

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

ANIMAL SERVICES



Santa
Barbara
County
Animal
Services

2022



A message from the Director....

The end of 2022 also marked the end of my first three months leading animal services. In just the short time I've been here, I've seen over and over again that this is the most animal-loving community I've ever gotten to serve.

Animal shelters across the country have been on a wild roller coaster ride since the start of the Covid pandemic: At the beginning, while everyone was sheltering in place, pets were adopted and fostered in record numbers and many shelters were almost empty. Today, as relief programs are ending and costs continue to rise for everything from housing to vet care to food, the trend is reversing as more and more people are facing the difficult decision to give up their pets for economic reasons. As Santa Barbara County's largest open-admission shelter, we are the safety net for these pets in need. In collaboration with many community and rescue partners, we are committed to doing everything we can to keep people and pets together and helping every animal in need.

We finished 2022 with a 90.6% live release rate. We pledged to rebuild our volunteer program, increase transparency, and improve access to vet services across the county. We created paperless processes, completed all-staff disaster training, and provided our staff with expert training in database efficacy, volunteer management, and safe, humane handling and care of sheltered dogs.

December was our busiest month of the year for volunteer involvement, calls for service, foster placements, and adoptions and we headed into 2023 with significant momentum to drive positive changes, including the implementation of VOIP phone system with one toll-free number, the ongoing expansion of services at our Lomopoc shelter, improved animal control response times, an overhaul of our website, and an increase in licensing compliance which keeps us all safe from rabies and helps return pets to their families quicker.

Thank you Santa Barbara County for your ongoing support of the pets and people that live here!



When Charlotte and her friend Linda drove off for a vacation with Linda's beloved 29-year-old macaws Heckle and Jeckle, they envisioned themselves soaking up some sun and browsing in the quaint shops of Solvang, California. But partway through their vacation, they were in a tragic car accident.

Charlotte and Linda were rushed to the hospital, where Linda tragically succumbed to her injuries, and Charlotte received emergency medical care. Her parrots were transported to us. Nearly three months after the accident, Charlotte was reunited with her beloved family members.

Nothing is more joyful than reuniting a pet with a loving owner and it's our great honor to serve people like Charlotte.



THE COUNTY'S LARGEST ANIMAL SHELTER



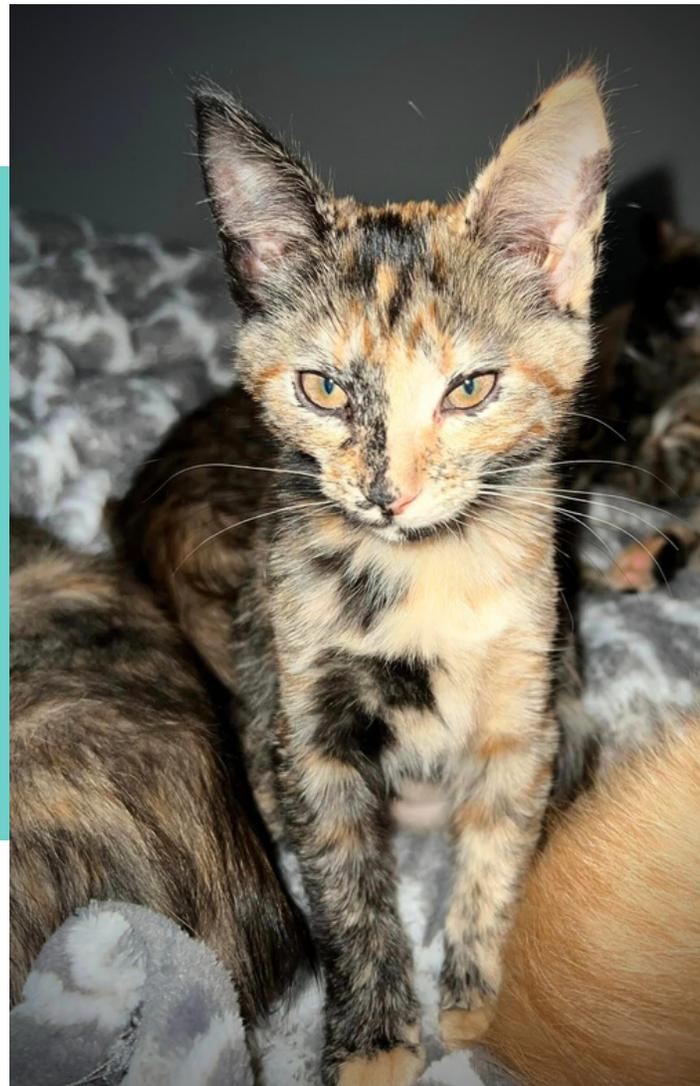
- 3,463 lost and stray pets
- 657 surrendered pets
- 223 community cats
- 175 pets confiscated by animal control officers
- 58 kittens and puppies born in care
- 25 transfers of pets into care

**1,246 PETS WERE HOUSED
IN FOSTER HOMES!**

SBCAS is building the largest foster caregiver network on the Central Coast.

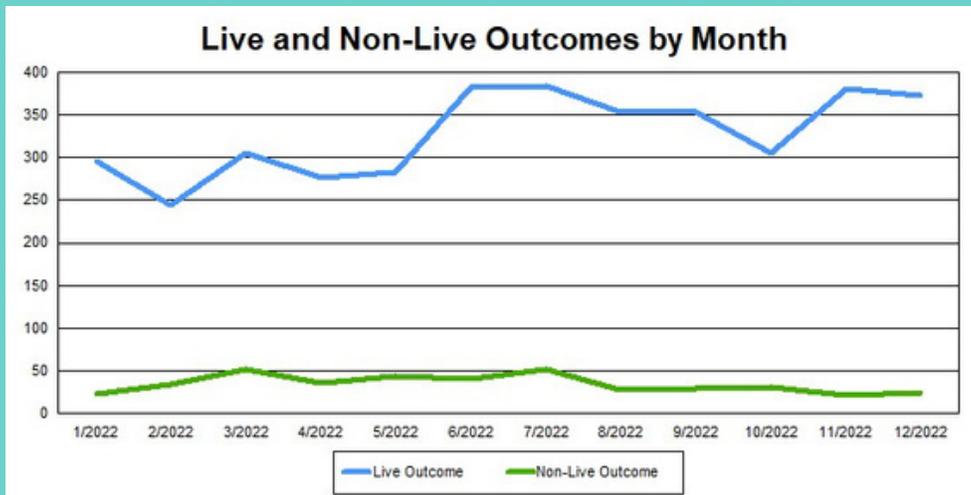
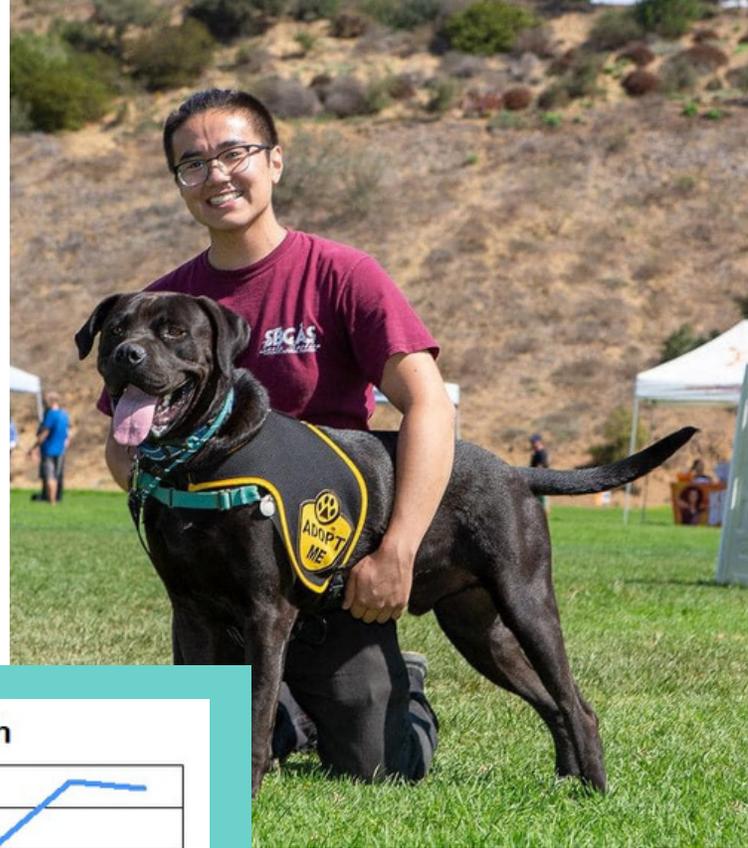
Foster caregivers open their hearts and homes to pets in need, keeping them out of the shelter and away from the stress and noise that kenneling creates.

If you would like to become a foster caregiver and help us save lives today, sign up at linktr.ee/sbcanimalservices



LIVE OUTCOMES

- 1,934 pet adoptions
- 969 pets returned home
- 718 transferred to rescues
- 250 community cats
- 65 wild animals safely relocated



28% OF LOST AND STRAY PETS WERE REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES



Our new licenses have QR codes to ensure anyone who finds a pet can quickly identify your pet and receive any contact information you've provided, to return your family member home as quickly as possible. We're also preparing to launch Petco Love Lost as our primary Lost and Found database which will increase the ease of returning lost pets home.



Volunteers
donated
13,879 hours

ANIMAL CONTROL



Our animal control officers provide enforcement, education, support, and resources to our communities. These lifesaving heroes spend their days protecting public safety, rescuing pets from cruelty and neglect, responding during disasters, and connecting with pets and people in our community.

Officers responded to 9,476 calls for service

Services	Number of calls	What are they?
Bites, investigations, and potentially dangerous animals	2,728	Animal control officers are highly-focused on public safety
Law enforcement assistance and confiscations	1,322	Officers assist the fire, sheriff and police departments whenever animals are involved
Lost and stray pets	1,332	They reunite stray pets with their families immediately
Reports of abuse, neglect, or hoarding	898	Officers investigate and follow up on all reports of neglect and abuse
Routine and emergency transportation	1,844	When injured pets need to get to emergency vets, it's our officers who take them there
Essential public services and education	1,352	Officers participate in public education opportunities, pick up deceased animals, and a variety of other duties

VETERINARY CARE



Our vets performed:

- **8,552 exams**
- **2,399 surgeries**
- **10,225 vaccinations**
- **834 lab draws**
- **163 public services**

Across the country, there is a critical and growing shortage of veterinarians. SBCAS is lucky to have a committed group of doctors who support the work we do and provide oversight for the medical care of our pets.

FUN FACTS

- **Over 50 different types of animals came into our care including two hedgehogs, two quails, a chameleon, four goats, a gopher, and a chinchilla.**
- **The five most common pet names in 2022 were Luna, Coco, Bella, Max and Blue, followed with a five-way tie for Milo, Princess, Charlie, Toby and Bruno.**





Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the pets and people of Santa Barbara County!

It takes the whole community to care for pets and we have so many ways for you to help!

Looking for **career**?

Want to **volunteer**?

Looking to **foster or adopt**?

linktr.ee/sbcanimalservices

Taxpayer dollars provide public health and safety services, and ensure basic animal care to sheltered pets. Donations directly to us, or to our partners, provide specialized medical and behavioral support beyond what the County can do alone. Please consider donating today.



Santa Maria Animal Services
805-934-6119

548 W Foster Rd
Santa Maria, CA 93455-3615

Monday through Saturday
9 am to 4:45 pm
Closed 11 am to noon

Lompoc Animal Services
805-737-7755

1501 W Central Ave
Lompoc, CA 93436-2734

Friday through Monday
10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Santa Barbara Animal Services
805-681-5285

5473 Overpass Rd
Goleta, CA 93111-2034

Monday through Saturday
9 am to 4:45 pm
Closed 11 am to noon

