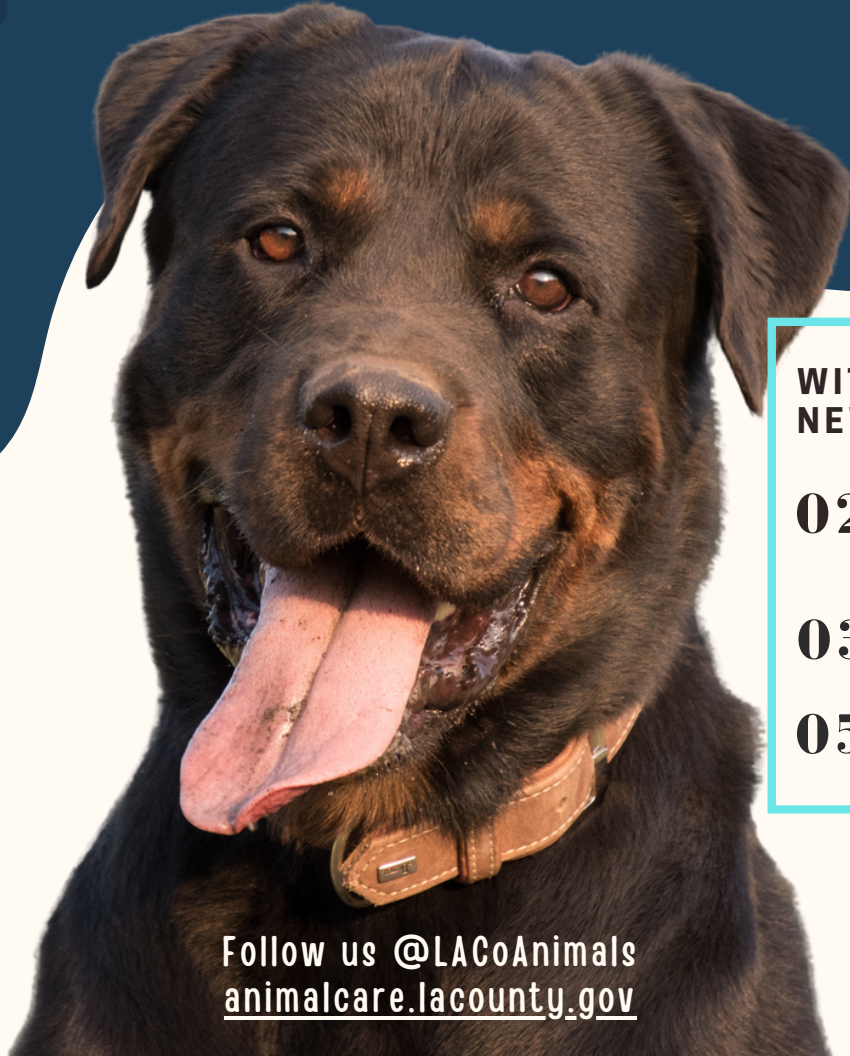


# County of Los Angeles Animal Care & Control

## County to City Newsletter

A Publication for City Officials

Fiscal Year 2022-23 | Quarter 1



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[animalcare.lacounty.gov](http://animalcare.lacounty.gov)



## WANT YOUR PIO TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR MAILING LIST?

DACC regularly sends out emails to city partners regarding upcoming events and promotions, updates to our services, and other pertinent information related to our operations. Does your city's communication team need to be added to these mailings? Please let us know!

**South County:** [aperez2@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:aperez2@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

**North County:** [bkim@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:bkim@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

## WEB CONTENT TOOLKITS

As part of its effort to better meet community needs, DACC has reviewed how its services are represented on each contract city's website so that city residents can more easily and best understand how to take advantage of DACC services. DACC has begun reaching out to cities to discuss the custom web content toolkits that have been developed for each city.

While any city staff are welcome to attend these meetings, we are looking to connect with each city's communications team or webmaster since the toolkits were developed to assist with website content. We hope that providing these templates will make it as seamless as possible for cities to share information about DACC services!



### DACC Promotions & Events:

<https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/calendar/>

## FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BILLING RATES

The new Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 billing rates went into effect on July 1, 2022. As a reminder, dog and cat impounds are charged at a flat rate per a six-year step-up plan, culminating in a rate that will allow the County to recover the cost of these services. As part of the six-year step-up plan, cities will be charged an additional day each year for each dog and cat impound. The actual cost of providing County animal housing for a cat or dog was recently calculated by the County Auditor-Controller to be \$710.13 per impound, or \$61.41 per day, due to the average length of stay of 11.6 days (based on five years of historical data). Most cities will be charged at Step 2 which is calculated by multiplying six days by \$61.41 for a total of \$368.46 per impound.

The per capita charge for full-service cities decreased in FY 2022-23 based on staff hours captured at animal care centers. This annual charge covers costs not captured in housing or field services and pertains to staff

time spent on providing alternatives to animal impoundment. This includes time spent by staff to provide counseling, referral to services, or other resources offered to avoid animal impoundment, thus reducing housing costs for cities. The per capita fee also partially covers the time DACC medical staff spend on assisting pet owners via the 24/7 medical helpline.

Due to rises in private vet costs caused by staffing shortages and burnout among veterinary professionals, DACC anticipates a minimum of 50% and a maximum of 150% cost increase in private veterinary fees to cities in FY 2022-23. An estimate of private veterinary costs was provided for each city (Attachment D of the billing package) and was based on an overall average cost increase of 100% in private veterinary fees.

These new rates are explained in the letter and package sent to your city on June 28, 2022. Please reach out to Whitney Duong at [WDuong@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:WDuong@animalcare.lacounty.gov) if you have additional questions.

Thank you for your continued partnership!



# BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY AWARDS GRANT TO DACC

Best Friends Animal Society generously awarded DACC a significant grant to increase positive outcomes for cats and dogs. DACC will be dedicating some of the funds to waive fees associated with adoption for DACC's Adoption Partners (i.e., rescue groups). By waiving these fees, we anticipate the number of animal adoptions by Adoption Partners will increase, thus reducing the number of animals in care centers and increasing our staff capacity to care for animals that require the greatest attention. DACC continues to strategize on how to best use these grant funds to increase positive outcomes for animals in our communities.



## LICENSING AMNESTY PERIOD

As a means of increasing licensing compliance, DACC will be offering a license amnesty period for residents in participating partner cities. During this period, penalty fees will be waived for any pet owners who are purchasing or renewing their pet license(s). The amnesty period will be in effect from **August 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022**.

DACC offered its last amnesty period in early 2021, resulting in an overall 19% increase in license compliance. On June 30, 2022, DACC reached out to each city and requested they complete a two-question survey to indicate whether they'd like to participate.



## NEW THREE-YEAR PET LICENSE!

DACC now offers a three-year cat and dog license option for pet owners purchasing or renewing their pet license(s). The three-year license better aligns with rabies vaccinations,

which are generally due every three years, and will be more convenient for pet owners as they'll no longer have to remember to renew their pet license annually. This also reduces costs to cities since the processing fee will only be charged once rather than three times over three years. Reminders will continue to be sent via letter and email to notify residents of expired and soon-to-expire licenses.



## PETS ARE FAMILY (PAF) PROGRAM

The Pets Are Family (PAF) program aims to keep families together by making critical resources available to pet owners in need. PAF is accomplished through six key initiatives designed to address pet owners' most common needs. These include:

**24/7 Medical Helpline** - A support call center that counsels pet owners and directs them to appropriate resources, helping prevent potential animal surrenders.

**Pet Food Pantry** - Provides free, high-quality pet food to pet owners via care centers, at outreach clinics held at parks, or via special drive-through events.

**Good Neighbor Cat** - Provides free spay/neuter surgery and vaccinations to local organizations and residents.

**Care Voucher** - A grant-funded program that provides vouchers that can be redeemed for up to \$500 in basic veterinary care.

**Vet@ThePark** - Uses a mobile veterinary unit to provide free medical wellness services at parks, making services more convenient and accessible to residents.

**Spay/Neuter Trust Fund** - Offers vouchers that may be redeemed at veterinary offices to offset the cost of spay/neuter surgery.

Most PAF programs are made possible thanks to various grants from nonprofit partners. As a reminder, these programs are only available to residents of full-service sheltering cities.

## DACC APPOINTS NEW NORTH COUNTY SENIOR VETERINARIAN

DACC is thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Rachele Saelor to the position of North County Senior Veterinarian! Dr. Saelor has been with DACC for eight years and has worked at all animal care centers, most recently based out of the Palmdale Animal Care Center and heading the Outreach Team.

Dr. Saelor is a member of SCVMA, SCFVMA, and was a Shelter Medicine Fellow with UW/UCD Shelter Medicine Fellowship in 2016-17. She is also a certified scuba diver, which allows her to enjoy a “different world of animals” under the sea!



## WANT TO MEET?

Please contact the Contracts and Grants Division (CGD) staff below:

### South County:

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[aperez2@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:aperez2@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

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## contact us

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### Animal Care and Control Managers:

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### Non-Public Communication Center - North

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