

About Us

Welcome to the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Center (RCAC). Our Center cares for more than 5,000 animals annually including dogs, cats, small pets and wildlife. Our department is a part of the City of Rancho Cucamonga's public safety team which includes Police, Fire, Animal Services and Community Improvement.

Vision, Mission & Values

Mission: Creating PAWSitive impact by enriching the lives of animals and people.

Vision: Inspiring a compassionate community where animals and people thrive together.

Values for RCAC:

R-Resilience in overcoming obstacles to rescue, rehabilitate, reunite and rehome animals.

C-Compassion to provide above and beyond care for the animals and people we serve.

A-Achieving goals to lead, advance, and promote the highest standards in animal welfare.

C-Commitment to enhance community partnerships, public safety and humane education.



How do we "Create a PAWSitive Impact"?

We are Creative and Innovative. We are creative, innovative and driven to go the extra mile to help the animals in our care. *Close to 90% of Dogs and Cats Have a Positive Outcome.* While we are proud of those statistics, our goal is to continue to explore responsible ways to advance animal care and save more lives.



We have a Kitten Nursery. In 2015 the RC Animal Center opened a 24-hour neonatal kitten nursery to care for kittens 1 day old to 8 weeks old. Recipient of the 2016 Helen Putnam Award of Excellence in the category of Public Trust, Ethics and Community Involvement, the RC Kitten Nursery is the only municipal Kitten Nursery in the Inland Empire. Since opening, it has provided a safe haven for thousands of orphaned kittens. This program is largely funded from donations and volunteer support.

We are a Teaching Hospital. The RC Animal Center has a comprehensive veterinary program to care for the homeless pets we are charged with. Our surgery suite and state of the art veterinary equipment allows our Veterinary Team to provide the highest quality of care for animals that need medical attention prior to adoption. Through a partnership with Western University College of Veterinary Medicine, the Animal Center also serves as a teaching hospital for 3rd and 4th year veterinary students.



We Value Volunteers! The Animal Center has a robust volunteer program. Volunteers over the age of 18 assist with clerical duties, participate in animal socialization and enrichment programs, attend outreach and community events, and intern with our Veterinary Services Division. The Pet Cadet Program provides opportunities for volunteers ages 12 to 18 to volunteer with their parent or guardian during summer months in the Kitten Nursery.

We Promote Public Safety. Our Animal Service Officers work 24/7 to rescue, protect and provide for animals in need. The Animal Services Officers take pride in making a difference in the lives of people and pets in the community.

We Fundraise! Established in 2016, the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Care Foundation raises funds to offset the cost of animal care, provide additional support to help animals get adopted, and saves funds for the long-term success of the Center.



Euthanasia Philosophy

The Rancho Cucamonga Animal Center is an open admission municipal shelter. Unlike other shelters that may turn animals away that do not meet their adoption criteria, the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Center accepts and cares for all animals residing in the City regardless of the animal's health, behavior, or adoptability. The decision to humanely euthanize an animal is not taken lightly and is based upon many factors including public safety, the animal's known history, observed behavior, medical concerns and prospect for a good quality of life. The Animal Center takes a team approach to look for opportunities for each individual animal prior to euthanasia, including partnering with many 501c3 rescue groups to aid us in animal placement. The staff and volunteers consider euthanasia as an outcome of last resort when all other options are exhausted.

Animal Center History:

The Animal Center was built in 1993. However, due to an unstable economy and reduction of revenue from the state to local government, the City postponed the opening of the Animal Center as a City run department and continued its contract for services with the County of San Bernardino.

In 2005, a number of concerned citizens began discussions with the City Council to take direct management of animal services and institute a more progressive program. The City hired Nathan Winograd of No Kill solutions to provide consultation services and help transition the animal services program from a contract service to a city operated animal services program. In early 2006 staff were hired, and a training program was instituted. The Rancho Cucamonga Animal Care and Adoption Center was officially opened on May 1, 2006, with Field Services following on July 1, 2006.