



Animal Campus Commission

Voting Members

Cathedral City

Councilmember Nancy Ross **Chair**
Councilmember Ernesto Gutierrez
(Alternate)

City of Coachella

Councilmember Dr. Frank Figueroa
Councilmember Yadira Perez (Alternate)

City of Desert Hot Springs

Councilmember Daniel Pitts
Councilmember Dirk Voss (Alternate)

City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Greg Sanders
Mayor Bruce Whitman (Alternate)

City of Indio

Councilmember Glenn Miller
Community Member Kim Hardee
(Alternate)

City of La Quinta

Councilmember Steve Sanchez
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick
(Alternate)

City of Palm Desert

Councilmember Karina Moreno
Mayor Evan Trubee (Alternate)

City of Rancho Mirage

Mayor Pro Tem Michael O'Keefe

Vice-Chair

Councilmember Eve F. Edelstein (Alternate)

District 4

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, 4th District
Ty Peabody (Alternate)

Non-Voting Members

Animal Samaritans Ex-Officio

Tom Snyder, CEO
Board Member Aurora Wilson (Alternate)

Loving All Animals Ex-Officio

Michael Phipps Russell
Jessica Castillo (Alternate)

Palm Springs Animal Shelter Ex-Officio

Dan Rossi Executive Director
Tamara Hedges - President

County Staff

Director Mary Martin
Asst. Director Dr. Kimberly Youngberg
Asst. Director Travis Engelking
Lesley Huennekens
Dr. Itzel Vizcarra
PIO Veronica Perez
Exec. Asst. Kasey Saldarelli
Outcomes for Pets Kristen Hassen & Team

COMMISSION AGENDA

PLEASE NOTE THAT ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA MAY RESULT IN ACTION TAKEN BY THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION

The next Coachella Valley
Animal Campus Commission Meeting is:

Commission Meeting
Thursday, October 01, 2026
9:30 a.m.

In-Person

DRD Metro 8 Desert Recreation
81-725 Highway 111, Indio, CA 92201

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (CHAIR or VICE CHAIR)

- CHAIR: NANCY ROSS, CATHEDRAL CITY
- VICE CHAIR: MICHAEL O'KEEFE, CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT AND ABSENT ARE RECORDED.

3. UPDATES TO AGENDA

STAFF SHALL BE ASKED FOR ANY UPDATES ON THE AGENDA ITEMS AS SUBMITTED.

- NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: TRAVIS ENGELKING HAS JOINED DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES
- ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT COMMISSION; DECEMBER 03, 2026.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF ANY PRECEDING ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION MEETING IS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO THE COMMISSION.

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES, AUGUST 06, 2026

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS:

THIS IS THE TIME AND PLACE FOR RCDAS STAFF, EX-OFFICIOS, AND COMMISSION MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BALANCE OF THE COMMISSION TO DO SO.

5.1 RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

DIRECTOR MARY MARTIN AND ASST. DIRECTORS DR. KIMBERLY YOUNGBERG AND TRAVIS ENGELKING

- RCDAS DEPARTMENT AND CONSULTANT UPDATES
 - DIRECTORS REPORT PRESENTATION

5.2 EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- ANIMAL SAMARITANS: ([Ex-Officio](#)) TOM SNYDER, CEO OR ALTERNATE
- LOVING ALL ANIMALS: ([Ex-Officio](#)) MICHAEL PHIPPS RUSSELL OR ALTERNATE
- PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER: ([Ex-Officio](#)) DAN ROSSI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TAMARA HEDGES, PRESIDENT

5.3 COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- [Fourth District](#)
- [Cathedral City](#)
- [Coachella](#)
- [Desert Hot Springs](#)
- [Indian Wells](#)
- [Indio](#)
- [La Quinta](#)
- [Palm Desert](#)
- [Rancho Mirage](#)

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

THIS IS THE TIME AND PLACE FOR ANY PERSON WISHING TO ADDRESS THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION ON ITEMS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS COMMISSION. COMMENTS REQUIRE A SPEAKER CARD INCLUDING NAME FOR THE RECORD AND ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER PERSON, UNLESS DETERMINED OTHERWISE BY COMMISSION CHAIR.

- STAFF SHALL NOTE ANY SUBMITTED WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE ANIMAL CAMPUS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2026**.

LOCATION: DRD METRO 8 DESERT RECREATION 81-725 HIGHWAY 111, INDIO, CA 92201

POSTED AGENDA WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE ON BOTH DISTRICT 4 AND ANIMAL SERVICES WEBSITE AND AT THE COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS.

8. ADJOURNMENT

For copies of agendas and past meeting minutes please visit

RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT 4

[Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission | Supervisor V. Manuel Perez Fourth District County of Riverside \(rivco4.org\)](#)

OR

RCDAS.ORG

[Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission | Riverside County Department of Animal Services](#)

Accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act are available upon request. (Advanced Notice is Needed). Please contact Kasey Saldarelli via email at Ksaldare@rivco.org, 72 hours before the meeting, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Riverside County Department of Animal Services Update

October 1, 2026

Mary Martin,
Director



Animal Services
Counselors,
Nadine & Maddie
with Blink
1-year-old
Husky, Rescued



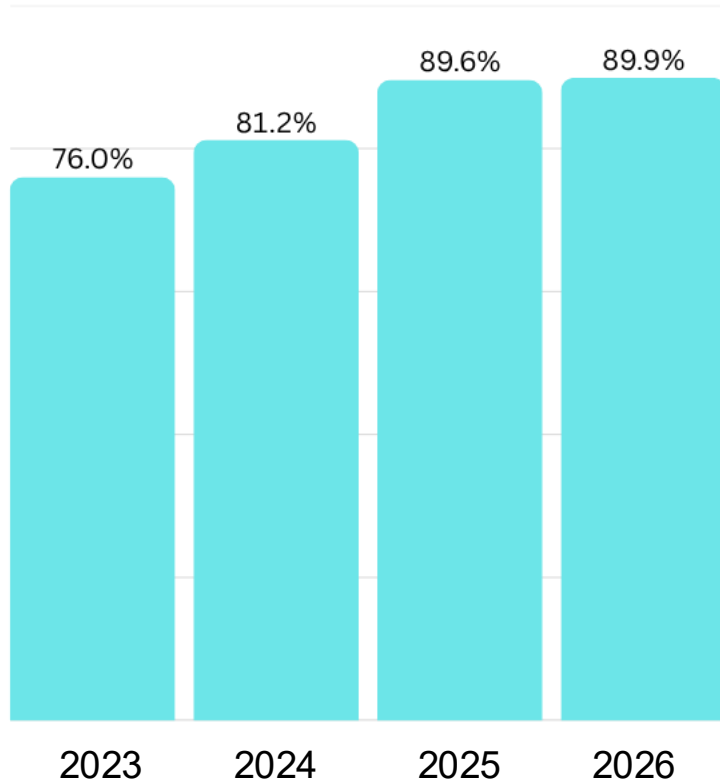
Shelter: CVAC

Species: Dog

Data: Live Release Rate By Year

Dates: January-August for all years

Live Release Rate - DOG



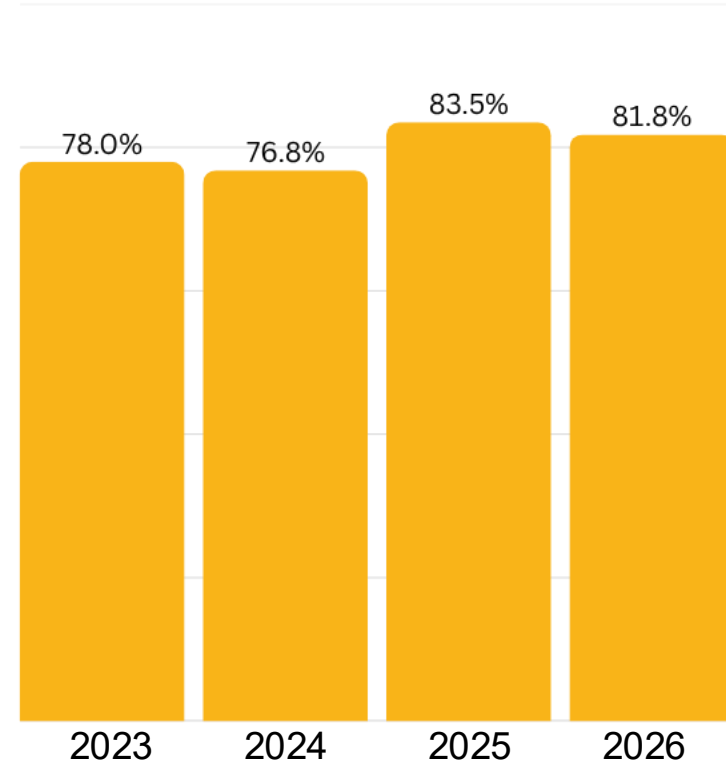
Shelter: CVAC

Species: Cat

Data: Live Release Rate By Year

Dates: January-August for all years

Live Release Rate - CAT



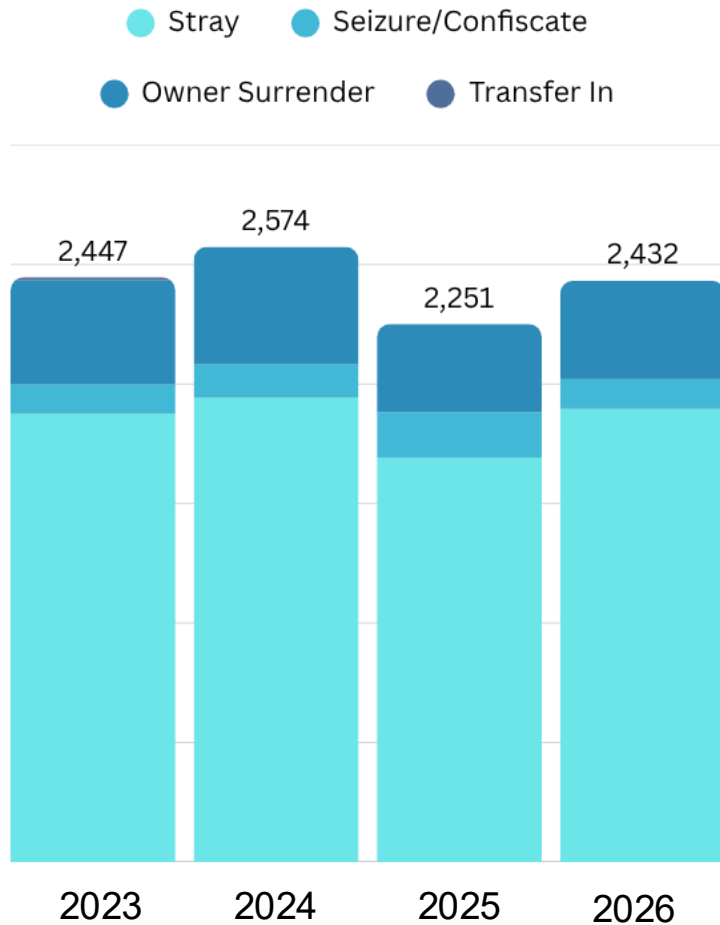
Shelter: CVAC

Species: Dog

Data: Intakes By Year

Dates: January-August for all years

INTAKES



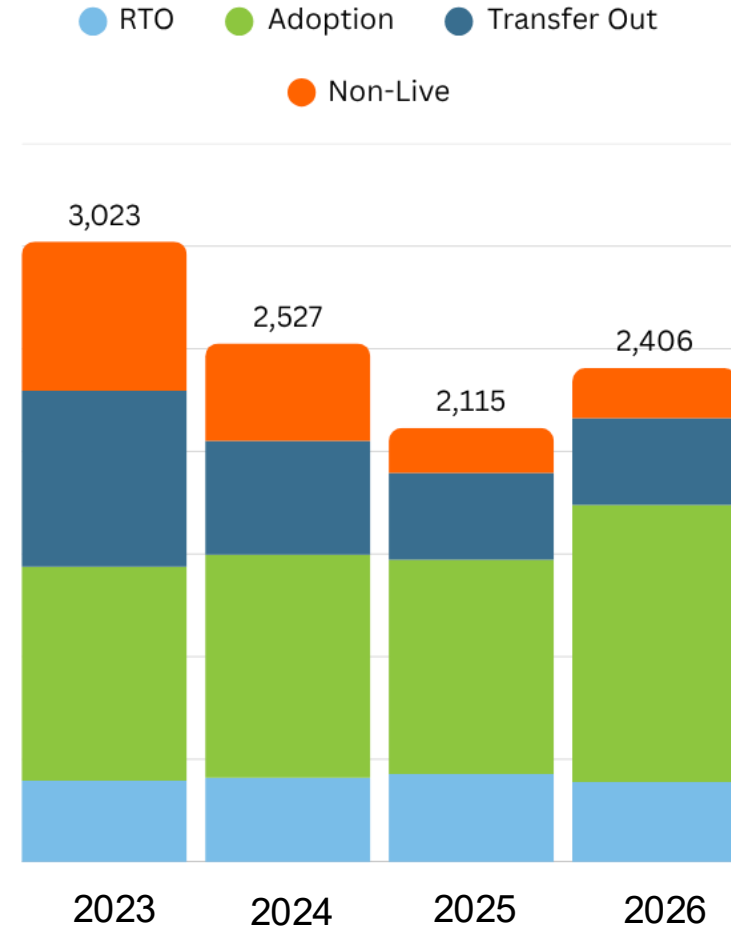
Shelter: CVAC

Species: Dog

Data: Outcomes By Year

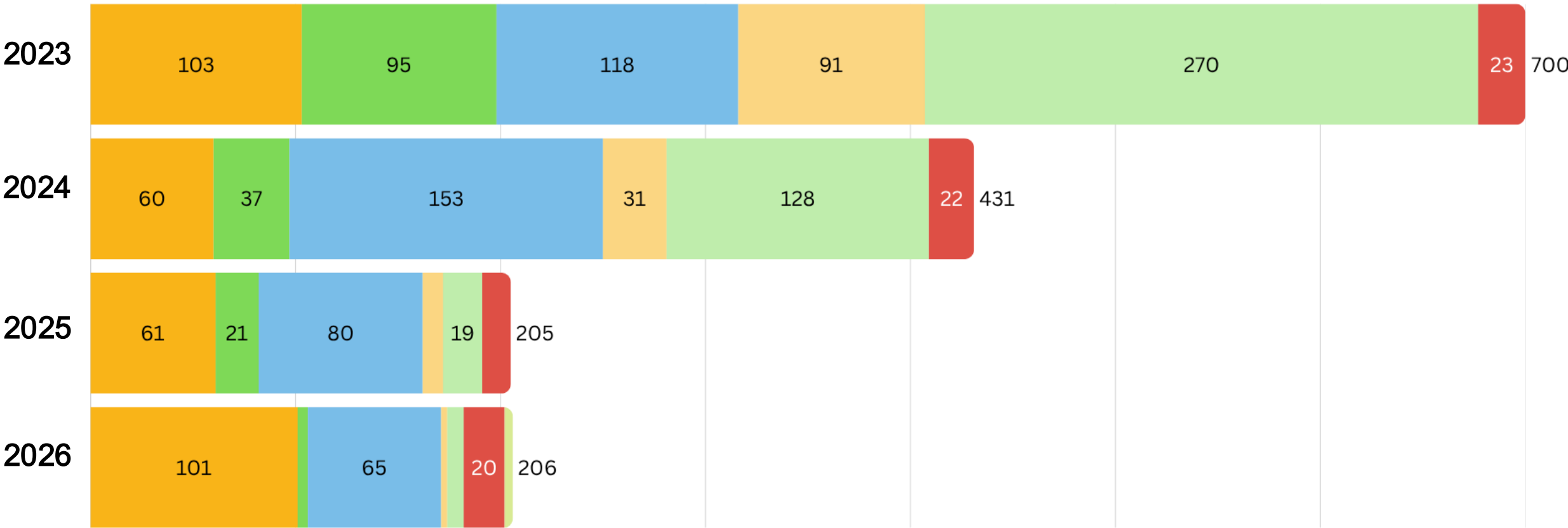
Dates: January-August for all years

OUTCOMES



Shelter: CVAC
Species: Dog
Data: Euthanasia Counts by Reason
Dates: January-August for all years

- Untreatable Medical
- Treatable Medical
- Owner Requested
- Untreatable Behavior
- Treatable Behavior
- Rabies Testing
- Space



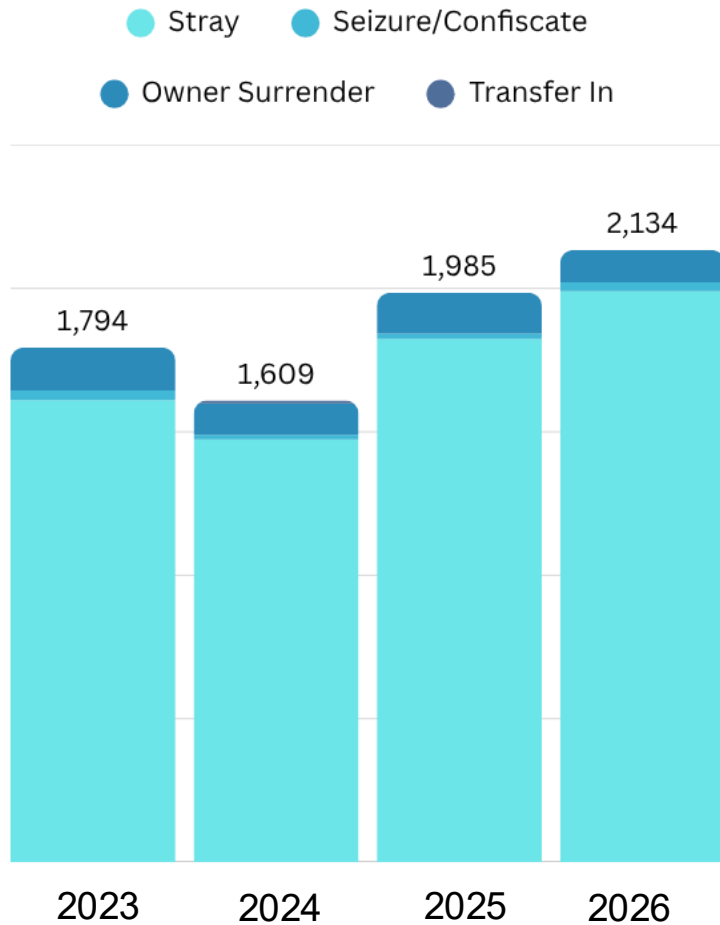
Shelter: CVAC

Species: Cat

Data: Intakes By Year

Dates: January-August for all years

INTAKES



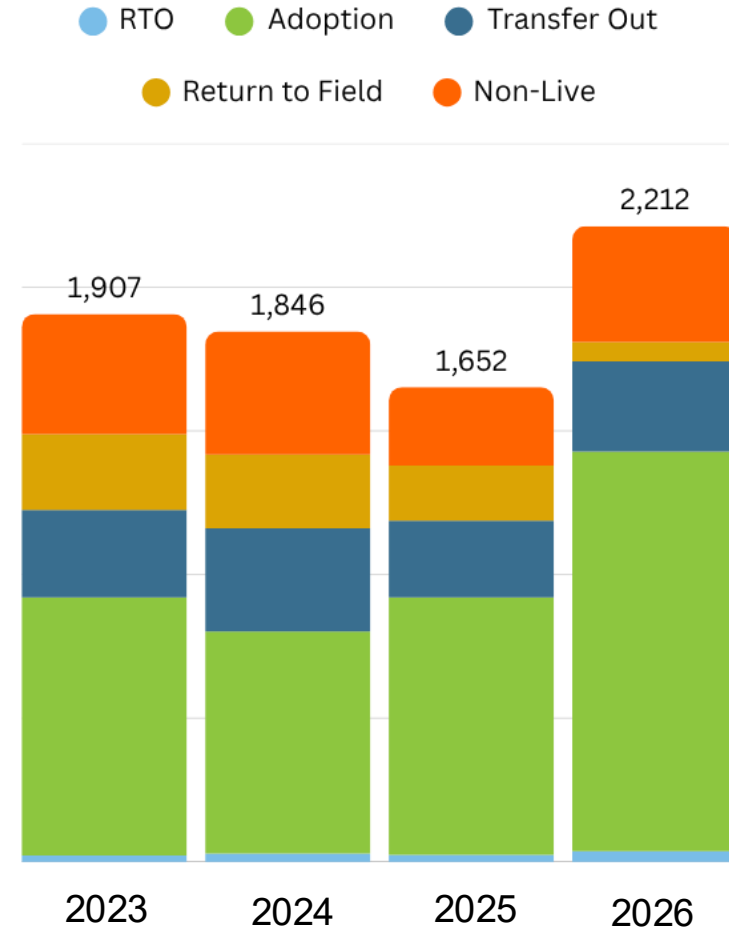
Shelter: CVAC

Species: Cat

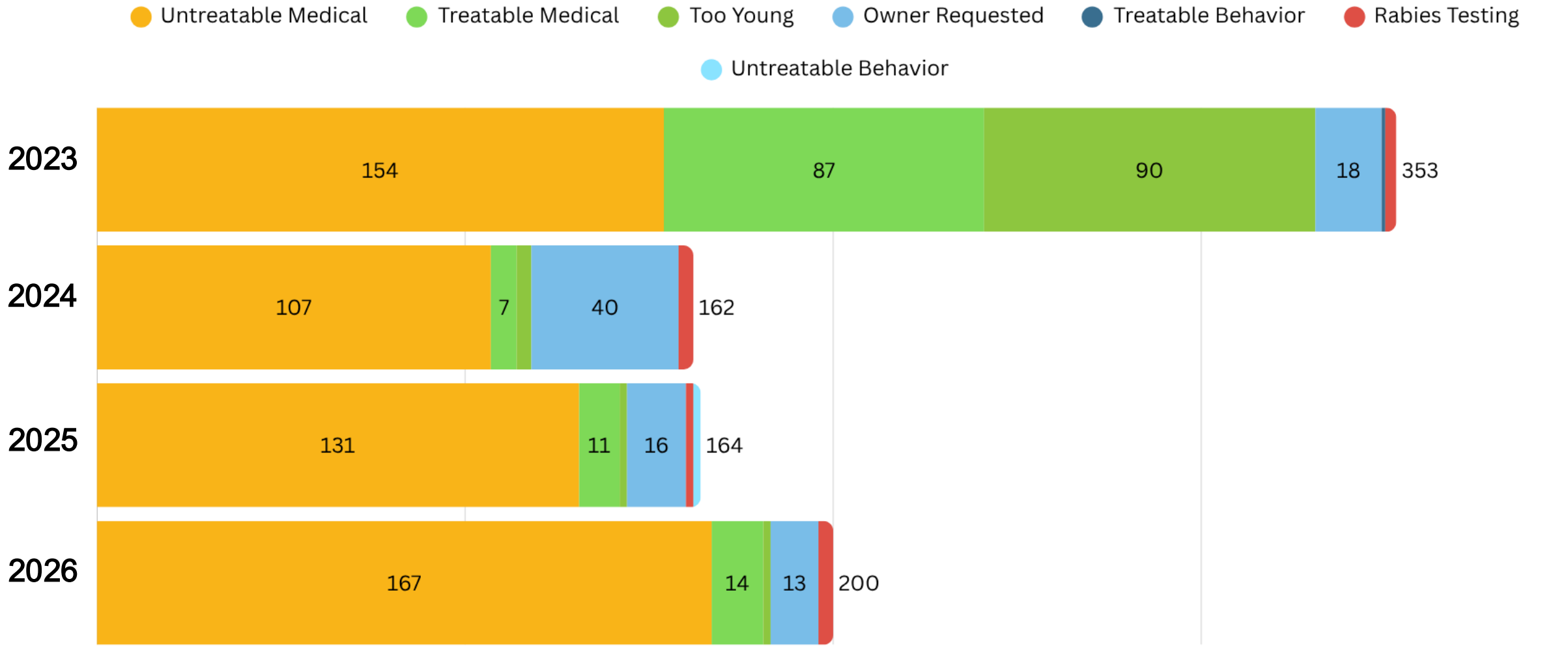
Data: Outcomes By Year

Dates: January-August for all years

OUTCOMES



Shelter: CVAC
Species: Cat
Data: Euthanasia Counts by Reason
Dates: January-August for all years



Deep Dive: Follow-Up to Questions

Medical Decision Making



Jerry was hit by a car and suffered a severe leg fracture. Dr. Snook performed surgery to save his leg at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus.



Medical Decision-Making: Finding the Best Outcome for Each Animal

Immediate Medical Assessment + Early Advocacy

When an animal arrives with a significant illness or injury, medical staff assess their condition and immediately alert the rescue team when additional placement or treatment resources may be needed.

This allows advocacy to begin early—while medical options are being evaluated.

What Is the Best End Goal for This Animal?

The appropriate outcome depends on the individual animal and their needs:

- A young, social dog with an injury → Treatment → Adoption
- A community/feral cat → Treatment → Return to its community
- An older animal with chronic disease → Rescue → Hospice/Palliative care

Chanel's Story



After visiting several vet clinics, Chanel's owner came to us for help with her 6-year-old Chihuahua mix. Our vet team was able to remove a hernia in her stomach, saving Chanel's life.

Medical Decision-Making: Finding the Best Outcome for Each Animal (Cont.)

Is the Condition Treatable?

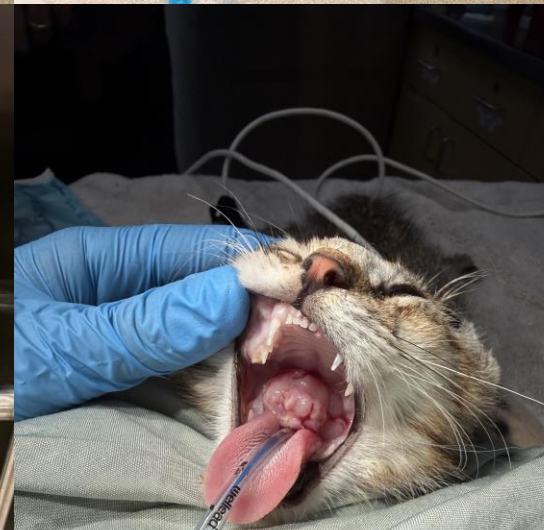
- **Treatable in shelter:** Provide appropriate treatment and continue toward the identified placement goal.
- **Needs care beyond shelter capabilities:** Determine whether treatment can be provided through an outside veterinary partner, rescue, or other resource. *Rescue advocacy has already begun to minimize delays.*

When a Condition Cannot Be Successfully Treated

Some illnesses or injuries cannot be adequately treated within the shelter or through transfer to another provider, and the animal may be experiencing significant or progressive suffering.

In these cases, humane euthanasia is a medical treatment used to prevent or end prolonged suffering when a reasonable path to comfort and acceptable quality of life is not available.

The goal is always the same: identify the best achievable outcome for the individual animal while protecting their comfort, welfare, and quality of life.



After surviving parvo and ongoing illness, Bud is back to playing and even found his tiny meow after our team discovered a large polyp in his mouth.

Treatable vs. Untreatable Medical Euthanasia

Untreatable Medical

Animal euthanized due to serious or terminal medical conditions that are not treatable and would significantly impact the animal's quality of life

EXAMPLE: Injured animal impounded at an RCDAS shelter that the shelter veterinarian deemed to be suffering and untreatable

Treatable Medical

Animal euthanized due to medical conditions that are treatable but cost-prohibitive or require resources beyond what the shelter can provide

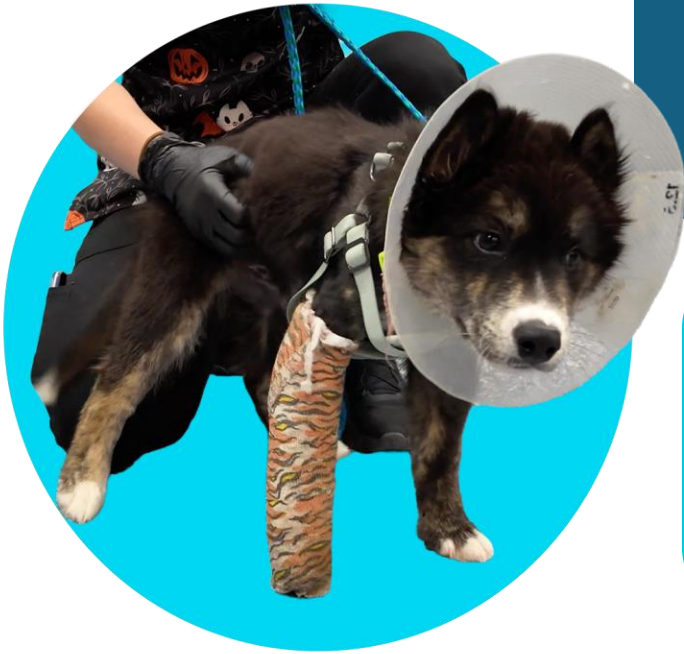
EXAMPLE: A cat impounded with highly contagious URI that the shelter veterinarian has determined can be treated with reasonable measures but requires resources beyond what the shelter can provide



Veterinary Services Update

Brother Bear arrived at the Riverside shelter as a stray from Jurupa Valley with a fractured front leg. In August, he was transferred to the Coachella Valley Animal Campus where our veterinary team has been caring for his injury with splinting, pain management and regular X-rays to monitor his recovery.

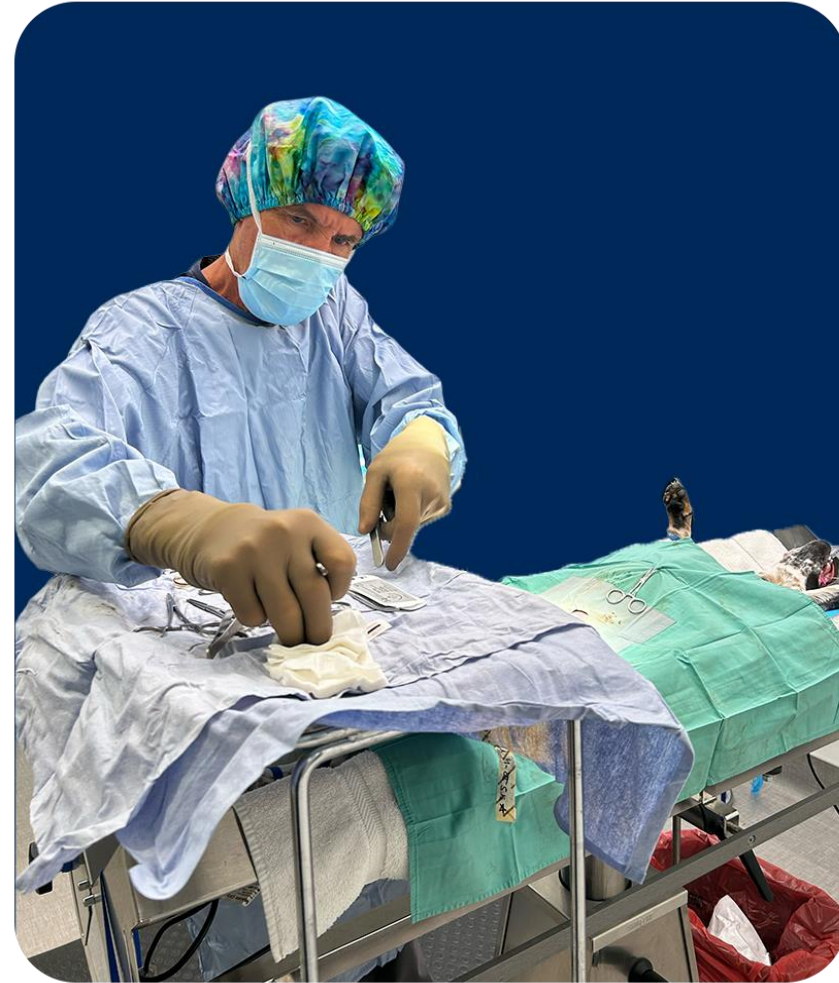
His latest X-rays show strong bone healing, and his splint has now been removed as he continues to recover. He is healing with a foster family and thanks to their support he is healing in a loving environment.



Spay & Neuter Improvements for Pets Act: *AB 2010 (The SNIP Act)*

Addresses access to affordable, high-volume S/N services by allowing qualifying services to be performed without a separate surgical room.

Opens opportunities for off-site spay/neuter events in the community and large venues while maintaining California's other veterinary health and safety requirements.



Mobile Wellness: Expanding Access to Essential Pet Care

Our mobile clinics bring essential veterinary services directly into communities across Riverside County. By providing accessible spay and neuter services, vaccinations, microchips and other preventive care, these clinics help keep pets healthy, support responsible pet ownership and reduce preventable shelter intake.



67 Mobile Clinics

1,919 Pets Altered

19,273
Total Pets Altered
YTD



The Path Forward: Community Medicine Program

Expanding veterinary services through low-cost opportunities for owned pets.

- Dedicated days to public clinics at each shelter location
- Deploy Mobile buses five days a week, focusing on hot spot areas across Riverside County
- Expand large dog and TNR surgeries



This effort supports life-saving care, public health, community access and operational efficiency across Riverside County.

Hired Community Medicine Manager Ivan Herrera to bridge shelter services with the broader community and directly reduce preventable intake.



World Rabies Day 2026



FREE RABIES VACCINE CLINIC



DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
County of Riverside • California

Join us to protect your pet and your community with a free rabies vaccination.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

FOR RIVERSIDE COUNTY RESIDENTS
DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH
CATS MUST BE IN CARRIERS

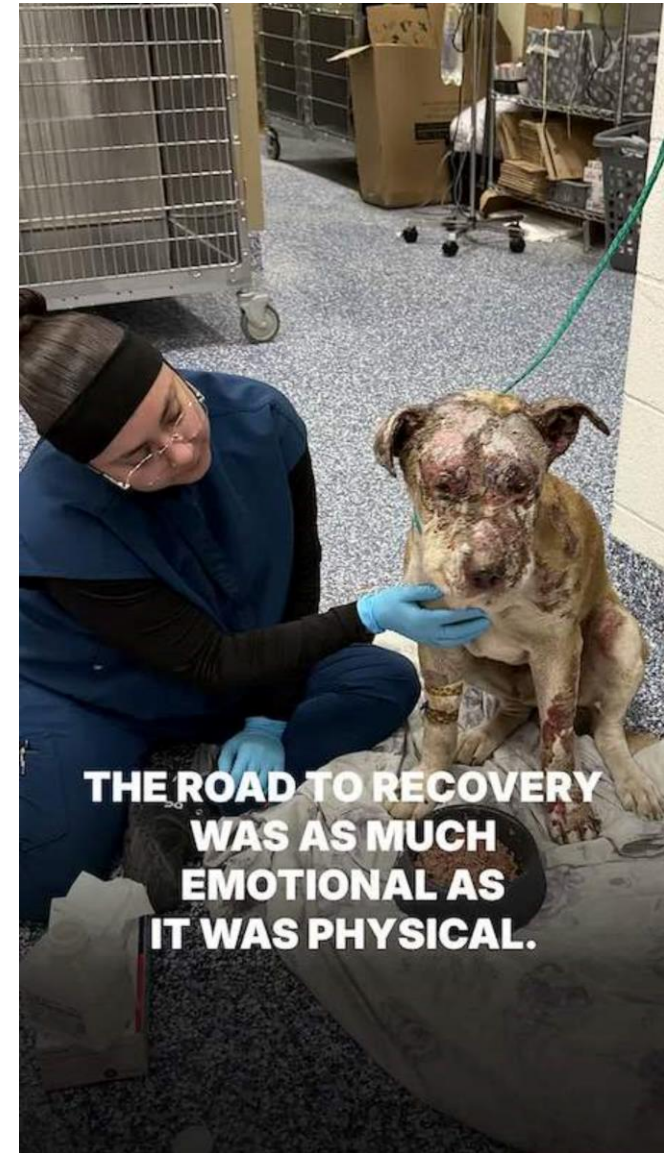
WALK-INS WELCOME
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

LOCATIONS
W. RIVERSIDE COUNTY/CITY ANIMAL SHELTER
SAN JACINTO VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS
COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS



Boo's Lifesaving Journey ...

Boo survived a home fire in early August and came to our shelter for medical care. Our veterinary team looked after and treated him for almost a month. His journey of recovery is a testament to the power of compassion and teamwork.



Shelter Updates

Animal Services
Counselor Ismael
and Wheeler, a 10-
month old
Shepherd Mix who
went on a Wings
of Rescue flight to
TRACS, Montana.



Coachella Valley Animal Campus Commission

Customer Service Excellence



Travis Engelking,
Assistant Director

- 50+ New Employees
- Expanding Programs
- Staff Development
- Training Support & Accountability
- Employee Enrichment and Retention
- 19 Years Experience In Process Improvement

**Ready and resilient employees
directly impact lifesaving**

Volunteer Coordinator

Meet Riley, Coachella Valley Animal
Campus' new Volunteer Coordinator



Flight Transport Locations 2026

- Brandywine Valley, New Jersey
- Brandywine Valley, Delaware
- Brandywine Valley, Pennsylvania
- Miracle Lane Farm, Maine
- NY Safe Haven, New York
- SPCA of Westchester, New York
- Progressive Animal Welfare Society, Washington
- Seattle Animal Shelter, Washington
- Seattle Humane Society, Washington
- Thompson River Animal Care, Montana
- Mountainside Hope Rescue, British Columbia

3,724 Cats & Dogs

Transferred
Out Jan-Aug



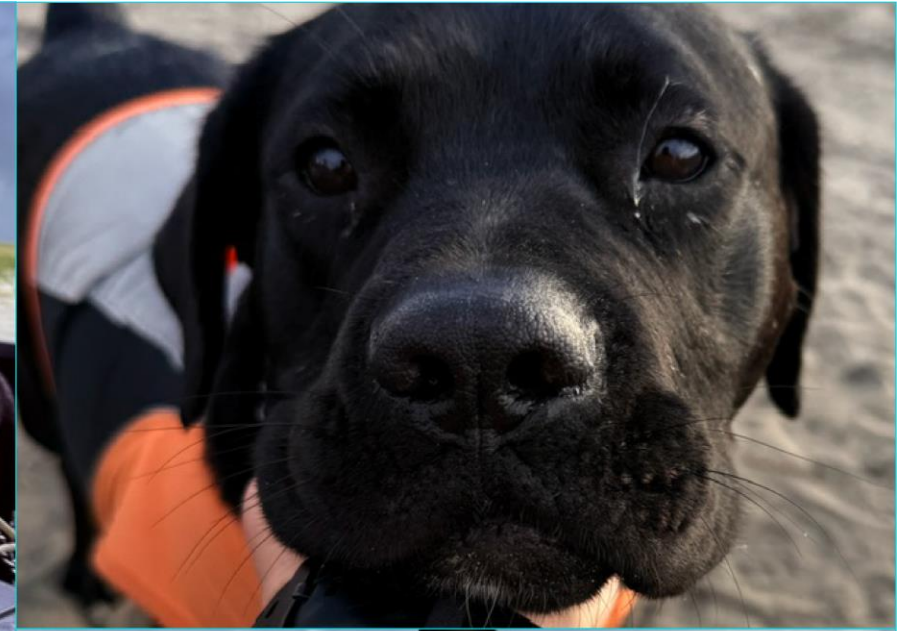
Ironwood → Home

Sadie, a 7-year-old Cane Corso mix, arrived as a stray. After nearly five months in the shelter, she joined the Ironwood Dog Foster Program.

While there, Sadie became a fast favorite within the program. Olivia's husband, who is at Ironwood, got to know Sadie & fell in love. He told Olivia about Sadie & encouraged her to adopt.

Olivia drove from Washington to Southern California to bring Sadie home. Today, Sadie lives on five acres in the mountains with Olivia & her Goldendoodle brother.

One month after joining the Ironwood Dog Foster Program, Sadie found her home more than 1,000 miles away.



Reunion Rides



**Lost pets
deserve a
ride home.**

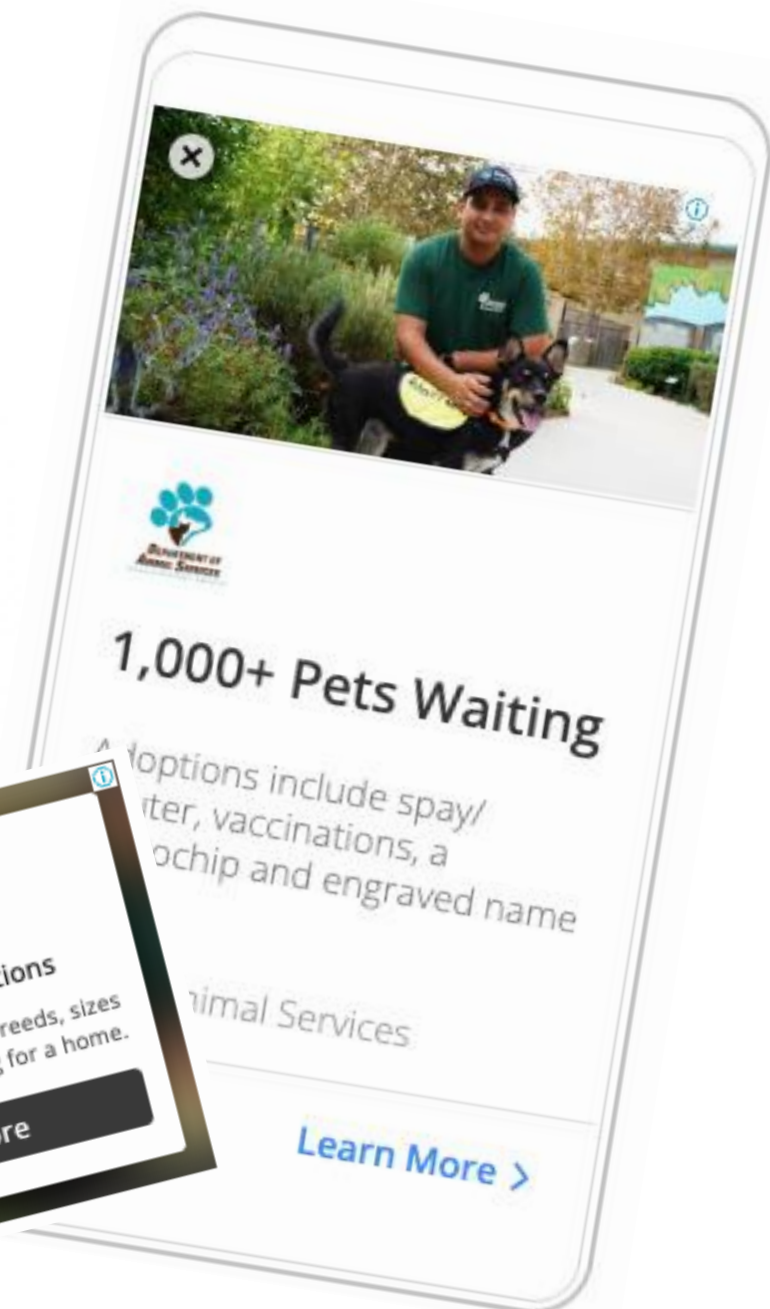
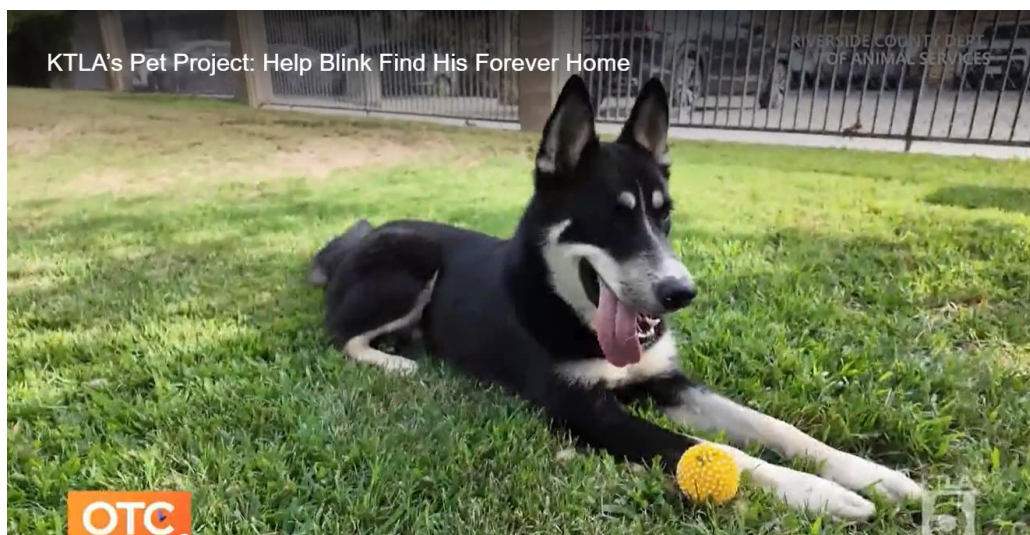
Our Reunion Rides program helps reunite lost pets with their families by identifying potential owners and providing pets with a free ride home.

Every successful reunion keeps families together and helps preserve critical shelter space for pets who need our care.



**More pets home.
More families reunited.**





Marketing Campaign 2026/27



CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



Increase adoptions & fosters



Promote adoption events



Reach English & Spanish-speaking audiences



Target priority communities using GIS & demographic data

Channel	Planned Approach
Paid Social Media	Targeted advertising across social platforms
Search & Digital Display	Reach residents actively searching online and expand awareness across websites
Online & Streaming Video	Video advertising across digital and streaming platforms
Radio & Streaming Audio	Traditional and digital audio advertising
Out-of-Home	Billboards and other placements in priority geographic areas
Print	Strategic placements based on audience and campaign needs
Additional Opportunities	Agency recommendations based on audience, performance and cost efficiency

Events & Promotions



DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
County of Riverside • California

VENDORS
MUSIC
DRINKS
GAMES
CANDY
PRIZES

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**

. FREE ADOPTIONS .

COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS
72050 PET LAND PLACE
THOUSAND PALMS, CA 92276
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
2PM-6PM

WWW.RCDAS.ORG

BISSELL PET FOUNDATION'S

**empty the
shelters®**

NATIONAL ADOPTION EVENT

**fee-waived
adoption event**

269 orgs in 36 states
from September 18-30, 2026



DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
County of Riverside • California



A collage of four people holding dogs against a blue background. From left to right: a man in a red shirt holding a brown dog, a woman in a red shirt holding a small dog, a man in a black shirt holding a black dog, and a man and woman holding a dog wrapped in a white towel.

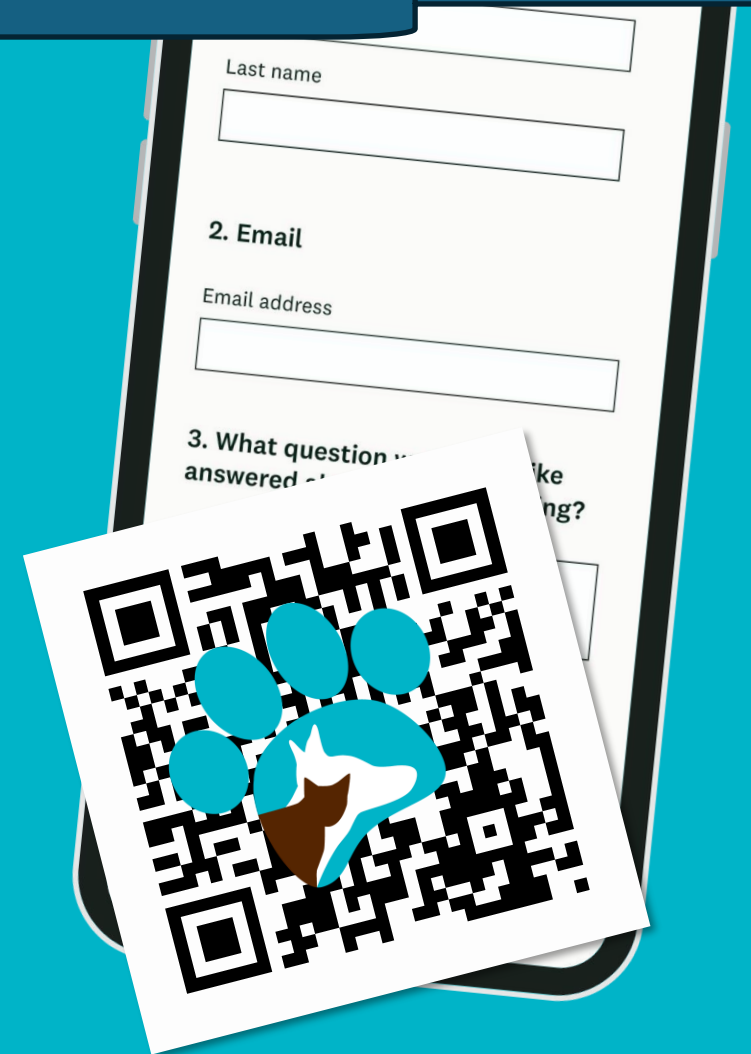
COMING SOON!

Ask Us Anything

Got a question? We want to hear from you.

We're making it easier to connect with Riverside County Animal Services. Ask Us Anything will give you a simple, streamlined way to submit general questions.

One place. One simple form. Your questions, answered. Stay tuned for the launch of Ask Us Anything!



Send us your feedback!

Veronica Perez
Public Information Officer
veperez@rivco.org

