



Mission Moment

Every spring, thousands of animals are born across Santa Barbara County, from cottontails to coyotes, babies abound. It's no different with unaltered cats and dogs. Challenges to access veterinary care over the past three years mean an increase in the need for support of pregnant moms across our community. Our focus remains on hiring a full-time veterinarian and bringing awareness to the need for fosters, while our partners at Care4Paws are just about to launch their 3rd mobile clinic to offer free and low-cost care, including spay/neuter. We know that the community we serve has the capacity to help us and we are committed to building one of the largest foster programs on the central coast.

Shelter Operations

We ended the month with a 90.2% live release rate. We continue to see [considerable increases](#) in stray pets coming to our shelters in need. 381 lost pets entered our care, an increase of 118 over last April. A mere 20.7% of pets were reunited with their owners, which we see as an opportunity for growth. We are finalizing a proposal to transfer our licensing services to a third party, enhancing the customer experience and increasing efficiencies so that we can bolster our efforts to increase licensing and reunification rates without increasing the cost of improved services.

In April 2023 156 pets were adopted, up 40 from last April, while transfers to partners are down to just 43, consisting mostly of adult cats, small dogs, and wildlife.

Joining our animal care team this month were: Dorian Funes, Zackary Schilder, and Jennifer Villarreal. We also welcomed Annie Funes to the role of Marketing and Events Coordinator, where she has kicked off preparations for our 4th of July pet safety campaign. To provide care for the increased number of animals housed in our shelters, we currently have 4 extra help staff in our kennels and are bringing 2 more on board. Two supervisor positions will be added to our recruitment for May, and we are continuing to recruit for the following positions

- Operations Manager
- Veterinarian (with the help of a recruiting specialist)
- Animal Control Officer

Community Engagement

Our toll-free number is live! 833-422-4813

All previously shared phone numbers that are not direct extensions, should all feed into the new phone tree and call center. As we continue to make adjustments to routing and access, we would appreciate your feedback. Our goal is for community members to get information quickly and for team members to handle the calls efficiently. If you have called us – [complete this quick survey!](#)

Team members attended the Santa Ynez High School career fair, Premios y Sorpresas at Oakley Park, and our partners SBC Animal Care Foundation kicked off their Animal Ambassador training program as part of the relaunch of Camp Hope in Santa Maria. We waived adoption fees for the last 2 weeks of April as we felt the pressure of all the lost pets in need of homes.



April 2023 Animal Services Director's Summary

At our quarterly partners meeting this month, ASAP, BUNS and SBHumane agreed to join our June safety campaign and commit to marketing free microchips to pet owners. In addition to being able to walk into any SBCAS shelters any day, we will be partnering with Care4Paws, CAPA and K9Pals for a variety of events across the county.

Animal Protection Activities

Officers completed nearly 800 activities in the community during April, most calls involving aggressive animals and bite investigations. We continue to be more responsive than last year, with ACOs completing 232 MORE calls than last April. We continue our recruitment to fill two remaining officer vacancies and will begin looking for a Field Supervisor replacement in May.

Volunteers

We had 1,308 volunteer hours donated in April 2023, compared with just 905 in April 2022. Volunteers continue to drive our ability to operate our pet pantries, transport pets to medical appointments and rescue partners, and make sure our pets have enough exercise, love, and clean laundry. Volunteer Coordinator Esme Medina has invested in developing relationships with more of our volunteers, and has begun creation of volunteer job descriptions, safety trainings, more standardized onboarding, and feedback opportunities.

[Foster homes](#) allow us to meet the [increasing need of lost pets](#) in our county. This month 37 dogs took day trips to spend time out of the shelter with an additional 4 taking an overnight or weekend, while 117 cats and kittens went to foster for medical support (this includes neonates). Our Foster To Adopt program allowed 61 pets to get out of the shelter with their potential new families while awaiting spay/neuter surgery or other support.

Upcoming Events

- PetSmart @ South Bradley May 21 Noon-2pm
- Volunteer Meeting @ SM May 24th 5:30pm
- Volunteer Meeting @ SB May 25th 5:30pm

JUNE CHIP CLINICS *FREE WALKIN CHIPS AT ANY SBCAS SHELTER ALL JUNE*

Solvang, Buellton, Guadalupe and more TBA

Lompoc:

Care4Paws: June 1, 6, 13, 20, 27

Santa Maria:

Care4Paws: June 2, 7, 14, 21, 28, 30

SBCAS @ PetSmart: June 18

Santa Barbara:

Care4Paws: June 8, 22

Cuyama:

SBCAS/Care4Paws/ASAP: June 4

Orcutt:



Care4Paws: June 9



FIREWORKS AREN'T FUN FOR EVERYONE

Companion animals can become easily scared from the loud noises of fireworks and are more likely to run away.

Prepare for fast reunification

-  Collars can break or slip off, but microchips are permanent identifiers as they store your contact information and help finders return your pet
-  Don't forget: A microchip is not a GPS tracking device, but rather your best chance to reunite your lost pet



Did you know that more pets go missing during firework season than any other time of year?

This year, we've returned over 400 animals home thanks to microchips!

If you know where your pet's microchip is registered, update your contact information there. If you don't know, go to 24PetWatch.com to register for free.

