

VENTURA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

Saving Lives Each And Every Day



Meghan Schade Photography
@mschadephoto



2021 Annual Report

600 Aviation Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010 | 670 W. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley, CA 93065

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A message from the Director...

JACKIE ROSE

Dear Friends,

Well, it's been another challenging year, but I am proud to report that, despite the hurdles, we remained fully committed to our life-saving mission and made notable accomplishments, a few of which I would like to share with you:

- Completed a monumental, two-year effort to revise all animal related county ordinances to ensure they were up-to-date with current practices.
- Partnered with Ventura County Police Department to rescue over 200 neglected animals in the Lockwood Valley area.
- Sponsored ten (10) spay and neuter clinics throughout Ventura County yielding nearly 300 surgeries for owned animals.
- Provided the spay/neuter component to our county's Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program to 220 community cats.
- Brought our entire pre-adoption process online, allowing for virtual sign-ups and text message chat with potential adopters.
- Deployed two (2) animal control officers 460 miles north to El Dorado County to provide mutual aid animal rescue during the Caldor Fire.
- Hosted a very successful curbside pet food pick up in Simi Valley where over 1,000 pounds of food was provided to 175 households in need.
- Established new partnerships with local pet supply businesses to help provide critical pet food assistance to families in need.
- Increased our volunteer and foster network.
- Held a TRICK-OR-TREAT event where children came to the Camarillo Shelter to deliver treats to our animals.



- Broke a fundraising record at our annual Porters For Pups fundraiser hosted by Institution Ale Company. \$7,061.50 was raised during this month-long event.
- Launched our inaugural HAVE-A-HEART GIVE-A-HEART Valentine's Day fundraising campaign where local pet related businesses sold donation hearts on our behalf. \$2,845 was raised during this fundraising effort.
- Last, but not least, we successfully placed 93.5% of animals who entered VCAS in 2021!

These are just a handful of accomplishments despite the challenge we faced this past year. None of these successes would have been possible without the dedication of our incredible staff, volunteers, and members of the community who support us each and every day.

I wish you all a healthy and safe year ahead!

Jackie



About Us

Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) is a life-saving, open-admission municipal organization that provides contract services to the residents of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, Ventura, and all unincorporated areas of Ventura County. Our principle objectives are to safeguard the community through the sheltering of stray animals and the suppression of the rabies virus.

Some of the services provided to the community include: animal sheltering, rabies suppression, pet licensing, pet adoptions, lost & found services, enforcement of animal laws/ordinances, cruelty investigations, low-cost vaccination clinics, fee-waived spay and neuter clinics, volunteer and foster opportunities, emergency disaster response, community cat spay/neuter services, cat trap loan program, and so much more!

VCAS is supported by the Animal Services Foundation of Ventura County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to our lifesaving mission.



WE PLACED
93.5%
 OF THE ANIMALS
 IN OUR CARE.

2021 Highlights

6,015	TOTAL ANIMAL INTAKE
4,956	• Stray Pets
444	• Surrendered Pets
1,294	Lost Animals Reunited
2,682	Pet Adoptions
43,668	Phone Calls Received
42,453	Pet Licenses Processed
66,401	Volunteer & Foster Hours Donated

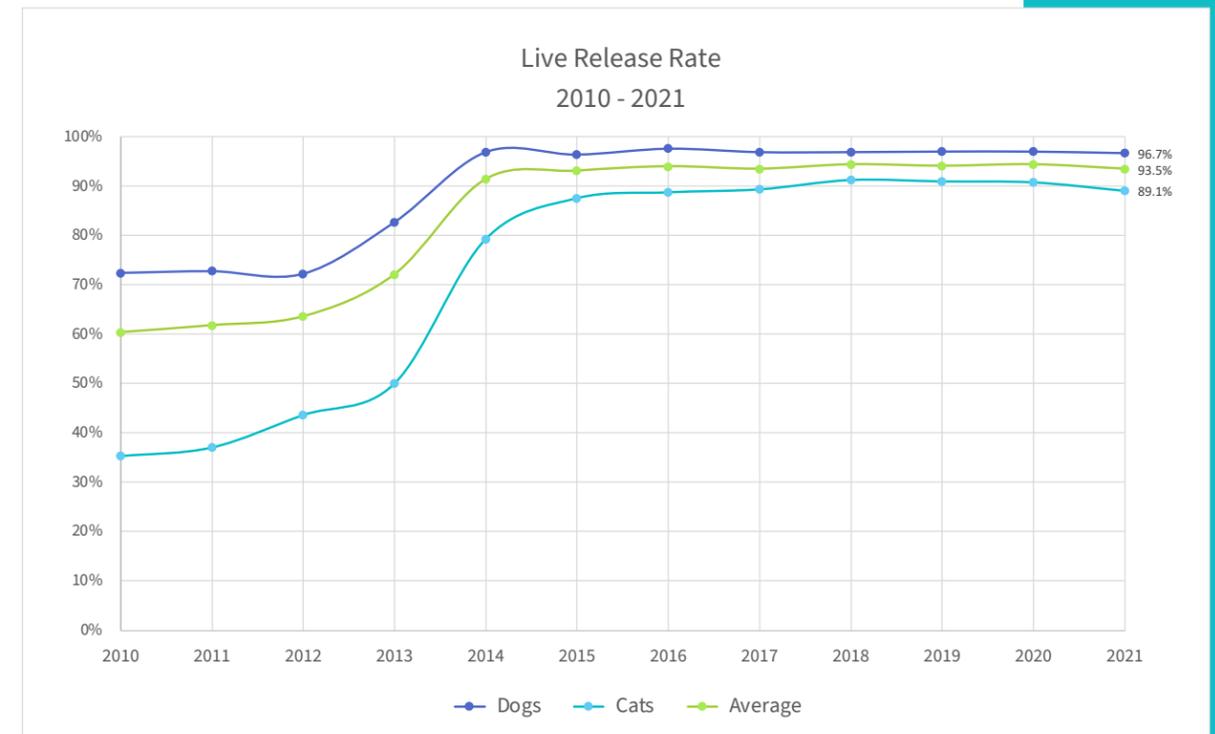


Our Life-Saving Mission

Ventura County Animal Services embarked on our life-saving mission in 2012 when we ended the humane euthanasia of healthy or treatable animals. Since that time, we have saved tens of thousands of animals by creating pathways to positive outcomes. Through the dedication of staff and volunteers, we have built programs and created positions to ensure animals in our care remain healthy and happy during their stay.

One metric commonly used in the animal welfare industry to measure success is the Live Release Rate (LRR). We are proud to share that VCAS achieved a LRR of **93.5% in 2021** and we have not moved below 90% since 2013. But this metric is only one data point. This save rate is not a goal to reach, but rather the result of hard work, innovative programing, and a firm dedication to all life-saving activities.

We are extremely proud of what we have accomplished over the years.



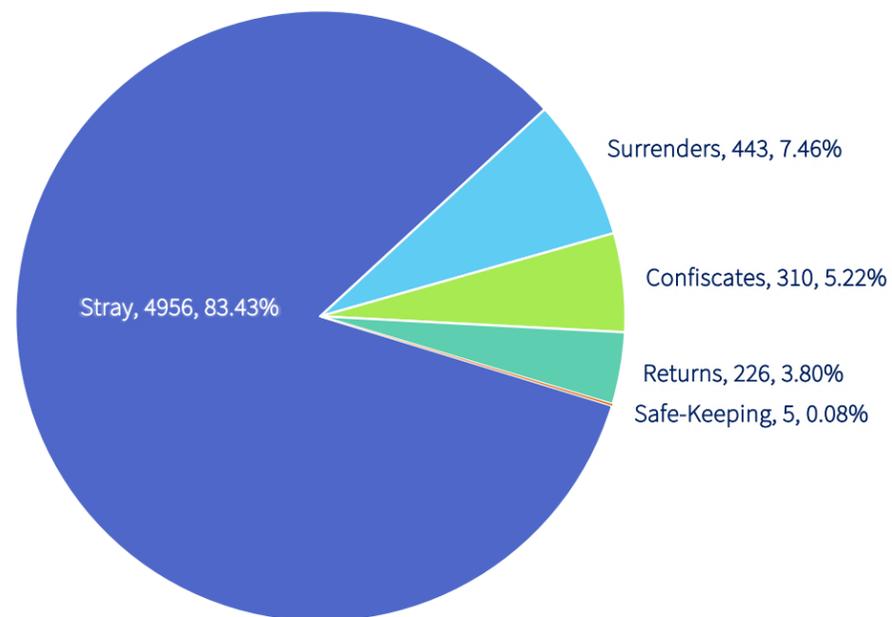


New Arrivals

Approximately sixteen (16) animals came into our care each day in 2021. Our compassionate staff ensured each animal was treated with respect and any major health issues were addressed by our dedicated on-site veterinary team.

Upon intake, animals are given their vaccinations and have their picture taken. Their photo appears on our website moments after their arrival to give their families as much time as possible to find them and bring them home.

INCOMING ANIMALS: 5,940



Surrendered Animals

Surrendering an animal is a decision pet owners do not make lightly. The reasons behind their decisions are complicated and vary greatly. The most common reasons for surrender are medical issues and housing.

Our pet retention program is designed to provide alternatives to surrender and we are thrilled to share that we were able to help **1,694 animals** stay with their families in 2021 due to our efforts.

When animal owners choose to surrender, we gather as much information about their pets as possible in order to match them with a new, loving forever family.





Reunited

Our pets are our family! When they go missing we would do anything to find them. Therefore it gave us great pleasure to have reunited an astonishing **1,294 animals** with their families in 2021. This high success rate is due, in large part, to microchip implants and ID tags.

According to the **Shelter Animal Count** (a national database for animal welfare agencies), 40.7% of stray dogs and 5.1% of stray cats are reunited with their owner. We are thrilled to share that VCAS exceeds the national average with **58% of stray**

dogs and 14.3%* of stray cats being reunited with their families 2021!

So, why is the redemption rate for cats so low? Pet parents often allow their cats to roam the neighborhood and may not always return quickly. So, when cats go missing, their absence does not sound the same alarm as when dogs go missing. As a result, their families don't begin searching the shelter for them as quickly as they would for a missing dog. Cats who are not reunited with their owners during their stray hold, are made available for adoption by the general public.

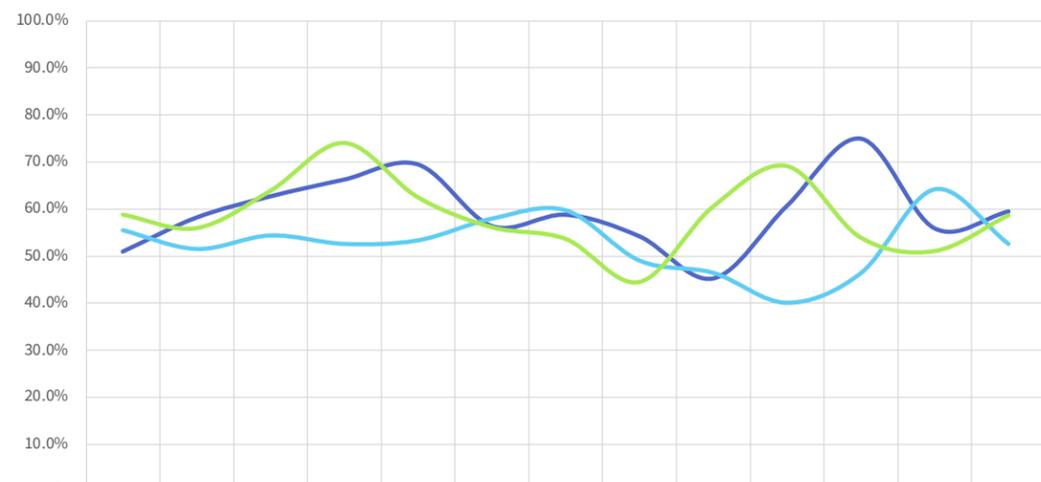
*Does not include kittens under 2 months of age.

 **1,294**
Animals Reunited with Their Owners

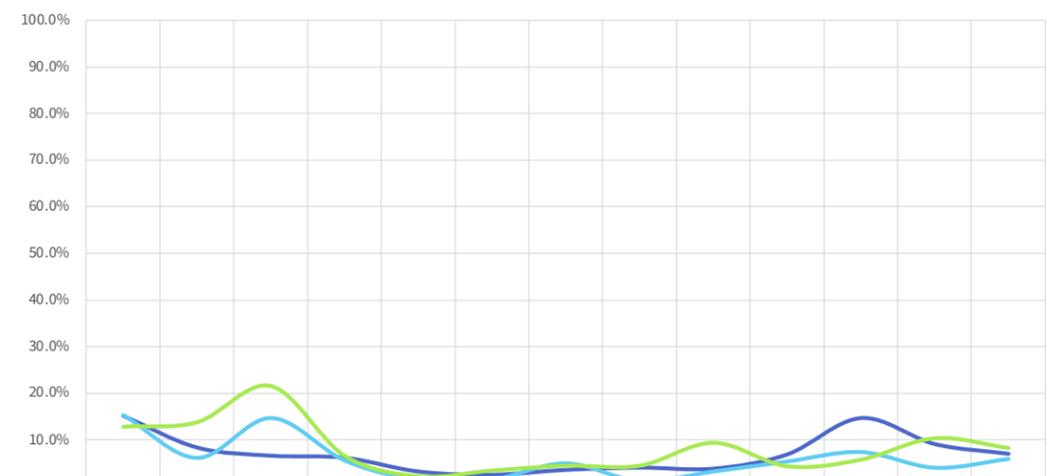
 **1,156**
 **103**
 **4**
 **31**



Percent of Stray Dogs Returned to Their Owner
Comparison 2019-2021



Percent of Stray Cats Returned to Their Owner
Comparison 2019-2021





Microchips Help Reunite Families

It's a fact that animals sometime get out. But there is a misconception that most animals entering a shelter are surrendered. The fact is, the overwhelming majority of animal intakes (**83% in 2021**) are animals who have become lost.

When these animals enter our shelter, VCAS staff scans them for a microchip implant, hoping to hear that reassuring tone indicating the presence of a microchip. According to the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) (AVMA), only **21.9%** of unmicrochipped dogs are reunited with their families, while **52.2%** of dog reunions are due to a microchip implant. Additionally, the AVMA reports, "...animals that weren't returned to their owners, most of the time it was due to incorrect owner information (or no owner information) in the microchip registry database..." VCAS would like to remind pet owners that microchips are effective if they are registered with correct and current information.



Coco, a white miniature poodle, was happily reunited with her family after they had been separated for two (2) months. This happy reunion was due to a microchip implant which was linked to his family and allowed us to bring them together!

In addition to dogs, VCAS ensures other species, such as rabbits and cats, leave our care with a microchip implant. Most animals can be microchipped and we see the daily benefits of microchipped our animals as they are returned to their owner quicker. VCAS encourages all pet owners to have their pets microchipped. This can be done with your local veterinary hospital or clinic.



Pet Retention

We are extremely proud of the success of our Pet Retention program. This program is dedicated to assisting low-income families and has helped nearly **7,500 animals** remain with their families since the program's creation. This assistance often includes help with temporary pet boarding fees, rental deposits for pets, behavior training, and veterinary expenses. Sometimes, families simply require community resources they did not know were available to them, such as low-cost clinics.

Services offered through this program are funded by the Animal Services Foundation of Ventura County, our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting our life-saving mission. If you, or someone you know, is in need of Pet Retention services, please visit www.vcas.us/petretention or contact us at keepmypet@ventura.org.



Adoptions

Ventura County Animal Services is well-known throughout the community for making wonderful adoption matches! Due to the isolating nature of the pandemic, we pivoted to an online adoption sign-up format which has resulted in the adoption of **thousands** of shelter animals!

Matching people with animals is very rewarding. Our VCAS Adoption Counselors provide comprehensive counseling and are fully transparent regarding the animal's behavior, temperament, activity level, and medical needs. Through these thoughtful conversations, we successfully matched **2,682 animals** with new, loving families in 2021.

Those wishing to adopt a shelter pet can easily view available animals online at www.vcas.us/pets, and sign-up to speak with an adoption counselor at www.vcas.us/adopt.





Adoption Stories

“

I just wanted to send you an email to let you know we are absolutely in love with Daisy! She is such a sweet girl and already seems to love living with us at our ranch house. She slept all cozy in bed with our daughter all night long. She enjoyed a cheeseburger yesterday on our 2.5 hour drive home to Paso Robles, and she also had her first puppuccino from Starbucks!

Thank you for allowing us to rescue Daisy! She is a doll! - Daisy's Mommy

”



“
We adopted Ender on 9/11. My son Kane made a film for this year's National PTA Reflections competition. This year's theme is, "I Will Change the World By..." Kane chose kindness as a way to change the world and uses Pet Adoptions as an example of kindness.”



I'M GOING HOME



“

I adopted Crouton a week ago from the Camarillo shelter and wanted to thank you all so much. I have anxiety and depression and she has already changed my life. I've never had a puppy, always wanted one, and finally bit the bullet. I just want you to all know that she is so incredibly loved and cared for, and will always be. She is perfect, she hardly barks or cries and is very easy to potty train.

Thanks to your shelter for making it such a seamless experience. I had no idea how badly I needed her. - Crouton's Mommy

”



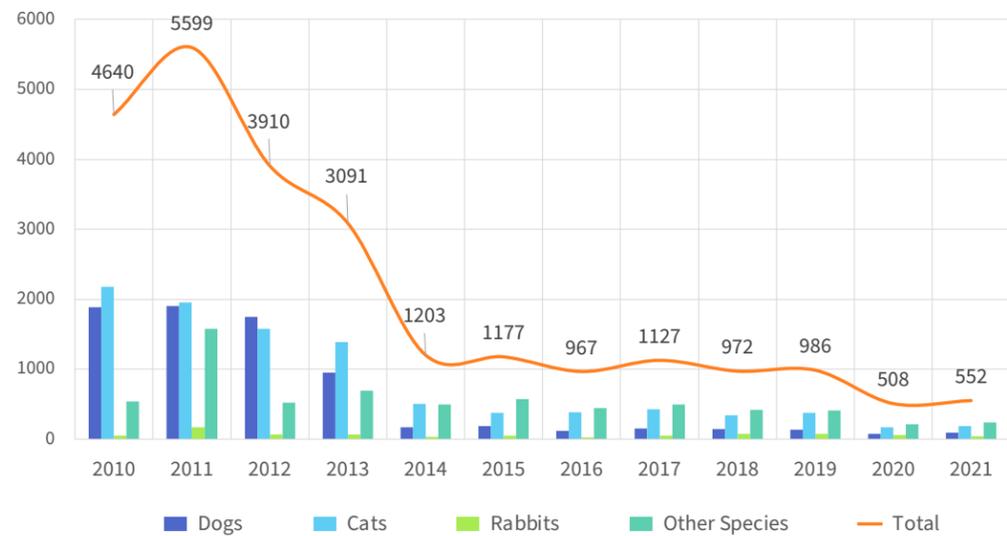
Humane Euthanasia

The decision for humane euthanasia is not taken lightly as we are 100% committed to saving lives! Since 2012, no healthy or treatable animal has been euthanized for any reason including lack of space and/or how long they have been with us. Humane euthanasia is reserved only for animals with medical issues for which they are irremediably suffering and/or have behavioral concerns which pose a significant public safety risk. For these animals, Ventura County Animal Services compassionately provide humane euthanasia in a respectful, loving and peaceful manner.

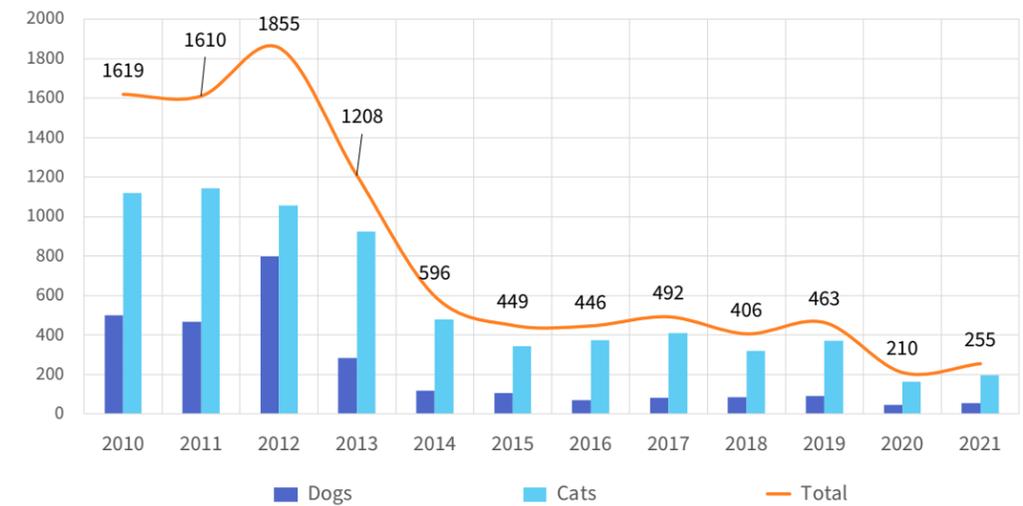
We are proud to report that the overall humane euthanasia rate continues to be very low. In 2021, **we placed 93.5% of animals** in our care! This success is due to our continued commitment to progressive and innovative programming which often leads to positive outcomes.

IN 2021,
WE PLACED
93.5%
OF THE ANIMALS
IN OUR CARE!

Total Humane Euthanasia



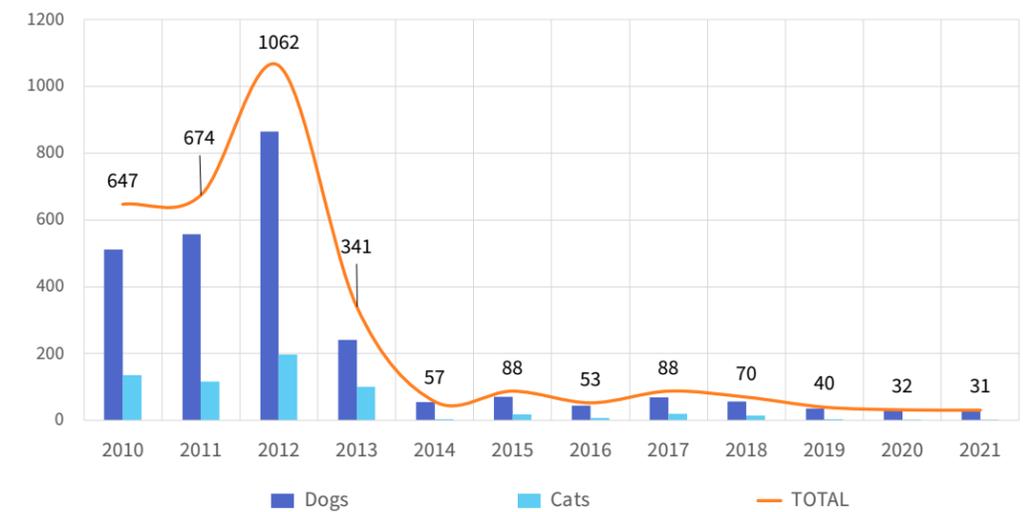
Humane Euthanasia -- Medical



532
Humane Euthanasia (Medical)
 57 Dogs
 198 Cats
 36 Rabbits
 241 Other Species

31
Humane Euthanasia (Behavioral)
 30 Dogs
 1 Cat
 0 Rabbits
 0 Other Species

Humane Euthanasia -- For Behavior



Volunteers

Our volunteers participate in every department within our agency. They train animals, provide enrichment, take dogs on the town for a day off-site, work with difficult animals, provide comfort to timid pets, assist our veterinary team, take pictures and video to help market animals for adoption and so much more! We are successful due to the efforts of these dedicated individuals. They give their **hearts and souls** to every animal they touch.

 **12,993**
Volunteer Hours Donated



Foster Program

VCAS is very fortunate to have such a dedicated county-wide network of foster parents who open their hearts and homes to thousands of animals each year! The majority of our foster parents care for underage or underweight kittens who often require around-the-clock care. We are equally fortunate to have foster parents who care for animals who have special medical and/or behavior issues, or who simply need a quiet place to rest. Foster families are **100% essential** to the success of our life-saving mission!

We're always looking to expand our network of animal-loving families! For more information about our foster program, please visit www.vcas.us/foster.

 **53,408**
FOSTER CARE
HOURS DONATED

 **1,176**
Animals Entering
Foster Care  119
 998
 51
 8





Caldor Fire

Mutual Aid Effort
El Dorado County, CA
August, 2021

In addition to providing emergency animal rescue and response in the County of Ventura, VCAS often provides mutual aid to neighboring communities during declared disasters.

Veteran Animal Control Officers, Fernando Serratos and Tony Ochoa, were deployed 460 miles north to El Dorado County to provide mutual aid animal rescue support during the Caldor Fire area which burned 221,775 acres from August 14 - October 21, 2021.

Officers Serratos and Ochoa spent sixteen (16) days driving across hundreds of acres in an effort to care for and rescue animals in need. Conditions within

the evacuation zone were harsh. Although the fire had passed in the areas they were deployed to, the ground below their feet sometimes crackled where the fire continued to smoldered. Despite the difficult conditions, Officers Ochoa and Serratos pushed through to **rescue and care for hundreds of animals during their relief effort.** Although the physical conditions were sometimes challenging, it was deeply rewarding to reunite so many animals with their families.

Officers Ochoa and Serratos gained emergency animal rescue experience during a number of wildfires over the years:

2013	Spring Fire
2017-18	Thomas Fire
2018	Hill/Woolsey Fires
2019	Easy/Maria Fires
2020	North Complex Fire (Butte County)
2021	Caldor Fire (El Dorado County)



Officer Ochoa rescuing a cat left behind after the community evacuated in El Dorado County. The cat was happily reunited with his family!



Photos from 2021!



ROSE
 NAME: ROSE GENDER: FEMALE
 AGE: 6 BREED: MALTESE MIX
 WEIGHT: 9 lbs. ANIMAL ID: A777353

Rose came in matted and with a subcutaneous mass near right shoulder. She's since been groomed and had the mass removed. She has some eye issues and a heart murmur, so she needs a special person to adopt and LOVE her. ♡



AFTER



BEFORE

VENTURA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES
 600 AVIATION DRIVE
 CAMARILLO, CA 93010
 ADOPTION HOURS:
 1:00PM - 6:00PM
 TUESDAY - SUNDAY
 CLOSED MONDAYS
 WWW.VCAS.US | INFO@VCAS.US



Photos from 2021!



"Every night we sit outside with a glass of wine and talk to our ducks."





VENTURA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

www.vcas.us | 805.388.4341 | info@vcas.us

Camarillo Animal Shelter

600 Aviation Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

Simi Valley Animal Shelter

670 W. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley, CA 93065



@VCAAnimalServices

Join the Team!

If you have a place in your heart to care for animals in need, please join us on our life-saving journey! If you're looking to work directly with shelter animals, come volunteer or foster for us! If you're unable to help in these ways, please consider making a donation. Your gift helps ensure our life-saving programs have the critical supplies needed to keep our animals healthy and happy until they have found a loving home.

Ways to give:

1. Visit www.vcas.us/Volunteer to sign up to be a volunteer at either animals shelter in Camarillo or Simi Valley.
2. Visit www.vcas.us/Foster to help care for shelter animals in your home.
3. Visit www.vcas.us/Donate to make a monetary gift.
4. Visit www.VCASFoundation.org/Donate to make an donation "In Memory/In Honor of" a person, pet or occasion.
5. Visit www.vcas.us/AmazonWishList to purchase specific items we need. Items purchased from our Amazon Wish List can be shipped to:

Ventura County Animal Services
600 Aviation Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010

Visit www.vcas.us/ways-to-help to learn of other ways you can join the team and help save lives! Thank you all for your dedication to our life-saving mission! We could not do what we do without your ongoing support!

Be well and stay safe,

Ventura County Animal Services





“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

MAHATMA GANDHI

