.m., in the Learning & Training Center Room 100 located at 1630 Victory Road, Tustin, CA 92782.

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

Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 11:30 a.m.
Learning & Training Center Room 100
OC Animal Care
1630 Victory Road,
Tustin, CA 92782

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

II. Roll Call of Members

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

III. Minutes

Committee Member Comments

- Approve the Summary of Minutes of the meeting held on April 22, 2026.
- Motion to approve minutes: Motioned by Vice Chair Kim Kane, seconded by Committee Member Hollis Brannon
  - All in Favor: Vote was unanimous

IV. Regular Business

1. Community Outreach Goals for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

a. Alexandra Su shared information on the Community Outreach Goals for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, and reported that for 2025, OC Animal Care met or exceeded their goals.
b. Alexandra shared that one of the completed goals for 2025 included the rescue team implementing their walk-in hours towards the end of 2025. The walk-in hours are Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. During those times, rescue partners and networkers can stop by without an appointment for assistance. This can include getting extra footage of the animals in our care to help promote them. Alexandra explained that appointments and walk-in hours help to connect with the rescue partners further.
c. Alexandra shared the team has been continuing the Let's Paws educational initiative with monthly educational posts.
d. Alexandra also discussed developing a standardized training program for foster caregivers that would be incorporated into onboarding and ongoing training.
e. Alexandra noted developing a new pilot program within the volunteer program to expand educational programs for older age groups. She noted that current Katy Cares and Heroes in Animal Care educational

programs primarily serve younger audiences, while the proposed pilot program would focus on older participants.

f. Alexandra discussed a potential enhancement to the adoption program by exploring the use of text messaging to communicate with rescue partners about animals with medical, behavioral, or other time-sensitive deadlines.
g. She noted that text messaging has already been successfully implemented within the foster program and has proven to be an effective communication tool.
h. Alexandra shared that the team plans to explore this initiative during fiscal year 2026-2027 and will provide updates on its progress.

Committee Member Comments

- Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked Alexandra whether the Adoption Partner Program uses email to reach out to potential adoption partners who are interested in rescuing an animal at the shelter.
- Alexandra confirmed and added that the information is also on our website via OC Rescue Track.
- Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked about the Katy Cares and Heroes in Animal Care programs that cater to younger audiences and what the age range was. She wanted to know what the older age range OC Animal Care is looking to get involved in.
    - Denise Woodside responded that, while she doesn't have the exact age range, the potential new programming would be for middle school and high school-aged students.
    - Director Schmidt responded that Katy Cares caters to elementary and middle school-aged students. Director Schmidt acknowledged that Vice Chair Kim Kane was very involved in helping to start the Katy Cares Educational Program.
- Vice Chair Kim Kane stated that the Katy Cares Program is primarily for younger kids, with an age range from preschool to sixth. She noted that older kids will also attend the program, as it's the only educational program that OC Animal Care offers.
- Chair Elizabeth Cowan expressed support for developing educational programming geared toward older students and teenagers.
- Vice Chair Kim Kane expressed interest in assisting with the development of educational programming for older youth. She suggested building upon responsible pet ownership education introduced at a younger age by providing age-appropriate lessons as students get older. She noted that continued education could help prepare them to become responsible pet owners as adults.
    - Director Schmidt asked Denise to follow up with staff and Committee Member Kane regarding her participation in assisting in developing the educational program for older children.
    - It was moved by Vice Chair Kim Kane, seconded by Committee Member Hollis Brannon.
        a. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

2. Public Education Program

a. Denise Woodside, Communications Manager, discussed the team's ongoing efforts to engage and educate the community by providing information about pet care and responsible pet ownership.

b. Denise referenced the Let's Paws information previously discussed by Alexandra and noted that educational resources are shared through e-communications, social media, and the OC Animal Care website under education and resources.
c. Denise reported continued engagement on OC Animal Care's social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, and shared the data with the Committee.
    - Denise shared examples of recent social media posts, including a successful call for members of the community to sign up to participate in the foster program, either online or in person at the shelter. She also noted that several kittens had entered the shelter in recent months and that the post helped generate interest in fostering while also highlighting other shelter programs, including playgroups.
    - Denise also discussed social media posts highlighting adoptable animals and their experiences at the shelter. She shared a video clip featuring Manny and Daylily, benefiting from a dog playgroup.
d. Sam Blankenship, Shelter Operations Manager, discussed playgroups as a primary form of enrichment for dogs at OC Animal Care, providing opportunities for social interaction and skill development in a controlled environment.
    - Sam explained that some shelter staff completed Shelter Playgroup Alliance (SPA) training, which emphasizes dog-to-dog interactions guided by canine behavior and consent rather than handler perception alone. The shelter incorporates SPA and LIMA (Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive) principles to establish playgroup best practices.
    - Positive play interactions can help reserved dogs become more comfortable with handlers and unfamiliar people, build confidence, and develop skills that transfer to other environments.
    - Staff gradually introduce new stimuli to promote desensitization and avoid "flooding" dogs with too much stimulation.
    - OC Animal Care dogs in large-dog playgroups must be at least six months old, weigh more than 25 pounds and have met the retention requirements. Exceptions may apply to younger dogs arriving together with consistent vaccination timelines. Dogs with medical conditions, contagious diseases, legal or cruelty holds, retention issues, or quarantines are ineligible.
    - Staff review each dog's behavioral history, including intake information, source history, clinic notes, Animal Control Officer notes, and observations, to determine appropriate pairings. Dogs with problematic behavioral history receive alternative behavior plans.
    - Staff continuously monitor body language, play styles, and breaks. Relaxed indicators include balanced weight distribution, loose bodies, and soft eyes. Avoidance, lip licking, yawning, and whale eyes warrant caution.
    - For dogs lacking early socialization, staff provide enrichment such as campus "sniffaries" scent work, treat searches, and exploration to build confidence. These activities may help qualify dogs for the "Dog's Day Out" Pilot Project.
        - Director Schmidt asked Sam to explain the educational tips shared on social media for adopters and their connection to responsible pet ownership.
        - Sam explained that adopter education aims to prevent returns by emphasizing consistency, stability, and predictable routines. Dogs should be introduced to new experiences gradually and not placed in overwhelming situations.
    - OC Animal Care provides guidance on acclimating dogs to new homes, including a recommended timeline. Keeping the dog's environment small initially helps prevent overstimulation and supports a successful transition.
    - Sam discussed positive reinforcement training, which encourages dogs to make appropriate choices. Providing adopters with accessible training resources can help reduce behavioral issues and prevent returns.
        - Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked if the shelter is to share all the information about the dog's history and behavior with the adopter?

        - Sam explained that kennel attendants know the animals they work with and can counsel potential adopters based on their observations, which are also documented in the shelter's system. Sometimes a behavior waiver is used to provide more detailed information about a dog's behavior. Sam noted that he and Nicole Williams, the Animal Adoptability Assessment Specialist, review dogs' backgrounds with adopters to help determine suitability. He added that post-adoption behavior support is available through Wags and Wiggles for general training issues.
    - Vice Chair Kim Kane commented that Sam should collaborate with the new Katy Cares program for older students. She mentioned that he could help develop appropriate age training and a basic manners lesson for dogs.
        - Sam commented that basic manners are a great place to start when working on the relationship between a person and a dog. This can help apply emotional states to behavior and help the person learn how to work with the dog.
    - Vice Chair Kim Kane commented that this would help them learn, in addition to using clicker training.
    - Vice Chair Kim Kane elaborated on why two dogs are together at a time in playgroup. In past programs, more dogs were added gradually, but she grew concerned because monitoring stress signals became difficult. Increasing the number of dogs raises the chance of incidents and makes behavior changes harder to track.
        - Sam agreed, noting he has seen shelters add more than two dogs, which led to injuries requiring clinic visits. He added that negative experiences can also cause lasting psychological effects, similar to a dog being hurt at a dog park and then avoiding it.
- Sam explained that OC Animal Care uses consent-based play, allowing dogs to communicate their emotional comfort. Adding too many dogs can undermine that control.
- Sam provided a demonstration of an arousal-reduction exercise using two shelter dogs, Elton and Machop, handled by Arielle Chapman and Jose Gonzalez. The dogs walked through treat and blanket stations, allowing them to choose how to participate while staff observed body language and mutual curiosity.
- Sam stated that dogs typically begin in adjacent play yards, where they can see each other while foraging for treats. Staff observe their interactions from the play yards before allowing interaction. These observations are documented to help determine future pairings.
    - Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked whether this play analysis is added to public dog profiles.
        - Sam confirmed that the information is included in bios and highlighted as spotlight behaviors. He added that kennel bio cards with notes such as "I'm dog friendly" or "I'm in playgroups" have been helpful for adopters.
- Sam mentioned that at the end of playgroup, mats with remaining treats are placed in the dogs' kennels for continued enrichment.

e. Denise explained that the communications team enjoys creating content, whether it is shared in person, in the community, or digitally. She added that this content helps provide valuable information to the public.
f. Denise shared the quarter's adoption promotions included extended waived adoption fees for dogs over 25 pounds and older than six months of age.
g. Additional posts and information were shared specifically for participating in California Adopt-a-Pet Day, a statewide adoption campaign hosted at the shelter on June 6, 2026. OC Animal Care promoted the event in advance and throughout the day, including sharing happy moments with adopters and their new pets. Denise reported that 124 cats, 23 dogs, and 1 rabbit were adopted in one day. She highlighted the work of the staff and volunteers, who helped with the event and expressed appreciation for their commitment and dedication.

h. Denise said that the Communications Team recently onboarded four new interns, and that they are working on several items for the team and are off to a great start.
i. Denise mentioned that the shelter has added a Linktree to its Instagram account to provide easy access to important links. These links include OC Animal Care's hours, adoptable pets, fostering, resources for pet owners, lost-and-found pets, volunteering, donations, and donations to the Pet Food Pantry.
j. Denise also mentioned that there are two sides to promoting the monthly Pet Food Pantry: providing the community with information on how to attend and promoting donations to help stock the pantry. The shelter is constantly seeking donations since the pantry relies on donated pet food. There is also an Amazon wish list specifically for the pantry, with donations sent directly to the shelter.
k. Denise mentioned that the shelter hosted a microchip clinic on Saturday, May 2nd.
l. Denise also mentioned that the shelter shared information about kitten season, including what to do and what not to do when finding baby kittens.
m. Denise shared that the shelter also held a "Double the Love" two-for-one kitten and cat adoption promotion between May 26, 2026 – June 5, 2026. Denise also mentioned that the shelter held a "Cool Cats of Summer" promotion, which offered a $100 adoption fee for cat and kitten adoptions at the shelter Monday through Friday through June 30th.
n. Denise stated that the Community Outreach Team participated in 37 on and offsite events in the quarter plus attended monthly Huntington Beach City Council meetings.
o. Denise said that the monthly Pet Food Pantry has continued to be successful. This past quarter, 122 volunteers helped support the pantry, along with several community groups. Together, they contributed more than 468 hours staging, directing traffic, collecting statistics, and providing educational information to community members. The shelter distributed more than 76,000 pounds of food and served 4,196 animals during the past quarter.

Committee Member Comments

- Committee Member Brannon said she was happy to see the Microchip Clinic was held in May ahead of the July 4th holiday when pets go missing.
- Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked about the Instagram portion of the report, specifically what constitutes content interaction and how interactions were determined to have increased by 36%. She asked whether an interaction included simply opening or scrolling past content, or whether the content had to be viewed.
    - Denise responded that her understanding is that content interactions include any of the engagement methods previously mentioned.
    - Director Schmidt added that the statistics come directly from Meta and that reports can be pulled directly from the platform, making the data easily accessible.
- Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked whether the kitten foster video, which received a high number of views, correlated with an increase in people signing up to foster or expressing interest in fostering.
    - Alex Su responded that there was an increase in walk-ins and that the foster team was able to accommodate and onboard interested fosters as they came in. She noted there was a slight increase and that the video also created a call to adopt.
    - It was moved by Vice Chair Kim Kane, seconded by Committee Member Hollis Brannon
        a. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

3. Foster Program Report

a. Alexandra Su reported that the shelter is in peak kitten season. This past quarter, 840 animals entered foster care, mostly underage kittens, supported by over a thousand foster homes. She noted the numbers differ because a single animal may be cared for by multiple fosters, such as overnight guardians or temporary backups.
b. Alexandra shared an update on the Dog's Day Out Program which launched March26, 2026 with over 300 outings so far. Participants submit surveys, photos, and videos that may be shared on social media. Dogs wear bright "Adopt Me" vests during outings. Participants take dogs on various adventures, including visits to dog-friendly businesses. Dogs in the program are 5–14 times more likely to be adopted. Success stories include Joanie and several long-stay dogs such as Theodore.
Dogs often return more relaxed.
    - High public demand has caused calendars to appear full so staff are exploring new booking systems. The Communications Team updated the landing page to explain appointment availability.
    - Waiver and documentation processes were improved with OCIT after early technical issues occurred with photo-uploading.
    - The shelter acquired supplies for the program, including backpacks, water bottles, vests, and improved seat belts donated by VCA Charities.
    - New seat belts were incorporated to prevent dogs from moving into the front seat.
    Alexandra expressed excitement about the program's success, progress and plans to give another update in three months.
- Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked about eligibility, registration, training, outing length, and program hours.
    - Alexandra explained the program runs Thursday–Sunday, 8 a.m.–12 p.m., and participants must be at least 18. Groups with children may join if the primary handler is an adult. After signing up, participants receive an email with reminders, guidelines, and a short orientation video.
    At pickup, staff review guidelines and complete arousal-reduction stations to ensure dog–handler compatibility. Participants return by noon, complete a survey, and upload photos for use in the shelter's database and social media.
- Chair Cowan asked whether five to six dogs could be waiting on a Thursday morning.
    - Director Schmidt asked Alexandra to explain program capacity and scheduling benefits.
    Alexandra stated the public calendar allows five outings and the volunteer calendar three, for a maximum of eight dogs per day. Dogs return by noon so they are ready for adoption visits and so kennels can be cleaned while they are away.
- Vice Chair Kim Kane encouraged Alexandra to coordinate with Denise for the Katy Cares update and suggested Dog's Day Out could serve as a parent-child activity or count for high-school volunteer hours.
    - Director Schmidt said staff may sign off on service hours if proper documentation is provided.
- Committee Member Brannon asked whether photos from outings are added to adoption profiles.
    - Alexandra said photos go into a library for the social media team and may be used as ID photos.
- Brannon suggested including more photos outside the shelter.
    - Director Schmidt explained that the shelter system allows only one profile photo, but additional images and YouTube videos can be linked on the profile.

c. Alexandra provided an update on the Foster to Adopt program. 80 dogs participated last quarter with support from 90 fosters and as a result, 53 were adopted.

d. Alexandra highlighted Luna, who was shy upon intake but was adopted after bonding with her foster family. Foster to Adopt allows a 14-day trial with automated training emails and a midpoint check-in. Adoptions are finalized by phone if successful; if not, the dog returns with foster feedback for future adopters.
e. Alexandra provided an update on large-dog foster program. Six dogs participated this past quarter. The program offers a break for large dogs while they remain adoptable, and staff continue to expand support.
f. Alexandra shared that foster engagement improved through automated emails sent when a foster animal is adopted, thanking caregivers and acknowledging their role.
g. Sittin' with Kittens remains a high-demand Saturday event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., offering a quiet space to interact with kittens and speak with fosters. Penny Lane was highlighted as a foster and Sittn' with Kittens success story, adopted after connecting with her future family in the event setting.

Committee Member Comments

- Chair Elizabeth Cowan asked about the large dog foster program and the typical length of foster placements.
- Alexandra explained that the shelter generally requests a minimum two-week commitment to give dogs time to settle in and decompress. However, shorter foster periods of several days or a week are also accepted, as any time away from the shelter provides a break for the dog and allows staff to learn more about the dog's behavior in a home environment. Alexandra added that foster participation tends to be lower during the summer due to vacations and other summer plans.
- It was moved by Vice Chair Kim Kane, seconded by Committee Member Hollis Brannon.

b. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

4. Volunteer Program Report

a. Denise reported that the volunteers contributed 7,566 on-site hours during the last quarter, with 279 volunteers participating. She expressed appreciation for the time, dedication, and care volunteers provide to the shelter and its animals and shared that the shelter looks forward to continuing volunteer engagement.
b. Denise shared that Volunteer Coffee provides volunteers with opportunities to connect with different shelter team members. Guests, including Sam Blankenship, participate depending on the topic being discussed.
c. Denise also discussed a recent Volunteer Roundtable focused on kitten season and kitten volunteers. Topics included medical information and recognizing signs of healthy and unhealthy kittens. The roundtable provided kitten volunteers with information, an opportunity to ask questions, and a chance to connect with shelter team members.
d. Denise shared that the shelter recognizes a Volunteer of the Month, typically selecting one volunteer each month. Two volunteers from the small dog playgroup were recognized in April. Other recent honorees included a kitten nursery volunteer and a dog team volunteer who is also a green dog handler and has completed TLC training. The program recognizes volunteers for their contributions to the shelter.

Committee Member Comments

- It was moved by Vice Chair Kim Kane, seconded by Committee Member Hollis Brannon.

c. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

5. Adoption Program Report

a. Community Outreach Specialist Tammy Osborn reported that two transports were conducted in response to the Garden Grove incident. With assistance from the ASPCA, 50 cats and kittens were transported to two partner organizations in Northern California, while a local partner took an additional 19 kittens. The transports helped create shelter capacity for animals that could potentially be displaced by the incident.
b. Tammy shared that the shelter transitioned from GovDelivery to Constant Contact during the past quarter. She noted that the new platform is user-friendly, saves time, and provides improved tracking and reporting capabilities.
c. Tammy shared that more than 800 pets were placed with partner organizations, veterinarians, and other organizations.
d. Tammy reported that more than 150 posts were shared with shelter partners and networkers to help promote animals, including posts from the foster team.
e. Tammy shared a success story about a paralyzed kitten in the foster program who was unable to use her hind legs. After a post was shared about the kitten, many people expressed interest in wanting to help her.
f. Tammy shared another success story about Hottie, a standard poodle who arrived at the shelter emaciated and weak and needed emergency veterinary care. When the cause of her condition could not initially be determined, the shelter reached out to a partner with a nearby veterinary connection for additional assistance. A shelter volunteer transported Hottie to the veterinarian, where further evaluation revealed an intestinal blockage caused by a corn cob that had not appeared on X-rays. The veterinarian performed exploratory surgery and successfully removed the blockage. Hottie recovered and is now doing well.

Committee Member Comments

- It was moved by Vice Chair Kim Kane, seconded by Committee Member Hollis Brannon.

d. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

V. Director's Comments

- Director Schmidt thanked OC Animal Care staff, volunteers, foster families, rescue partners, community organizations, and community members for their work and continued support of the shelter.
- Director Schmidt noted that shelter success extends beyond what occurs inside the facility. Community services include the Pet Food Pantry, low-cost veterinary clinics through Vet Care and HEART, and partnerships with rescue organizations.
- Director Schmidt discussed the shelter's educational efforts and programming to support pet owners before animals enter the shelter and after adoption, including Wags and Wiggles.
- Director Schmidt noted that summer is the busiest season for the shelter and said staff is managing increased intake while continuing to maintain a high level of animal care. She noted that community members who find kittens may be provided with kitten kits and become same-day fosters.
- Director Schmidt discussed the veterinary care provided to shelter animals. Animals receive an exam upon arrival and every 30 days if they become longer-term residents. Care may include spay/neuter surgery, dental care, and, through rescue and nonprofit partnerships, procedures such as orthopedic surgery and dental extractions.
- Director Schmidt highlighted pilot programs and expanded foster opportunities, including Dog's Day Out and foster programming for larger dogs. She noted that other shelters have contacted OC Animal Care for information about successfully implementing similar programs and services.

- Director Schmidt thanked the Committee for its quarterly feedback and insight, noting that feedback has helped the shelter expand programming and learn how to best serve the community.

VI. Public Comments

Public Speaker #1 Michael M

Public Speaker Michael M thanked the Committee for their insights and Sam for his explanation and demonstration of dog playgroups. Michael recommended additional record-keeping for playgroups, noting that limited shelter-level quantitative research exists on their effectiveness. He stated that tracking participating dogs, combined with existing intake data and staff knowledge of dog behavior, could support a study on the benefits of playgroups in a shelter setting. Michael noted that a previous public records request did not provide the data needed for such a study and said additional recordkeeping could produce research useful to OC Animal Care and other nationwide.

VII. Advisory Committee Comments

- Vice Chair Kim Kane said she was pleased with the progress of the Dog's Day Out Program and appreciated that staff identified areas for improvement. She also expressed appreciation for shelter staff and volunteers.
- Chair Member Hollis Brannon expressed appreciation for the shelter's continued efforts to educate the Committee and community about its programs. She was pleased to see the strategic plan reflected in programs such as educational videos, behavior waivers, and post-adoption support through Wags and Wiggles. She noted that she had planned to ask about timelines and steps provided to adopters to support successful adoptions and Vice Chair Kim Kane suggested expanding the Katy Cares program for older children to include age-appropriate discussion of euthanasia and the responsibilities associated with pet ownership. She emphasized the importance of owners taking responsibility for their pets, including seeking assistance from trainers and other resources when needed, to help prevent animals from entering the shelter.
- Chair Elizabeth Cowan thanked staff for the demonstration and said it provided valuable insight into dog behavior and consent. She commended staff for their work and for building a valuable team for the community.

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

OC Animal Care

Community Outreach Committee Report

October 28, 2026

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're committed to providing essential resources, attending events, and keeping our community informed through our website, digital media, and traditional media. From shelter announcements and education to adoption, community outreach, and animal safety, we're here to make a positive impact together.

Social Media Statistics July - September)

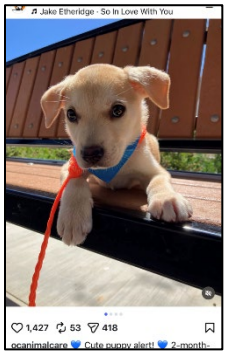
Facebook

- Added 555 new followers
- 33K followers
- 10,400 Content Interactions

Instagram

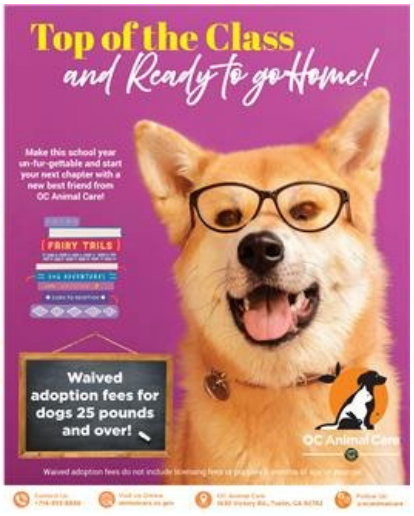
- Added 1,600 new followers
- 24.1K followers
- 1.3M views

- A cute puppy alert for a 2-month-old, Lab Retriever named Wally generated 37,128 views and reach of 10,776 across Facebook and Instagram combined.



Adoption Promotions

From July through September, the adoption promotion was extended to waive fees for dogs over 25 lb.



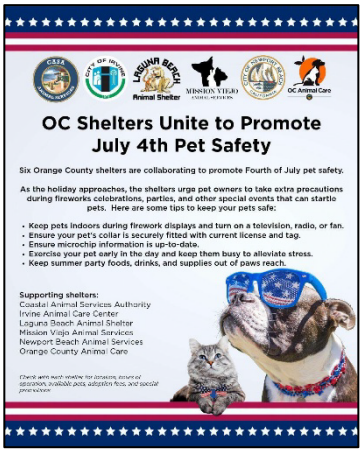
Other Promotions, Events, and Activities

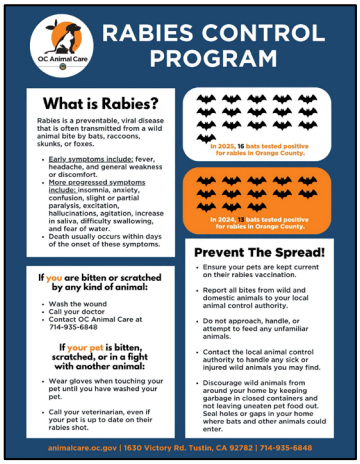
In the third quarter, the Communications Team prepared flyers and social media posts for OC Animal Care's participation in Clear the Shelters, a nationwide adoption initiative for the whole month of August and a Clear the Shelters adoption event which took place on August 15, 2026. The recap post of the event day highlighted that 38 cats, 14 dogs, 1 hamster, and 1 rabbit were adopted during the event. The event also resulted in 3 pets going to foster-to-adopt homes and one foster home.

Throughout Clear the Shelters for the month of August, OC Animal Care celebrated 791 successful adoptions, including 502 cats, 269 dogs, 11 rabbits, 4 hamsters, 2 parakeets, 2 guinea pigs, and 1 chicken.

The Team:

- Collaborated with five other OC Shelters to Promote July 4th Pet Safety.
- Extended the Cool Cat Summer adoption promotion throughout of July.
- Created and shared posts to social media to request donations and promote the Family Fur-st Pet Pantry.
- Shared posts notifying the public of the September OC Animal Care Rabies Vaccination Clinic along with information about the importance of rabies control and awareness.
- Promoted kitten and cat adoptions, fostering, and humane education for Wait, Watch, Win.
- Continued to showcase two OC Animal Care adoptable pets at the second Huntington Beach City Council meeting of each month. An OC Animal Care volunteer joined staff at the meetings bringing awareness to OC Animal Care's volunteer opportunities.





Community Events and Partnerships

This quarter, OC Animal Care participated in a variety of community events throughout Orange County, providing opportunities to connect with residents and share information about responsible pet ownership, shelter programs, volunteer and foster opportunities, and available resources. Select events also featured adoptable cats and dogs, allowing community members to meet animals in our care while learning more about adoption and services that OC Animal Care provides.

OC Animal Care participated in the Paws for a Cause adoption event in Laguna Woods on August 22, connecting adoptable pets with community members and sharing information about shelter resources. The event resulted in three successful adoptions, with two cats and one dog finding new homes.

In celebration of National Dog Day on August 26, 2026 OC Animal Care joined employees at Vans Inc. headquarters with several adoptable dogs. The event provided an opportunity for employees to meet and interact with dogs in our care while learning more about adoption, fostering, volunteering, and other ways to support shelter pets.

We successfully participated in 44 community events during this quarter.

Date	Event	Location
7/04/2026	Yankee Doodle Dog Show	Anaheim
7/04/2026	Villa Park's 250 Fourth of July Extravaganza	Villa Park
7/06/2026	Puppaccinos with Police	Tustin
7/09/2026	Fountain Valley Concert in the Park	Fountain Valley
7/11/2026	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
7/11/2026	Rossmoor Community Festival	Rossmoor

7/16/2026	Fountain Valley Concert in the Park	Fountain Valley
7/24/2026	OC Parks Sunset Cinema	Anaheim
7/25/2026	National Night Out Block Party	Cypress
7/30/2026	Fountain Valley Concert in the Park	Fountain Valley
8/04/2026	National Night Out	Lake Forest
8/04/2026	National Night Out	Fountain Valley
8/04/2026	National Night Out	Villa Park
8/04/2026	National Night Out	Placentia
8/04/2026	National Night Out	Brea
8/04/2026	National Night Out	Fullerton
8/05/2026	National Night Out	Yorba Linda
8/07/2026	Katy Cares	OC Animal Care
8/08/2026	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
8/08/2026	Rossmoor Community Festival	Rossmoor
8/13/2026	Rossmoor Community Meeting	Rossmoor
8/15/2026	Clear the Shelters Adoption Event	OC Animal Care
8/15/2026	Discovery Cube Scooby Doo Exhibit	Santa Ana
8/18/2026	Tustin Legacy Open House	Tustin
8/21/2026	OC Parks Sunset Cinema	Orange
8/22/2026	Paws for a Cause Adoption Event	Laguna Woods
8/22/2026	SoCal Swifties Club-Swiftie Reset	Anaheim
8/22/2026	Sweat to Protect	Newport Beach
8/26/2026	National Dog Day Adoption Event	Costa Mesa
8/27/2026	Presentation for the Road to Recovery	Tustin
8/27/2026	Wellness Fair for FSSI	Santa Ana

9/02/2026	Anaheim Mobile FRC Event	Anaheim
9/09/2026	City of Fountain Valley Health Fair	Fountain Valley
9/12/2026	Pet Food Pantry	OC Animal Care
9/12/2026	Rossmoor Family Festival	Rossmoor
9/12/2026	Celebrate Los Alamitos	Los Alamitos
9/17/2026	Katy Cares	Irvine
9/22/2026	Hyundai Health Fair	Fountain Valley
9/25/2026	CSUF Health Fair	Fullerton
9/26/2026	Pet Food Express Pet Fair	Huntington Beach
9/26/2026	Cypress Community Festival	Cypress
9/26/2026	World Rabies Day	OC Animal Care
9/27/2026	Pet Food Express Pet Fair	Huntington Beach
9/27/2026	Talking Neighbor to Neighbor PET-Tacular	Fountain Valley

Pet Food Pantry

The success of the Family Fur-st Pet Food Pantry lies not only in providing essential resources to pet owners in need but also in fostering a strong sense of community. This quarter we had 107 volunteers and support from various community groups.

Community volunteer groups - Breakdown by month:

July: Advantech, Chapman University, Target, and Boeing

August: Buchalter Law Firm, Nextier Insurance, Pacific Life Insurance, and Boeing

September: G4G Service Org, Solventum, and Boeing

These groups contributed more than 278 hours to staging, directing traffic, taking stats, offering educational opportunities, and connecting people with resources in the community, handing out over 61,445 lb. of food to help feed approximately 3,310 animals in need.

Monthly Breakdown of Pet Food Provided:

July: 21,460 lb. to help feed 1,218 animals

August: 18,325 lb. to help feed 943 animals

September: 21,660 lb. to help feed 1,149 animals

Pet Food Pantry donors this past quarter included:

Irvine Animal Care Center, Noble Friends Foundation, Petco Tustin, and Boeing Aerospace

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 enjoy time in a home setting as they wait for their forever family. 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 915 animals were placed into our Foster Program. These animals were supported by 1,088 foster homes, reflecting that some animals may have been placed in foster care more than once, due to either changes in foster homes or the need for multiple placements. Our foster caretakers are saving lives!

Dog's Day Out Program

Earlier this year, on March 26, 2026, OC Animal Care launched a new pilot project, Dog's Day Out. Members of the public were invited to sign up to take a shelter dog on a field trip through the program.

The program encourages participants to take adoptable shelter dogs on short field trips, giving the animals an opportunity to experience new environments, enjoy adventures throughout Orange County, and showcase their personalities to potential adopters. VCA Charities reports that the increased public exposure and improved socialization dogs experience on field trips makes them five to 14 times more likely to be adopted.

During the pilot phase, Volunteers and our community signed up to take selected dogs on a "Dog's Day Out" field trip Thursdays through Sundays from 8 a.m. - noon. Participants must be 18 years or older (families may accompany them) and have an enclosed, air-conditioned vehicle.

Participants sign-up through an online scheduling calendar and complete a one-time waiver. On the day of the outing, participants are paired with a shelter dog and receive an in-person onboarding by staff to review program expectations and guidelines. Dogs wear bright orange "Adopt Me" vests, and participants carry backpacks that include water bowls, waste bags, treats, and adoption information for members of the public who meet the dog. After the outing, participants are encouraged to complete a brief survey to help us learn more about how the dog did during their adventure.

Since the launch of the program, available appointment slots continue to fill up fast. We are so grateful for the community's support! There have been 364 outings this quarter and over 600 outings during the initial six-month pilot project phase. The program continues to be popular, with all future Dog's Day Out dates fully booked. At the beginning of November, we look forward to transitioning the pilot into a permanent program and expanding to add an additional day each week.

Since the beginning of the pilot program, Xena became a familiar friend with participants. As one of our longest-running participants, Xena grew into a true cornerstone of the program: steady, gentle, and endlessly patient.

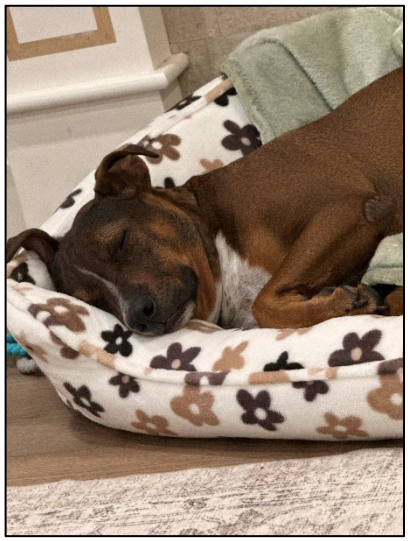
When she first joined us, Xena was a shy girl, unsure of new faces and hesitant to step into the spotlight. But with time, trust, and plenty of treat-motivated encouragement, she began to open up. Soon, we all got to see her goofy, lovable side: the playful head tilts, her soft nudges for attention, and the way she'd trot confidently toward volunteers she recognized.

Thanks to her calm nature and sweet personality, Xena quickly became our go-to pup for new Dog's Day Out visitors. She welcomed everyone from adults, children, first-timers, and regulars, always offering gentle company and a reassuring presence.

Recently, Xena made a heartwarming leap from beloved program regular to beloved family member. When she met the people who would become her adopters, something just clicked. She leaned in with full trust, a gesture we had seen so many times before, but this time it meant something new. Her new family was instantly charmed, moved by her serene personality and gentle warmth.

Today, Xena is enjoying her forever home and family exploring new routines, soaking up affection, and being cherished just as deeply as she was at OC Animal Care. While we will miss seeing her as one of our all-star Dog's Day Out companions, we couldn't be happier knowing her journey has led her to exactly where she belongs.

Xena's story is a beautiful reminder of the impact that Dog's Day Out can have, not just with our community, but for the lives of the dogs who walk beside us.



Foster-to-Adopt Program

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

Shelter dogs benefit from this program as they get to spend time in a home environment and show off their unique quirks and personalities, giving the fosters an opportunity to learn if the dog will be a good fit for their family and lifestyle. If the match is not right and the shelter pet returns, we are still able to gather invaluable information about the dog so we can pass along the information to future adopters. During this quarter, a total of 57 dogs participated in our Foster-to-Adopt Program. These animals were supported by 68 homes, reflecting that some dogs may have participated in Foster-to-Adopt more than once. Thirty-seven dogs were adopted through the program.

As part of the program, staff gather and review statistics such as number of participants, reasons for not adopting, and the return rate of those adopted. As with any programming, analysis is based on quantitative as well as qualitative information.

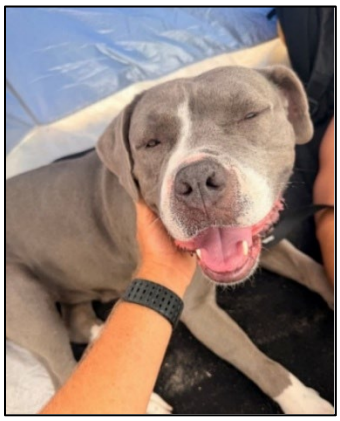
Tally (A1945918) is currently thriving in a Foster-To-Adopt home. Her foster met her during a Dog's Day Out visit, where Tally made such a positive impression that the visitor returned later the same day to begin the Foster-To-Adopt process. Tally's charm and gentle nature continue to shine as she settles into this exciting new chapter.

Large Dog Foster Program

The Large Dog Foster Program provides shelter pets a change of scenery by enjoying a "Stay-cation" in a foster parent's home. Our fosters complete an application and are paired with a shelter pet based on preference and compatibility. Fosters are provided with essential supplies (i.e. martingale collar, ID tag, food, and leash) and support from our Foster Team with weekly check-ins, training guidance and resources.

Foster dogs are continuously promoted as available for adoption on our website and through social media from photos, videos, and information gathered during our weekly check-ins. Our foster dogs are provided with extra opportunities to find their forever homes by attending off-site adoption events. During this quarter, a total of 6 dogs participated in our Large Dog Foster Program.

Priscilla (A1950609) arrived to us as a very sweet but extremely shut-down girl, unsure of her surroundings and hesitant to trust. Despite her fear, staff and volunteers immediately recognized her gentle nature and praised her often, hoping to help her confidence grow. Because she needed a quieter, more consistent environment, Priscilla was placed in traditional foster in May 2026, and it made all the difference. With patience, routine, and lots of calm encouragement, her foster parents helped her slowly come out of her shell. Little by little, she began to show her true, loving personality.



Thanks to her foster's dedication, Priscilla reached an important milestone. Her foster parents successfully found the perfect adopter for her in August 2026. She continues to settle into her forever home with a family who understands her needs and celebrates the wonderful dog she has become. Priscilla's journey is a reminder of how transformative foster care can be for dogs who simply need time, stability, and gentle support.

<u>Sittin' with Kittens</u>

This weekly seasonal series launched on May 23 this year and continued through the duration of the quarter as a way for our fosters to sit alongside their foster kittens who have recently graduated from the program and are now made available for adoption. There is nobody better to speak to the potential adopters about the kittens' quirks and personalities than our amazing foster caretakers!

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 played a vital role in supporting our animals and daily operations by providing exercise, grooming, handling, training, socialization, and enrichment for animals awaiting adoption. They also assisted with facility cleaning, laundry, kitten socialization in the nursery, and the distribution of resources through our monthly Pet Food Pantry. Volunteers also helped to showcase dogs and cats/kittens at our numerous offsite adoption and educational events.

Volunteer Contribution Hours Logged:

July1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

Total Volunteers with Service: 282

On-Site Volunteer Hours: 8,666

Volunteer Tasks - Hours Logged

Dog Walking/Enrichment Hours: 6,438

Cat Assistance/Enrichment Hours: 840

Support Services: 580

Grooming: 179

Rabbit Team: 363

Miscellaneous: 266 (This includes: special projects, transporters, and clinic volunteers)

This is an extraordinary number of hours and we are so proud of our dedicated volunteer team.

Volunteer Roundtable

We held two quarterly Volunteer Roundtable in July and September. These meetings serves to help volunteers keep apprised of shelter promotions, events, and news as well as celebrating the work that volunteers do. Important updates are shared by various members of the Management Teams and volunteer feedback is encouraged.

Brush-A-Thon

This quarter has seen the launch of our bi-weekly Brush-A-Thon events which take place in OC Animal Care's Event Yard. Dog Team volunteers are encouraged to bring their pups by the yard for a brush out or simply some quality time receiving belly rubs. Supplies are provided and volunteers are educated on which tools are appropriate for different coats. This has added a new level of enrichment for our dogs and is being spearheaded by our Grooming Team and Support Services Volunteers. This quarter, 58 dogs were groomed/enriched at Brush-A-Thon events.

Katy Cares

As part of our 26/27 goals, two meetings took place this quarter to explore exciting opportunities to grow and expand the existing Katy Cares program, with a special focus on engaging older students. While the current program offers young schoolchildren an interactive and educational introduction to humane education, the group is now working to develop engaging, age-appropriate programming for middle and/or high school students.

This collaboration has brought together dedicated Katy Cares volunteers with backgrounds in education, COC Vice Chair Kim Kane, and staff. Together, the team is creating meaningful, informative, and engaging humane education materials designed to inspire older students, deepen their understanding of animal welfare, promote adoption, and foster compassion and responsible pet ownership. This expansion is an exciting next step in helping OC Animal Care reach more students and make a lasting impact in the community.

Volunteer of the Month

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

Recommended Action: The Committee receives and files the report.

Adoption Partners Program

Through cooperative actions, the Adoption Partner Program seeks placement for animals in need of rehabilitation or additional support to be successful in their forever homes. This report reviews steps taken to increase and improve adoptions and communication between OC Animal Care and Adoption Partners.

Transports

This quarter, we organized a transfer to several of our partners in the Pacific Northwest. We did this with the help of Greater Good Charities. They coordinated with us and other shelters to arrange for 35 kittens to be transferred from OC Animal Care to other adoption facilities.

These trips are always amazing to see come together. Our staff and volunteers come together to do all the planning, crate building, food packing and paperwork organizing tasks that are necessary when moving a large group of pets. Everyone arrived bright and early to get them loaded and on their way. The transport truly demonstrated teamwork at its best. It is such a rewarding experience for all involved.

We were also assisted by our Idaho partner, who graciously offered to take in 24 dogs, including a few of our long-term residents. The team celebrated this special chapter in their journey toward finding their forever families.

Our team appreciates our partners that work so hard to help our pets. We are always all so excited to see our pets get new opportunities.

OC Animal Care Animals prepared and awaiting departure to receiving partners in the Pacific Northwest.

Partner Updates

In July, OC Animal Care responded to a call for animals in need due to poor living conditions. As a result, 140 animals of various species were rescued by the Field Services team and entered our care.

As a team, OC Animal Care's departments worked together to safely transport and care for the animals. The Shelter and Clinic teams provided species specific housing, food, medical care, enrichment, and other supplies to support the animals while in our care. Over time, some of the animals became more comfortable and began showing signs of recovery and individual personalities.

Thanks to the Shelter Programs/Rescue Team and with the support from rescue and adoption partners, all 140 animals were provided pathways to continue their specialized care. This case highlights the important role OC Animal Care plays in the community.

Special highlight – four animals from the case, three birds and a pig, now live at the OC Zoo full time!

Partner Adoptions

This quarter, more than 750 pets were placed with non-profit rescue groups, local veterinarians, or with partner municipal and/or humane organizations. We sent out over 200 postings to our partners and networkers asking for assistance with our special needs pets not including underage kittens postings that are being sent by our Foster Team. Our amazing partners continue to be a major role in our success in placing hard to adopt pets.

Shelter Medical Pets Program

We continue to have the Medical Pets Program to help injured pets that come into OC Animal Care requiring specialized treatment. We continue to reach out to veterinarians and welcome their interest in participating. This quarter we had two medical pets who received treatment.

Animal	Treatment	Treatment Cost
Trix	Femur Fracture/Tail Amputation	$4,500
Twix	Corrective Surgery for Femur	$1,000
	Total:	$5,500

Success Story

Spike came to us earlier this year, as a stray with no owner information. He was having a difficult time in the shelter environment and struggled to trust new people. We reached out to our partners to help him find placement. One of our partners that specializes in husky breeds took him into their organization, worked with him to help him decompress/build confidence and started looking for just the right home for him. After some time, the Adoption Partner was successful in finding a placement for Spike. Spike is now living with his new, loving adoptive family! We love hearing updates from our partners about happy endings like Spike's.

Spike's (A 1949464) photo in a kennel at OC Animal Care and Spike's photo of outside of the shelter environment.

Recommended Action: The Committee receives and files the report.