

ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 30th, 2026 - 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL ONLY via Webex link

Meeting Recording:

<https://slco.webex.com/slco/ldr.php?RCID=17cdd9040b0a7f8b177f5093ff4ccac4>

MEETING MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Dea Theodore – Salt Lake County
Council
Linda Price – White City
Nick Frederick – Salt Lake City
Brian Wright – Murray
Terry George – Magna
Pat Theobald – Industry Expert
Dustin Gettel – Midvale

Grant Crowell – Bluffdale
Gary Bowen – Emigration Canyon
Lyndsay Longtin – Kearns
Scott Baird – Salt Lake County Mayor
Thom DeSirant – Millcreek
Rita Lund – Millcreek (Alternate)
Lorin Colby – Kearns (Alternate)

Non-Members in Attendance:

Carrie Naylor – Salt Lake County Animal Services
Jami Johanson – Salt Lake County Animal Services
Talia Butler – Salt Lake County Animal Services

Members Absent:

Holly Smith – Holladay

Jeff Bossard - Brighton

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL – Dustin Gettel, Chair

- Welcome new members and introductions.
Members went around and introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Please state name & jurisdiction. None present

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3.1. Approval of 1-29-26 Meeting Minutes
Thom DeSirant motioned, Scott Baird seconded. All say aye.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

- 4.1. **Animal Services Programs Summary**, Talia Butler, Division Director

Talia Butler provided an overview of the various programs and services Animal Services offers through enterprise funded services and general funded county-wide programs. Talia explained the initiatives Animal Services will be focusing on in 2026 to improve on and implanting new ideas and programs. Talia also highlighted recent agency achievements and services and amenities makes Salt Lake County Animal Services unique.

Members asked what the future of the PAWS program will be once funding has ended for 2026. Talia

explained that if it doesn't get funded, we are discussing other options and fundraising/grant opportunities to try to keep the program running, possibly at a low cost instead of free. Currently we are waiting to see if future funding is an option. Dea Theodore encouraged the member's community to show their interest to the county council when they enter into budget discussions.

4.2. Division & Legislation Updates, Jami Johanson, Associate Division Director

Jami Johanson gave an overview of the 2026 capital projects that are scheduled to be completed and shared the completion of our recent remodel of the Animal Services breakroom and flooring projects.

Jami provided an overview of the outcomes of bills that we were monitoring in the 2026 Utah Legislative session. Jami explained that HB87 "Biscuit's Bill" passed and will be signed by the Governor that evening and provided an overview of the bill and Biscuit's story. Jami explained that SB102 the Animal Control First Responder Amendment did not pass due to running out of time and SB201 Shelter Animal Euthanasia Amendments passed and provided a summary of each bill's purpose.

Pat Theobold explained that the rescue community is already seeing progress of SB201 in various shelters.

5. MEMBER REPORTS

5.1. Updates from member's jurisdictions that may impact Animal Services.

- Lyndsay Longtin – Kearns - None
- Grant Crowell – Bluffdale – Grant explained that recently Bluffdale has encountered issues with VECC regarding certain calls, but he worked with Carrie and Karl Carpenter to get them taken care of. Talia explained that we are planning a meeting with VECC soon so these concerns will be addressed.
- Thom DeSirant – Millcreek – Thom thanked the adoption team and recently adopted a cat from us. Thom described the success of their recent doxy derby event.
- Dustin Gettel – Midvale – Dustin explained how Carrie provided the council a presentation of the annual report and thanked her.
- Nick Frederick – Salt LakeCity - None
- Holly Smith – City of Holladay – N/A
- Lt. Brian Wright – Murray - None
- Vacant – Copperton
- Jeff Bossard – Brighton – N/A
- Linda Price – White City – Linda explained they are seeing dogs running loose on school grounds despite the signage. Talia Butler explained we will also request patrols from the field. Carrie Naylor also encouraged to call dispatch when they are observed on the property.
- Terry George – Magna – Terry explained they have an issue with 30-40 cats at a house and in the surrounding neighborhood. Carrie explained that since they are outdoor cats they fall under the community cat act and once we can get the address information so we can work with our field and TNR team to get them sterilized and check on the status of the colony. Terry explained that there is another issue that he'll meet with Carrie separately regarding a ticket.
- Gary Bowen – Emigration Canyon – None
- Scott Baird – Salt Lake County Mayor - None
- Dea Theodore – Salt Lake County Council – Dea thanked all of Animal Services work during the legislative session.
- Patrick Theobold – Industry Expert – Pat shared appreciation for Animal Services work during the legislative session. Pat also explained that Best Friends is having their annual conference that weekend and offered if any members would like to attend to reach out to him.

Lorri Colby – Kearns (alternate) – Lorri explained that Kearns has a community page that frequently posts photos of dogs at large, especially in north Kearns. Carrie Naylor explained that if they can encourage the community to call dispatch to get an Officer to respond and being sure to communicate with dispatch if there is a danger risk with an aggressive animal. Carrie also explained that she will ask

our field management to put in patrols for the north Kearns area.

Talia explained that if we can be made aware of all the popular community pages our staff can post information to the community such as calling dispatch so they can get better assistance.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Carrie explained that we are hopeful the next meeting can be in person pending the status of scheduled capital projects.
- Scott Baird explained that Animal Services can present potential budget items at the next meeting.

ADJOURN

Thom DeSirant motioned, Dea seconded. All say aye.



ANIMAL SERVICES



Who We Are

WHO WE SERVE

- SALT LAKE CITY
- BLUFFDALE
- MILLCREEK
- MIDVALE
- CITY OF HOLLADAY
- MURRAY
- COPPERTON
- TOWN OF BRIGHTON
- WHITE CITY
- MAGNA
- EMIGRATION CANYON
- CITY OF KEARNS
- UNINCORPORATED SALT LAKE COUNTY



2025 INTERESTING FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS



**OUR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS
RESPONDED TO OVER 19,000 CALLS
FOR SERVICE.**

**OUR DEDICATED TEAM OF 7,662
VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE OVER 7,500
HOURS HELPING OUR PETS.**

**OVER 2,800 PETS WERE ADOPTED OR
SENT TO RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS.**

**OVER 4,000 PETS WERE STERILIZED BY
OUR IN HOUSE VETERINARY CLINIC.**

2026 ACHIEVEMENTS & INITIATIVES

Increase licensing compliance.

Enhance the adoption team & adoption program.

Actively seek donations, grants, & support to maximize services.

Incentivize redemptions through our ACO Cares Program.

Named Best of State for the 17th Time!

Maintained no-kill status for the last 12 years.



MISSION & PROGRAMS

SALT LAKE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING CONSISTENT, RELIABLE, AND PROFESSIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR ANIMAL RELATED ISSUES.

Programs

Administration

Shelter & Customer Care

Animal Control

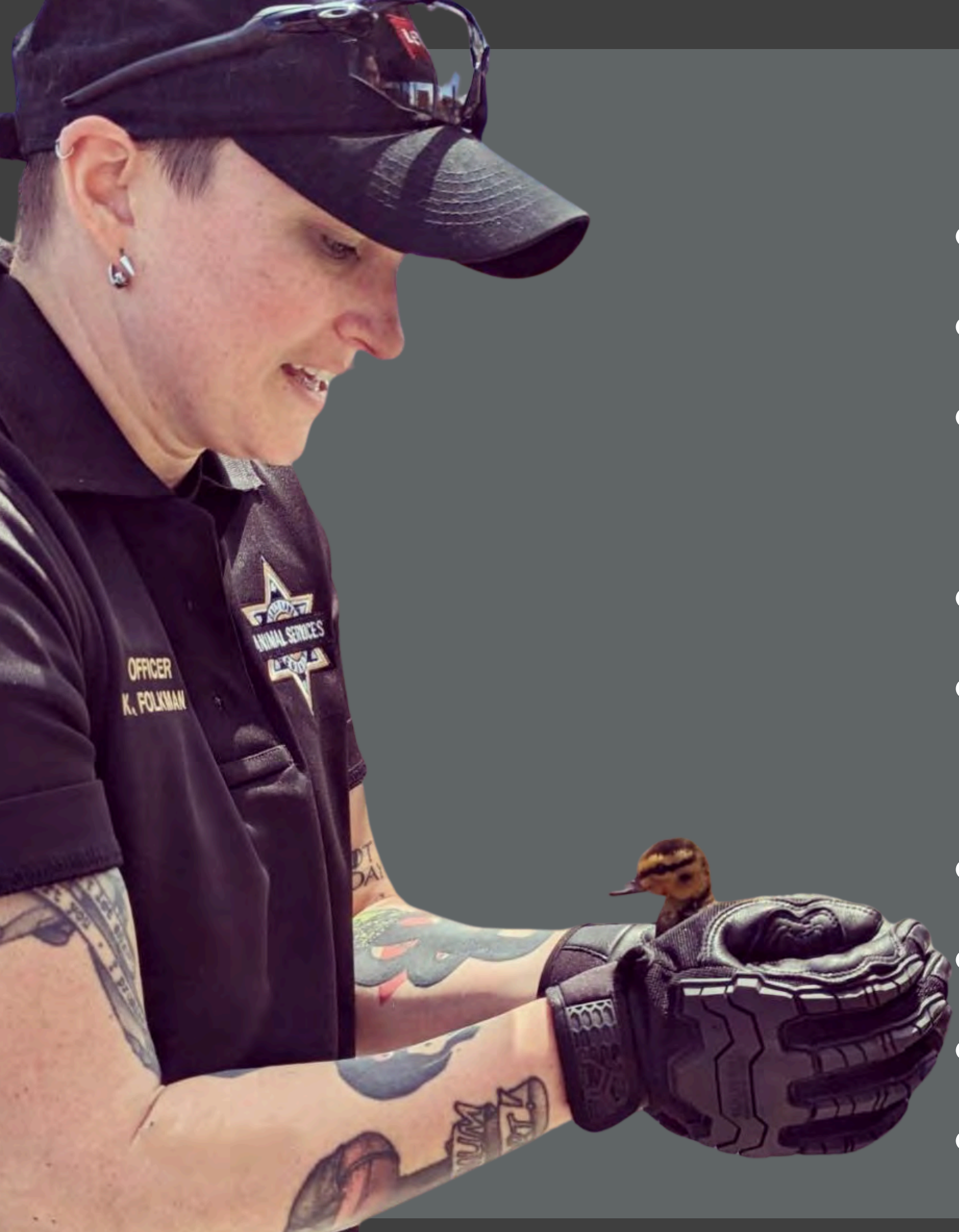
*Community Outreach,
Adoption, & Support

*Special Functions





Enterprise Services



ANIMAL CONTROL TEAM

- 26 expert officers and diverse skill sets
- Field resources, equipment , and response
- Protect and serve. Training, legal ability, and certifications
- Trap, Neuter, Return cat trapping
- 24/7 response and urgent care life-saving support
- Rabies and vaccine clinics
- Dispatch, radio, connected support
- Protective custody support
- ACO Cares Program

SHELTER TEAMS

Animal Care Team:

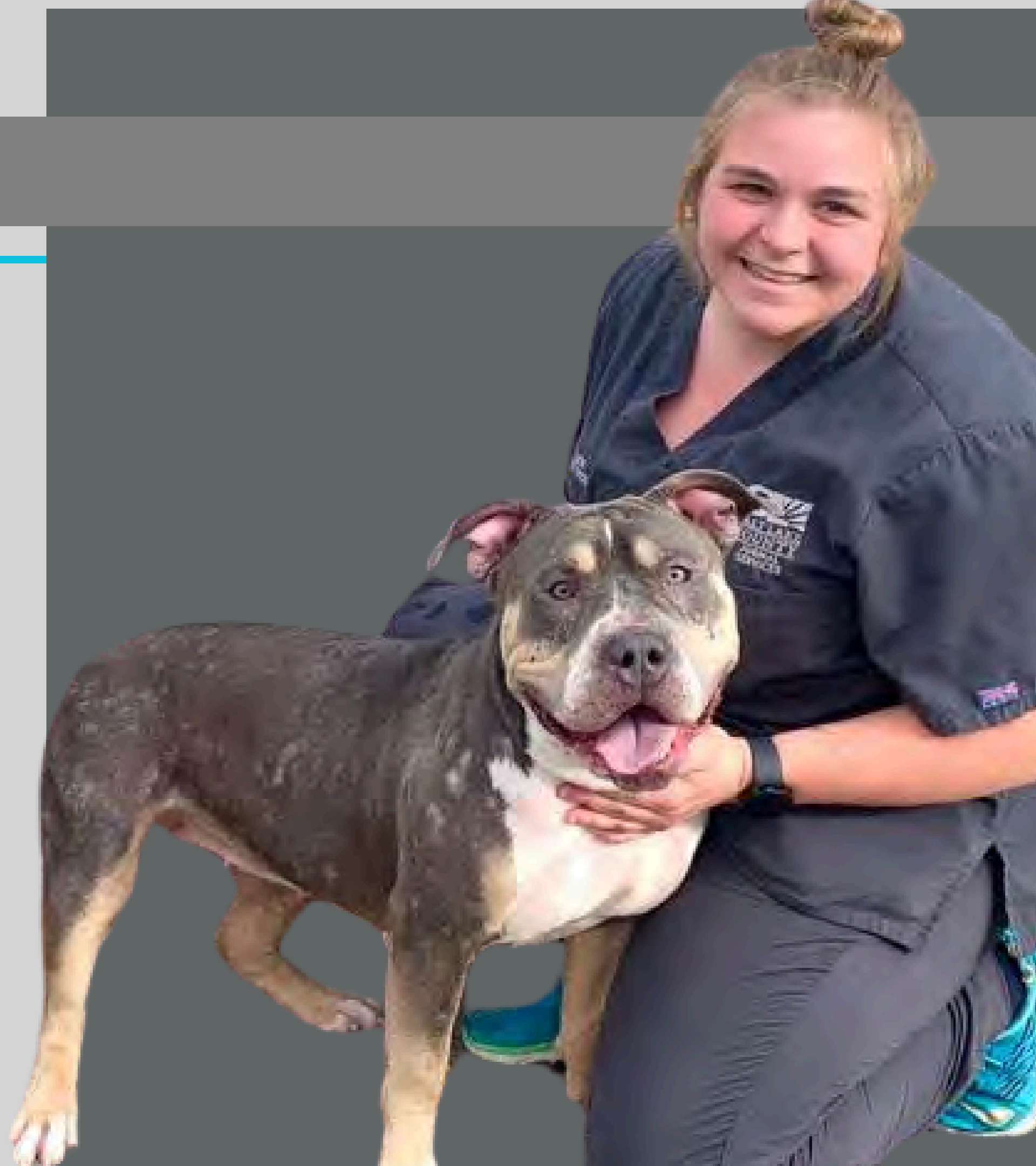
- Care of pets in both shelter locations.
- Enrichment support.
- Behavior and pathway program.

Veterinary Team:

- Veterinary care for shelter pets, emergency care, vaccines, and disease prevention/control.
- Administer rabies to shelter and owned-pets.
- Provide urgent care and pain treatment to pets in need.
- Vaccination of pets on intake into the shelter.
- Sterilization of all pets impounded prior to adoption.

Customer Care Team:

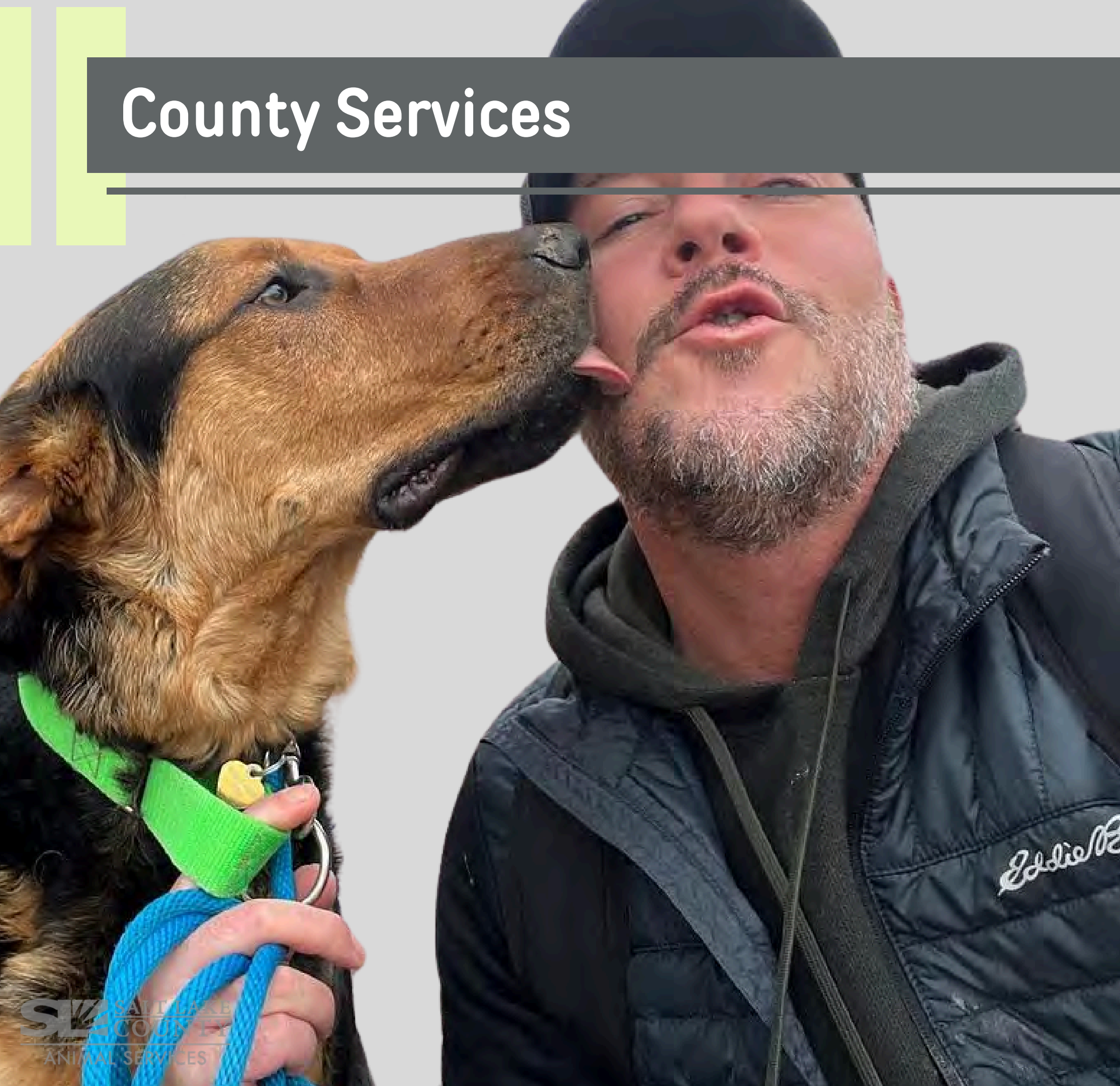
- Licenses pets, processes permits, and reunites lost pets with owners.
- Provides resources for pet owners, registers pets for trainings/surgeries/etc.





COUNTY SERVICES

County Services



Community Resources

- Sterilizations
- SLCo Furry Family Group
- Pet Retention Program
- Senior & Veteran Programs
- Media/Communications

Shared Software & Database

Protective Services Support

Behavior Programs

- Behavior Training
- Adoptions
- Animal Enrichments
- Medication & Treatment
- Adoption Follow-Up

Community Cat Programs

- TNR Sterilizations
- Deterrents
- Vaccines
- Working Cat Program

Free Microchips & Scanners

County Services

Volunteer, Foster, & Rescue Programs

- Hounds Around Town
- Rescue Incentive Program
- Kitten Program

Humane Education & Youth Programs

- School Presentations
- Book Buddies
- Industry Trainings

Emergency Response

- Pet First Aid Courses
- ES-11 Emergency Response & Industry Initiatives

Public Training

- Breed & Behavior Specific Training
- Agility Training & Basic Obedience Pet Courses

Community Support & Events

- Petapalooza & Spayghetti
- Fundraising & Awareness
- Microchip & Vaccine Clinics
- Community Adoption Events



WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

IN ADDITION TO OUR NATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED PROGRAMMING

HERE IS A GLIMPSE OF THE
SERVICES WE PROVIDE THE
COMMUNITY.



- After hours on-call emergency
- 7 days a week, Holidays, Nights, & Weekends Field Service
- Emergency/Disaster Response & Equipment
- ACO Cares Program
- Pet Retention Program
- Ability to handle cases with:
 - large #s of animals, livestock, exotics
- Animal Behavior program
- Online Licensing & Pictures
- Enrichment (Agility/Training)
- Adoption Counseling & Follow-Up
- On-Site fully staffed operational Veterinary Clinic
- Lawful Ability to:
 - Provide Surgeries/Misc. Clinic Services
 - Administer Vaccines to Owned Pets
 - Prescribe Medicine
- Ability to enforce civil and criminal charges
- Outreach Programs with dedicated staff such as:
 - Humane Education, Fostering, Volunteering, & Events
- Injured Animal Fund
- Robust grant and fundraising programming
- National leader in no-kill sheltering
- Large social media engagement & community support



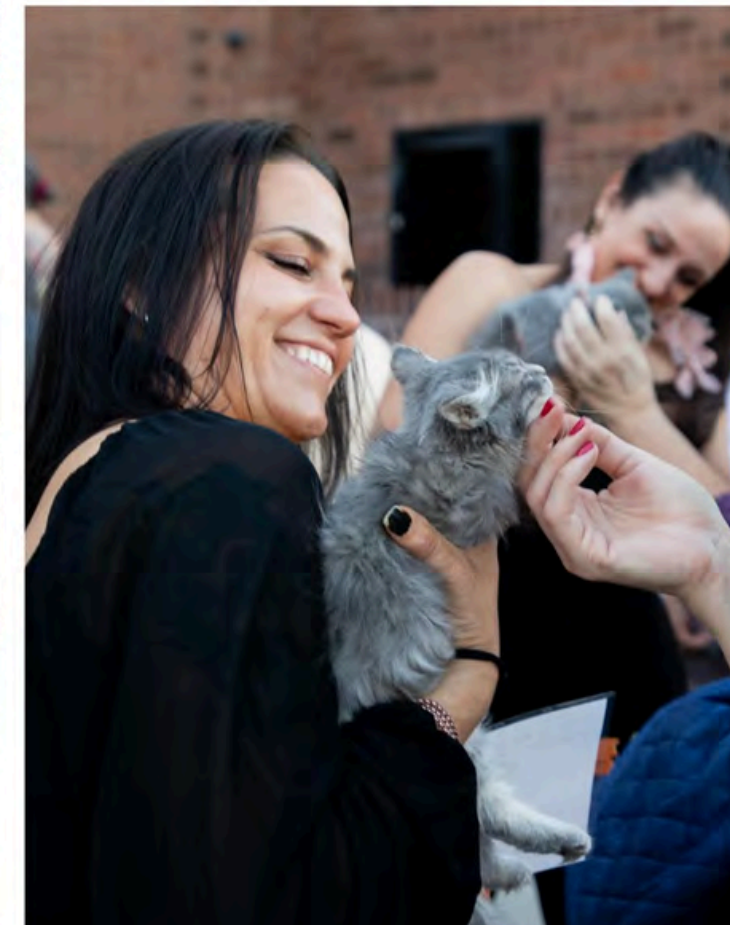
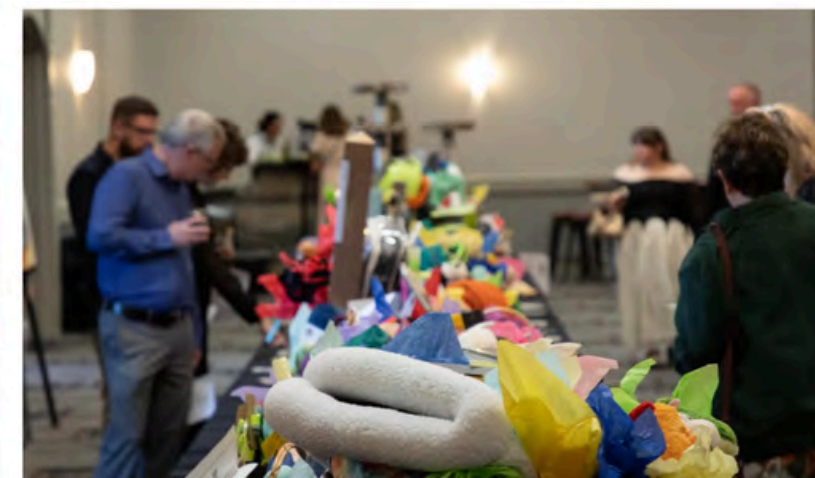
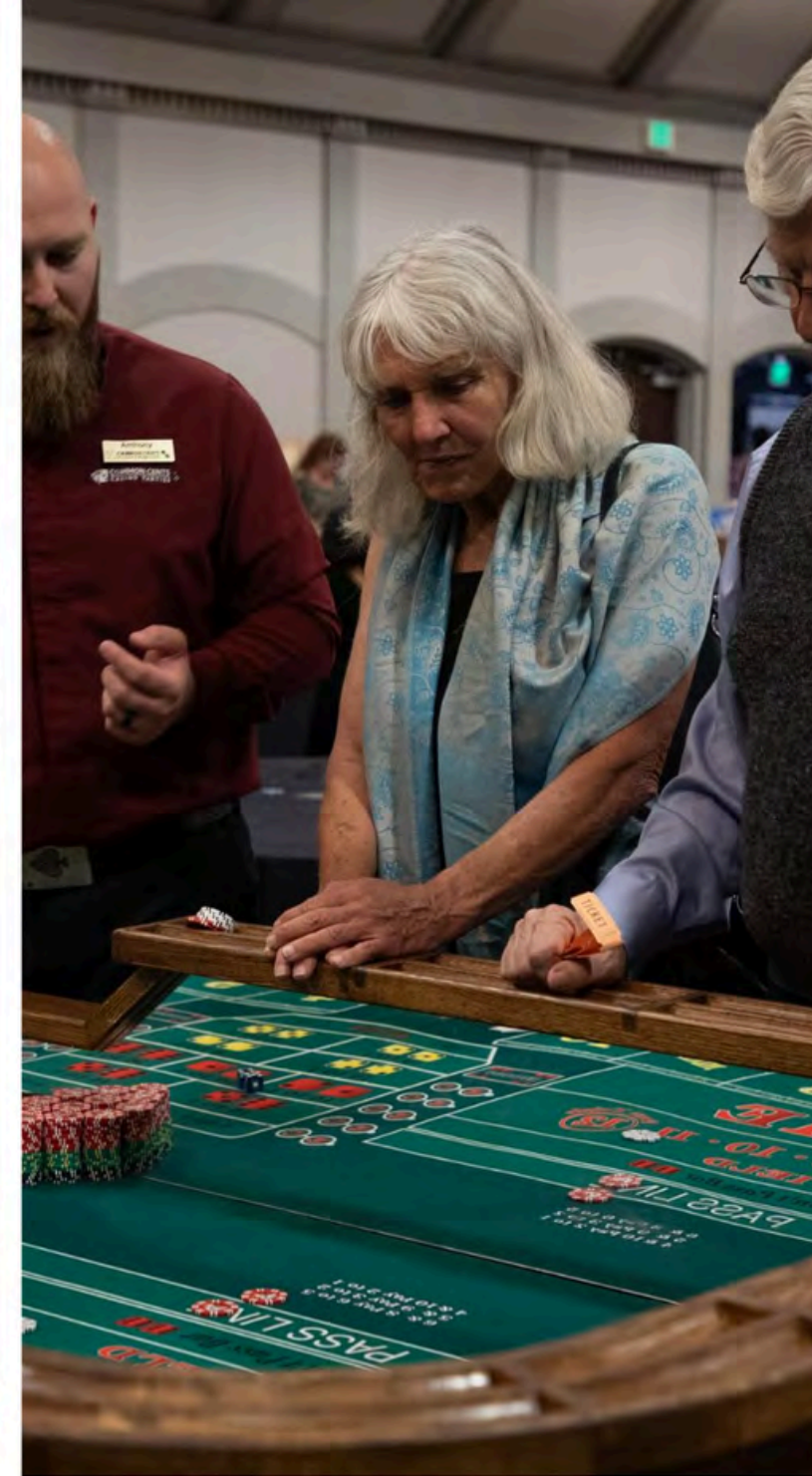
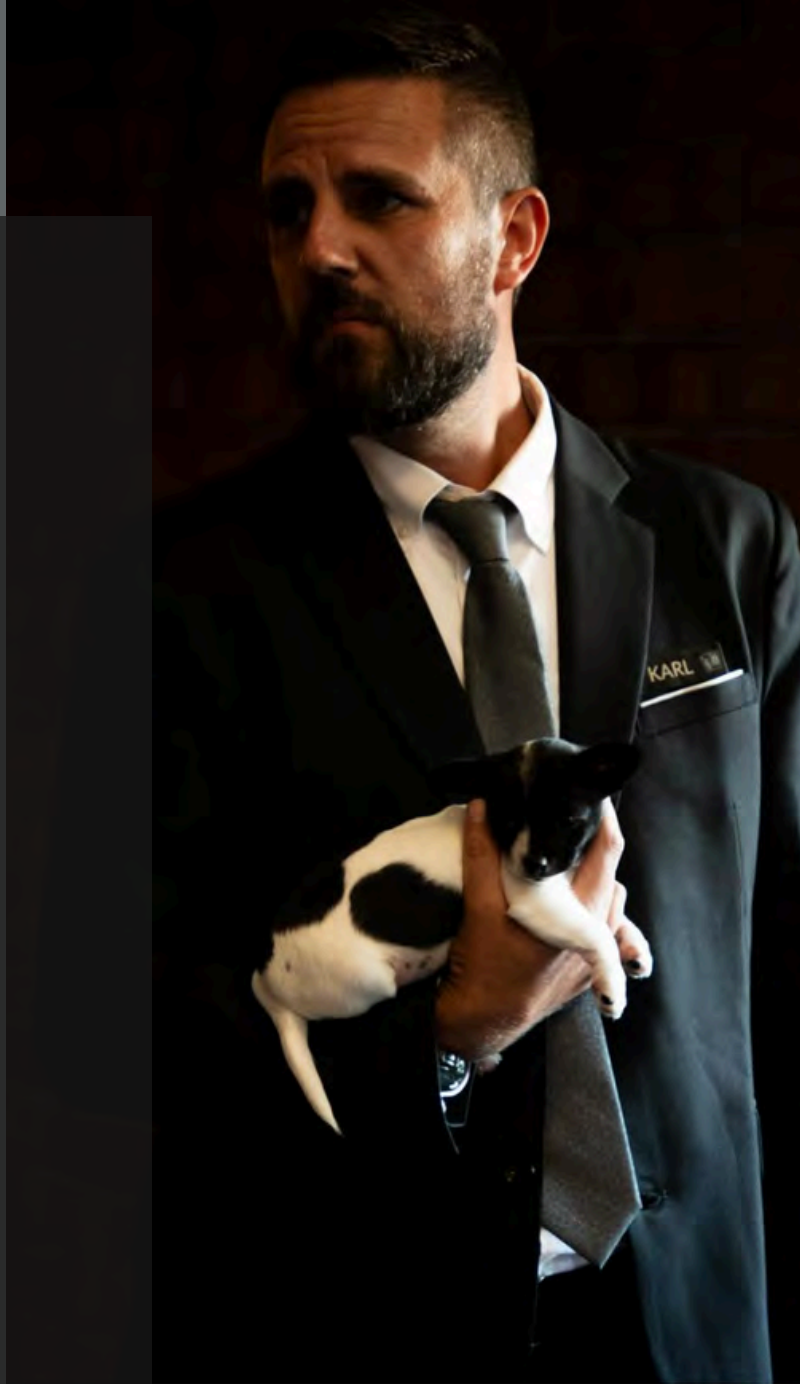
SPAYGHETTI GALA

OUR LARGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA
AT THE SALT LAKE CITY SHERATON.

THIS CASINO NIGHT THEME EVENT RAISED
OVER \$120 THOUSAND IN ONE NIGHT FOR
OUR SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAMMING!

Event highlights included:

- Live and silent auction items
- Raffle prizes
- Live entertainment
- Pet Psychic
- Puppies & kittens available for adoption



PETAPALOOZA

OUR LARGEST ANNUAL ADOPTION EVENT AT WHEELER HISTORIC FARM. THIS 2 DAY EVENT FEATURED ADOPTABLE ANIMALS FROM MULTIPLE RESCUES AND LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.

Event highlights included:

- Over 50 vendors
- Live entertainment
- Food trucks
- Free microchips

127 pets adopted last year!



Pet Assistance on Wheels



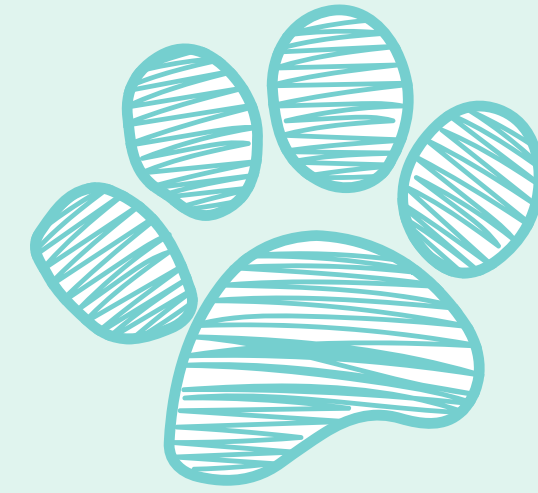
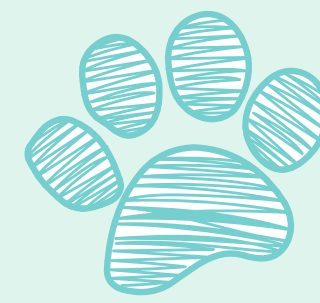
PAWS

**THE PAWS MOBILE SERVICE
CLINIC TRAVELS AROUND SALT
LAKE COUNTY PROVIDING FREE
PET STERILIZATIONS,
VACCINATIONS, AND
MICROCHIPS!**

**EMAIL
PAWS@SALTLAKECOUNTY.GOV
FOR MORE INFO AND TO MAKE
AN APPOINTMENT**



Capital Projects for 2026



- Murray Door & Window Repair
- Shelter Flooring Project
- Asphalt: South Parking Lot
- Barn & Outbuilding Project
- Employee area updated
- Auditorium Updated

Breakroom Remodel



Before



After



2026 Legislative Initiatives

HB 87 – Animal Crime Victim Amendments ("Biscuit's Bill")


ALLOWS ANIMALS SEIZED IN ABUSE CASES TO BE PLACED IN FOSTER OR ALTERNATIVE CARE INSTEAD OF REMAINING IN SHELTERS FOR MONTHS OR YEARS (E.G., BISCUIT'S 3-YEAR HOLD).

REQUIRES STRONGER FRONT-END DOCUMENTATION AND FASTER ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS, INCLUDING EARLY OWNER NOTIFICATION AND COORDINATION WITH PROSECUTORS.

"Reduces taxpayers and shelter burden.

Reduces the emotional and physical deterioration animals experience"





**SB 102 – Animal Control First Responder
Amendments
(Did Not Pass in 2026)**

- **WOULD CLASSIFY ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AS FIRST RESPONDERS IN DEFINED SITUATIONS, ALIGNING THEM WITH OTHER EMERGENCY PERSONNEL.**
- **UPDATES MULTIPLE CODE SECTIONS TO ENSURE CONSISTENT RECOGNITION, TRAINING ELIGIBILITY, AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES/PROTECTIONS.**
- **PASSED THE SENATE BUT FAILED TO PASS BEFORE THE SESSION DEADLINE: PLANNED FOR REINTRODUCTION IN 2027.**



**SB 201 – Shelter Animal Euthanasia
Amendments
(Best Friends Animal Society Bill)**

- **REQUIRES SHELTERS TO PURSUE ALL REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES BEFORE EUTHANIZING A DOG OR CAT, INCLUDING RESCUE TRANSFER. EUTHANASIA IS PERMITTED ONLY WHEN NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE OUTCOME EXISTS.**
- **REQUIRES SHELTERS TO NOTIFY RESCUE GROUPS AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE FIVE-DAY HOLD PERIOD EXPIRES, GIVING RESCUES TIME TO INTERVENE.**
- **EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE PREVENTABLE EUTHANASIA STATEWIDE, POTENTIALLY SAVING 1,000+ ANIMALS PER YEAR.**

