

Contra Costa Animal Services

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**ANIMAL
SERVICES**
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Animal Services Update

Public Protection Committee

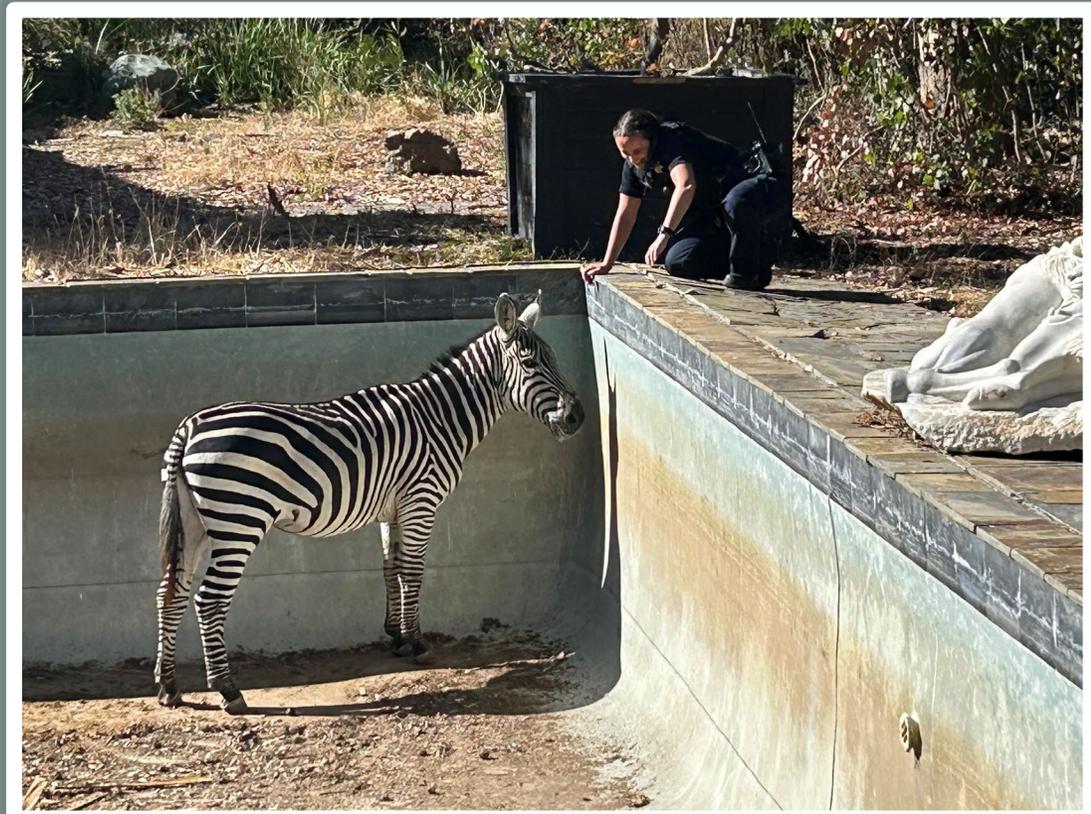
March 16, 2026

Ben Winkleblack
Animal Services Director

Challenges identified

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- Field Services
 - Protracted response times
- Shelter Services
 - Trend of increasing animal intake
 - Overcrowding in the shelter
- Community Services
 - Increased need for veterinary care in the community due to affordability and access



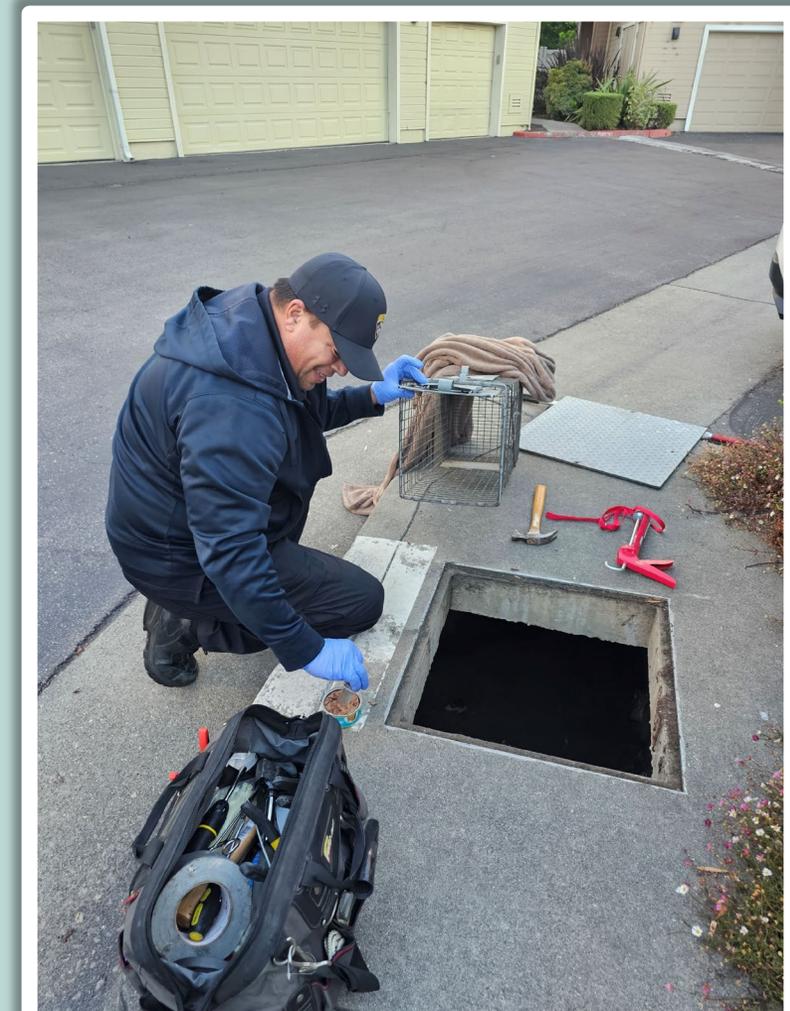
Every day presents a new set of challenges that our team is ready to respond to.

Approach to challenges

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Field Services

- Two new Field Services Officers currently in training
- New deployment of Field Officers
 - Assigned to either Patrol or Investigations Unit
 - Patrol Officers respond to Priority 1 calls Countywide
 - Investigations Officers respond to all other calls in dedicated "beat area"
 - Community policing model for better service
- Updated training protocol for new Field Services to focus on Animal Welfare
- Updated training protocol for existing Field Services staff
 - 6 members of Field Services currently in Cruelty Investigator training
 - Field Staff completing training to meet California certification requirements



Lt. Morales rescuing a cat that became trapped in a storm drain

Approach to challenges

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Shelter Operations

- **Pathway planning to decrease length of stay**
 - Meeting 4 times weekly with outcome stakeholders to plan outcome pathways at time of impound and ongoing assessment to shorten stay
 - Leading to faster decisions and better animal care
- **Refocusing Animal Center Coordinator roles**
 - Dog focused – intake diversion, transfer partner coordination
 - Cat focused – intake diversion, TNR, transfer partner coordination
 - Adoption – evaluate, streamline, improve adoption experience
 - Enrichment and Dog Foster coordinators – both in Certified Professional Dog Trainer program
 - Expand capacity of both programs
- **Volunteers**
 - Expanded accessibility for volunteers
 - Removed the time commitment for volunteer shifts
 - Streamlined the volunteer onboarding process
 - Shortened time and focused the steps to become a volunteer
- **Shelter accessibility**
 - Animal Services will be open 7 days a week beginning March 15!



Our team focuses on meeting the needs of the animals that come into our care.

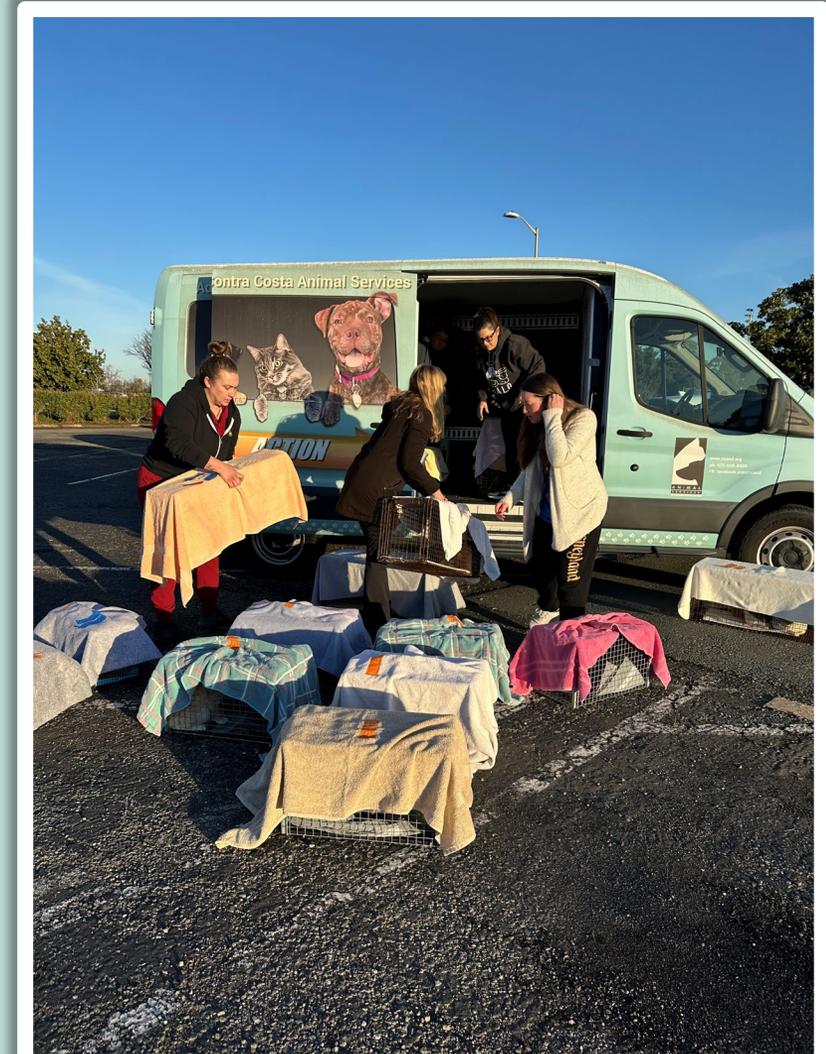
Approach to challenges

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Medical Services

- Michelle Mehalick DVM premises holder and DEA registrant as of February 1, 2025
- Dr. Mehalick auditing and advising medical division
 - Updated approach to surgical and medical practices to increase capacity and scope of care
- TNR (Trap Neuter Return) program performed 1,200+ procedures in 2025
 - Anecdotally, this reduced the number of kittens impounded
- Surgery rooms have been updated for efficiency
- Measure X will fund approximately 2,700 surgeries
- High-Quality High-Volume CE training for veterinarians and RVT scheduled for later this year

*CCAS staff
loading
community cats
for spay/neuter
in the early
morning hours.*



Community & Outreach Services

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Outreach Services

- 143 total community events fiscal year-to-date
 - 7 Free Microchip Clinics
 - 7 Free Vaccination Clinic
 - 58 Offsite Adoption Events
 - 26 Humane Education Events
 - 42 Community Presentations
 - Targeted in areas with high number of stray animals
- Access to Services
 - Collaboration with Contra Costa County cities and partner animal welfare agencies has allowed us to bring even more services to county residents.

Measure X

- \$750,000 in total funds provided 2024-2027
 - Year To Date:
 - \$376,057 total funds utilized
 - Pet Retention Services: 462 animals served of 369 families
 - Vaccine Clinics Hosted: 8 clinics hosted in high intake areas with 1,669 animals served
 - Spay and Neuter Services: 1,470 animals altered



CCAS Volunteers greet clinic attendees in Concord.

Return to Owner (RTO) Campaign

Reunification of Lost Pets with their Families

- Return-to-Owner campaign launched Nov. 2024.
- Targeted social media ads in high-intake communities (English & Spanish) and formation of strategic partnerships that drive traffic to lost pet resources and free clinics to enhance pet health, safety, and retention.
- **Result:** After 12 months, CCAS experienced a 16.7% increase in shelter pets being reunited with their families.

RTO	FY23-24	FY24-25
Nov. – Oct.	996	1,163

Contra Costa Animal Services
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Lost Pet? We Can Help!

If your pet goes missing, Contra Costa Animal Services (CCAS) should be your first call! Our team is here to help reunite lost pets with their families. Visit our website to report a lost pet, check our lost-and-found database, and get tips on searching for your furry friend.

- ✅ Report a lost pet
- ✅ Search our found pet listings
- ✅ Learn how to prevent pet loss with microchips & licenses

Act fast! Go to www.ccasd.org or call us at 925-608-8400. Let's bring your pet home! 🐾🐾

It happens... pets get lost.

But we are here to help.

Check out the tools on our website to:

- Search found pets in our shelter
- Report your lost pet so we can keep an eye out
- Get tips on finding lost pets in your neighborhood

[LEARN MORE](#)

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ANIMAL SERVICES

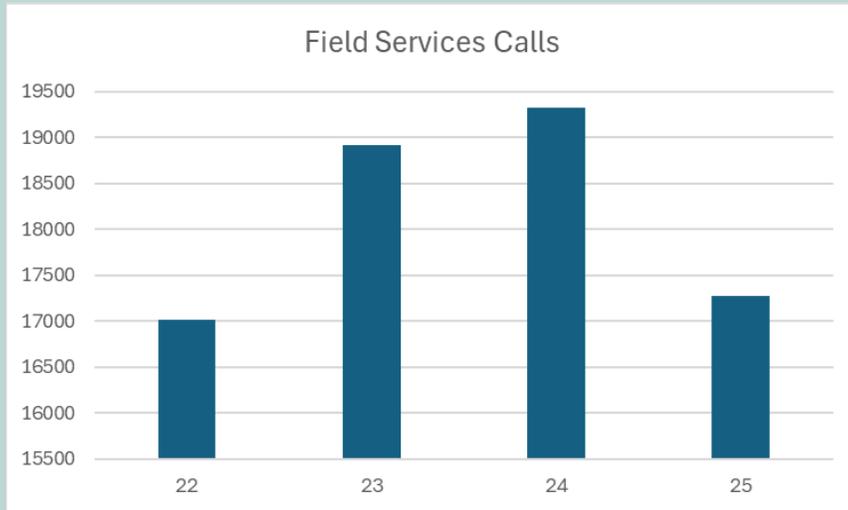
Our free Pittsburg Microchip and Vaccine Clinic was a huge success with lines around the block! 🐾

We proudly served **243 families** and helped **404 pets** – 279 dogs and 125 cats.

(Left) Example of CCAS's RTO campaign social media ad.

(Above) Images from CCAS's free microchip and vaccination clinic in Pittsburg.

Field Services

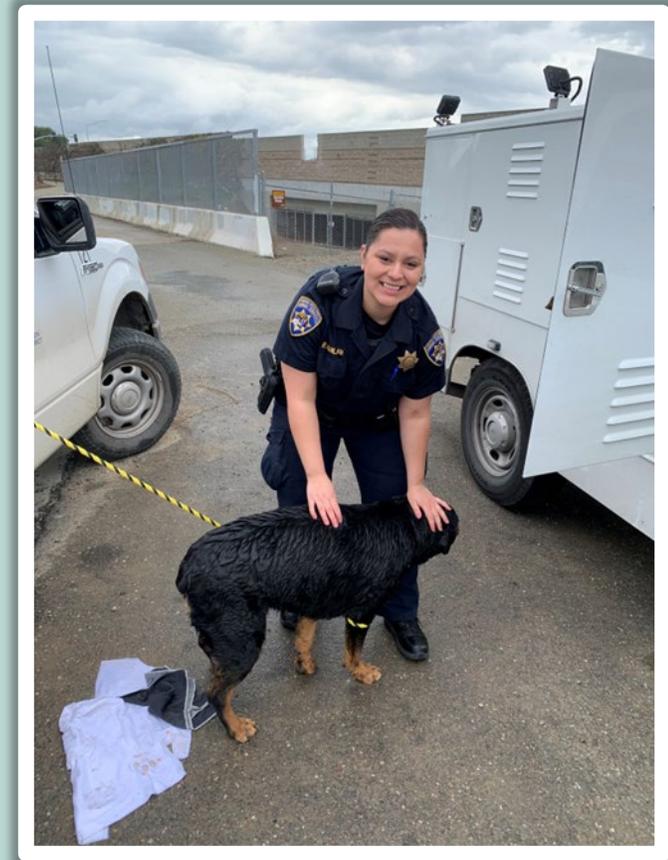


Active DA/PDA Permits by City

Data Date: 03/06/2026

ALL CITIES

	Total Animals
Total	108
BRENTWOOD	8
CLAYTON	2
CONCORD	7
DANVILLE	5
EL CERRITO	1
HERCULES	1
LAFAYETTE	2
MARTINEZ	4
MORAGA	3
OAKLEY	12
ORINDA	1
PINOLE	4
PITTSBURG	8
PLEASANT HILL	4
RICHMOND	15
SAN PABLO	4
SAN RAMON	6
UNINCORPORATED	14
WALNUT CREEK	7



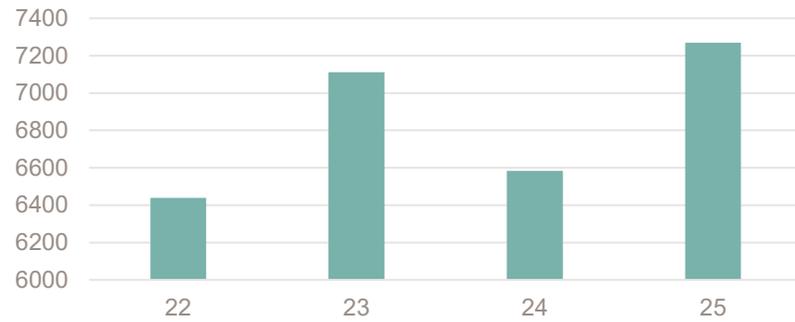
Above: Officer Aguillar securing a stray dog that was reported at large.



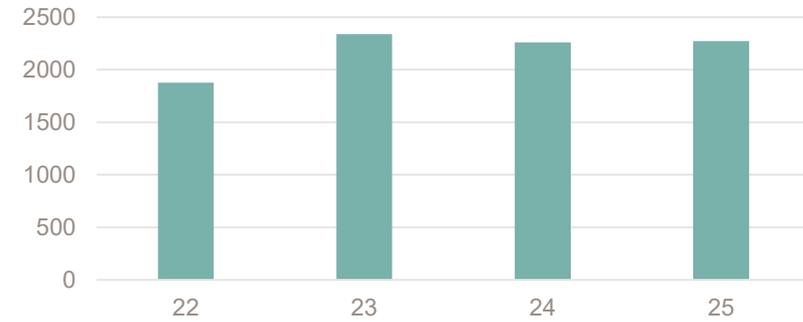
Left: CCAS staff secure a stray horse for transport back to its owner.

Shelter Statistics by Calendar Year

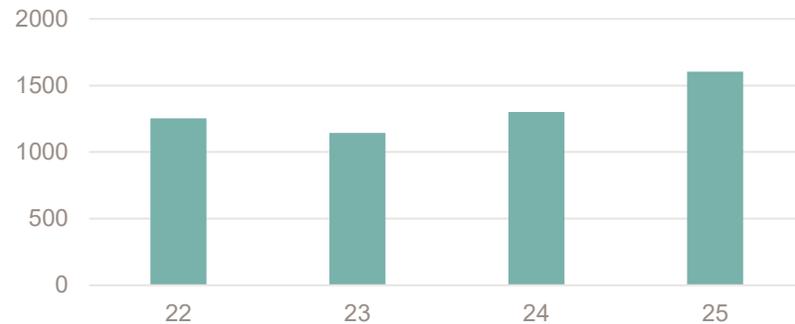
Animal Intake



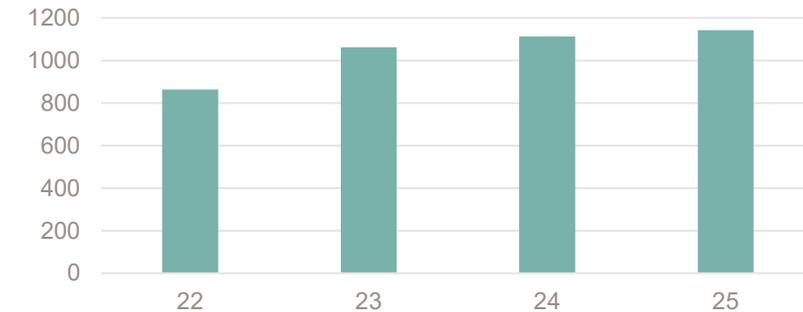
Adoptions



Rescue Partner Transfers



Euthanasia

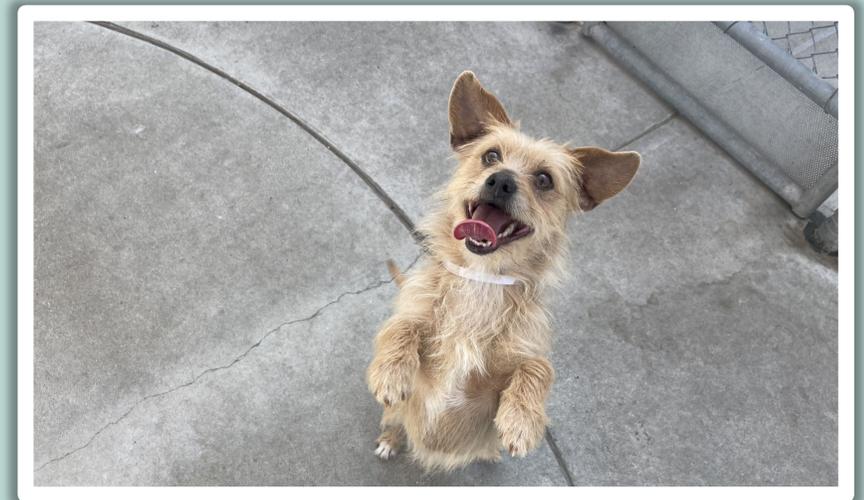


Ongoing

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Increased Services

- Improved care of animals in the shelter through enrichment, increased volunteer support, enclosure improvements, and expedited medical care
- Ongoing relationship building with transfer partners
- Planned training for staff including Fear Free Animal Handling, HQT/HSN for Medical, Cruelty Investigator for Field, Certified Professional Dog Trainer for shelter staff
- Refinement of Pathway Planning through AI
- Continued spay and neuter capacity building
- Shelter open 7 days a week
 - Accessibility of services for residents
 - Increased opportunity for adoption, reunification, and licensing



Pathway planning allows us to create a plan for each animal based on their needs and circumstances.

Thank You

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Please contact me with any questions:
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