Animal Care

Mission Statement

Animal Care of Davis County is committed to promoting responsible pet ownership and compassionate animal care by fulfilling three goals: To serve and educate our community, to find homes for our homeless pets, and to support public safety.

Core Functions & Services

- **Role of the Facility:** The core functions of the physical shelter facility are to provide emergency medical care and short term housing for pets with urgent needs and to ensure public safety and public health priorities are met. Our team's goal is to help people keep their pets, provide resources and support to struggling pet owners, assist owners who need to rehome their pets, and help people find their missing or lost pets.



- **Field Services:** Animal Care Officers protect public health and safety, enforce animal cruelty and neglect laws, and aim to address the root causes of animal problems. They provide support, information, and access to care and resources to the community.

- **Pet Support Services:** Pet owners can access pet support services, including housing, medical and behavioral support, as well as food and supplies to help keep human-animal families together.

- **Lost Pet Reunification:** Animal Care of Davis County operates a comprehensive lost pet reunification service to successfully get most roaming pets home without them having to enter the shelter system.

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Field Services		
	2020	**2021**
Stray Animals:	2,378	2,146
Return to Field:	326	318
Nuisance Calls:	2,425	2,743
Extra Patrols:	734	966
Investigations:	3,289	4,281
Agency Assists:	296	296
Total Calls:	9,588	10,363

Shelter Services		
	2020	**2021**
Adoptions:	1,066	1,397
Owner Surrenders:	781	808
Reunifications:	889	734
Average Length of Stay:	3.38	3.42
Shelter Euthanasia:	186	186

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Fee Schedule	
Owner Surrender (Any species), per animal or per litter	$45.00
Surrender in the Field	$50.00
Impound of Dog previously deemed Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous	$250.00
Impound of livestock (during day operation hours), per animal	$80.00
Impound of livestock (after day operation hours), per animal	$100.00
Daily board charges for domestic animal	$15.00
Fee Schedule Continued	
Daily board charges for livestock	$30.00
Euthanasia	$50.00
Euthanasia with field pick up	$100.00
Owned, deceased animal pick up	$50.00
State Lab Rabies Sample Fee	$95.00
Quarantine (for 10-day period)	$150.00
Adoption, Puppy < 6 mos	$175.00
Adoption, Dog	$100.00
Adoption, Kitten < 6 mos	$55.00
Adoption, Cat	$35.00
Adoption, Small Animal	$25.00
Adoption, Exotic	$50.00
License for dog (unsterilized) for one year	$40.00
License for dog (sterilized/microchip) for one year	$15.00
License for dog (unsterilized) for three years	$120.00
License for dog (sterilized/microchip) for three years	$40.00
License for cat (unsterilized) for one year	$15.00
License for cat (sterilized/microchip) for one year	$5.00
License for cat (sterilized/microchip) for three years	$10.00
Senior owner license lifetime for dog (sterilized/microchip)	$25.00

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Senior owner license lifetime for cat (sterilized/microchip)	$10.00
Transfer fee for cat or dog	$5.00
Late license fee for dog or cat	$25.00
Single vaccine	$12.00
Microchip (mandatory for 2nd impounded dogs)	$25.00
Microchip (for dogs of general public)	$25.00
Kennel fee (annual)	$150.00
Replacement/duplicate tag for dog or cat	$6.00

Administrative Fees Associated with Violation Notices				
Section	Administrative Fee Description	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
6.12.010	Licensing and Registration	$30.00	$60.00	$120.00
6.20.010	Impound of Domestic Animal	$45.00	$90.00	$180.00
6.16.030	Livestock - Control and Fencing (At large on public property or roadway - inadequate fencing)	$50.00	$60.00	$120.00
6.16.040	Female Dogs in Heat	$30.00	$60.00	$120.00
6.16.070	Failure to Properly Confine Potentially Dangerous or Dangerous Animal	$100.00	$200.00	$300.00
6.16.080	Animal at Large Prohibited	$50.00	$100.00	$150.00
6.16.090	Allowing Domestic Fowl to Trespass	$30.00	$60.00	$120.00
6.16.100	Staking Animals Improperly	$30.00	$60.00	$120.00
6.16.110	Animal Waste	$30.00	$60.00	$120.00
6.16.130	Control and Fencing of Livestock (at large on private property - inadequate fencing) - Less than 5 animals	$50.00	$150.00	$400.00
6.16.130	Control and Fencing of Livestock (at large on private property - inadequate fencing) - 5 to 10 animals	$300.00	$350.00	$400.00
6.16.130	Control and Fencing of Livestock (at large on private property - inadequate fencing) - more than 10 animals	$20.00 per head	$25.00 per head	$30.00 per head
6.24.010	Animals Rabies Requirements	$30.00	$60.00	$120.00
6.24.060	Duty to Report	$30.00	$60.00	$120.00
6.28.070	Places Prohibited to Animals	$50.00	$75.00	$150.00

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Current Year Projected Outcomes

Animal Care of Davis County, as part of our ongoing commitment to continual performance improvement, has addressed several areas of service and made the following changes:

- The feasibility study for a new shelter is on track to be completed by the end of 2022. Mid-point recommendations have been produced.
- Worked with city leaders to transition animal care into a new funding model in 2023.
- Provided 1,266 pets with free or low cost microchips and vaccinations in targeted areas where medical care for pets is limited and/or compliance with pet licensing is low.
- Modernized the animal services ordinances, regulations, and policies.
- Created and implemented a volunteer foster program and a foster and rescue coordinator position, saving nearly 400 lives this year alone.
- Created GIS mapping to study and focus on areas where dog bites and stray animals are occurring.
- Provided opportunities to educate the public on responsible pet ownership.
- Created a more robust phone calling tree to make it easier for the public to contact animal control after-hours and other service departments.



- We received a $9,000 grant to help support our volunteer and foster programs from UServe Utah. This is the largest grant ACDC has received to date.
- Gained several partners including Bountiful Food Bank and Ruff Haven Crisis center to better serve the public.
- Joined the Best Friends Coalition and were invited to mentor other municipal shelters on the programs we are running to achieve this life savings.

In total, we provided care to **3,341** animals at our shelter, adopted **1,396** animals to new and loving families, reunited **734** lost pets with their families, and transferred **200** animals to our transfer and placement partners. Finally, our field officers responded to **10,363** calls in the community.

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Next Year Budget Initiatives



Field Services:

Animal Care Officers protect public health and safety, enforce animal cruelty and neglect laws, and aim to address the root causes of animal problems. They provide support, information, access to care and resources to the community.

Many of the laws and ordinances related to animals were written decades ago and do not reflect the fact that pets are now considered to be family members by more than 90% of current pet owners. This poses challenges for our Animal Care Officers, whose approach is shifting from primarily punitive (punishment-based) to more supportive (education and help-based) in order to better help the pets and people in our community. Animal Care of Davis County is all about building safe, humane communities. We embrace a One Health approach, which means the health of animals is tied to the health of people and the environment. The community will undoubtedly be safer when our Animal Care Officers focus on addressing root causes that lead to public safety issues, provide resources to keep dogs safely in their yards, and put a high priority on swiftly resolving situations that could put people and animals in danger. Additionally, when communities and Animal Care of Davis County work together for a common goal, more animals will be identified, sterilized, and vaccinated, ultimately helping pet-related problems to be resolved before they become dangerous to health and safety.

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The steps we are taking in 2023:

- ACDC Animal Care Officers provide supportive or relationship-building services to the community by:
    - Giving out pet food for people who are struggling to feed their pets.
    - Provide fence repair materials, dog houses, and cat shelters
    - Pass along information on accessible pet resources in our community such as low-cost veterinary services, behavior and skill training, and pet-friendly housing alternatives.



- Our officers return cats and dogs to their homes without impounding them if they are able to locate the owner.
- Our organization seeks to offer alternatives to people receiving tickets or citations.
    - Positive pet ownership classes
    - One-on-one conversations and warnings
    - Resources to solve the root cause of the problem
    - Fix-it tickets
- Our officers choose the least punitive approach related to each situation, reserving impoundment and citations for serious situations involving animal cruelty and public safety issues.
- Our team makes every effort to keep pets in their homes whenever possible.
- Our officers primarily pick up animals who are sick, injured, or otherwise in danger.
- We participate in community events and/or at vaccine/microchip clinics to build positive relationships within our community.
- ACDC helps transport pets to their homes when the owner is incapacitated or otherwise incapable of driving.

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Pet Support Services:

Pet owners can access pet support services, including housing, medical and behavioral support, as well as food and supplies, to help keep the human-animal family together.

Some of the most common reasons animals are surrendered to shelters include issues with housing, lack of access to affordable veterinary care, and the need for behavioral support. Other reasons include financial strain making it difficult to access pet food and supplies, fencing demands, and a variety of human-related factors such as allergies, divorce, and illness. By providing as many resources and services as possible, Animal Care of Davis County can work toward reducing the barriers that keep pets and people together.



The steps we are taking in 2023:

- Enabling members of the community to post pets they are seeking to rehome independently on our website prior to surrendering them to us.
- Cataloging the support services that are currently available in our community and listing these on the website, as well as with an automated email when people schedule a surrender appointment.
- Gathering donated items and/or working with partners to distribute to pet caretakers, including but not limited to: pet food, crates, dog houses, leashes, beds, collars, and more as needed.
- Scheduling a minimum of one person to answer phone calls during operating hours.
- Making all materials available and accessible to non-English speakers and readers.
- Forming partnerships with organizations that will help provide resources and solutions to community needs.
- Expanding our current Safe Haven program to include those that are struggling with finding pet-friendly housing or going through difficult times.

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Lost Pet Reunification:

Animal Care of Davis County operates a comprehensive lost pet reunification service to successfully get most roaming pets home without them having to enter the shelter system.

72% of our animal population arrive at Animal Care as lost or stray. Out of the 2,146 animals brought into our shelter, only 734 (34%) were reunited with an owner. We know that the majority of animals arriving at our facility are lost, missing, escaped, or are cared for and live outside. We also know that roaming animals are typically found within one mile of their home. Additionally, animals have only a small chance of returning home once they enter an animal shelter. The nationwide animal return rate typically ranges from 1 to 5% for cats, and 5 to 30% for dogs. In 2023, we are hoping to provide better service and assistance for these lost and stray animals by looking at new ways to reunite them with their families instead of our historic focus on adoptions.



The steps we are taking in 2023:

Lost Pet Prevention

- Ensure that every program (community-based and adoption based) has a “return to home” component.
- Provide identification and resources to assist and aid in the prevention of cats and dogs from becoming lost or missing.
- Empower the community to assist in pet reunification, and send a message to the community that lost and stray animals are often very close to home.
- Create partnerships with local lost and found social media outlets, fire stations, libraries, and other community spaces where people can go for help when they find or lose a pet.

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Reuniting Lost and Missing Pets

- Utilize a volunteer role charged with reuniting lost pets.
- Reunite animals quickly and effectively with their caretakers.
- Prevent unnecessary shelter intake by empowering field officers and good samaritans to help.
- Make it easy and free for owners and caregivers to get their pets home once impounded.
- Make it easy for volunteers and staff to help in reunification efforts. Set up a process to match lost pets with shelter inventory, transport on-call volunteers to get pets to their homes, etc.

Reducing Lost Pet Recurrence

- Provide resources, support, and supplies such as collars, tags, and microchips.
- Assist in repairing fences or securing yards.
- Provide a list of low-cost spay and neuter programs.



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Staffing Related Budget Initiatives:

We are requesting one new position this year, the Behavior & Training Lead. This is based on the recommendations of the Animal Care Feasibility study, as well as a significant need in the shelter and our community. This position is budgetarially neutral - a raise in our budget will not be necessary to fund this position due to some creative reductions in other areas.

Shelter Services:

From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, 747 animals were surrendered to the shelter for behavioral issues according to the surrendering party. 92.5% of the pets surrendered to us throughout the year are due to this reason alone.

Subsequently, Animal Care of Davis County chose to euthanize 65 of these animals due to extensive untreatable or unmanageable behavioral issues. In fact, this is the reason for about 35% of the total 186 animals that were euthanized in 2021.

We intend to have the Behavior & Training Lead support the shelter in two key facets. The first is to prevent intake altogether by calling the pet owner when they schedule a surrender appointment to educate about possible solutions such as a private consult or training classes. The second is to support the pets in the shelter who do need to be surrendered in the hope that they return to the community via adoption with improved behavior and post adoption support from a certified behavior and trainer as they transition into their new home.



Public Services:

In addition to providing support to the shelter, having a Behavior & Training Lead on staff is a much needed, and presently lacking, service in Davis County. Currently, there is only one positive reinforcement trainer in Davis County that offers very limited services for basic obedience training and socialization. Many of the trainers in the area provide a board and train option which ranges in price from $1,000 to $3,000 for three weeks of training. Understandably, this type of training is not practical or feasible for many of the families Animal Care of Davis County is interacting with on a regular basis. The Behavior & Training Lead will help to support members of the community by providing private consultations and group training classes.

- Private Consultation

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We intend to offer 1 hour private consultations with pet owners who are struggling with behavior issues and/or considering surrender of their pet for $50.00/hour. This is significantly less expensive than other trainers in the area with costs for consults ranging from $95 to $156 per hour. We hope this will be a tool that will keep animals in their homes vs. surrender to the shelter which will in-turn reduce operating costs. We plan to track this and present those findings in future budget presentations. Based on speaking to other trainers in the area to gather pricing data, and the need in our community, we expect to do approximately 300 consultations in the first year for a profit of $15,000.

- Group training classes

Our biggest behavioral reason for surrendering a dog is not getting along with other dogs and basic training-related issues. We plan to focus on these two areas by offering classes focusing on puppy socialization, playgroups, and teenage-dog manners classes. 96% of the dogs surrendered to us are between the ages of 6 months and 2 years old. We plan to target this population to attempt to keep pets in their homes and out of the shelter. This will also aid in reducing operational costs as the pets will get to stay with their families and not enter the shelter system. We expect to make a profit of approximately $18,000 in our first year, running six 8-week classes per year, with three classes running at a time and 8 students per class. We plan to charge $125/dog for eight weeks.



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Shelter Software

We are currently in the process of looking into moving to Shelterluv software which will cost approximately $3,000 a year compared to the over $20,000 a year for Chameleon. IS has done an initial look at the software and we are now preparing a requirements document of our needs vs. what this other software provides, then will be completing a Q&A with the IS department and Shelterluv. We have budgeted for both Chameleon and the new software in the new year.

Advertising

Our advertising line item is up this year due to expecting to have to go through the truth and taxation process and possibly a geobond at the end of next year for our new shelter and a subsequent budget increase.

Vehicle Surplus and Purchase

This budget year we are seeking to surplus the below listed truck, previously known as the Field Supervisor truck. This truck does not meet the needs of the department with how tall it is, which makes placing large breed dogs in the truck extremely difficult, as well as the fact that it lacks a suitable shell to be able to safely carry animals and the dark color of the vehicle is difficult to keep cool in the summer heat with animals onboard. It will cost approximately $11,000 to outfit it to make it useful and even then, this F-350 is made for working (pulling trailers, etc.), not maneuvering in tight spaces and driving in town with our young drivers.



This truck was purchased originally to be able to haul the horse trailer and the disaster trailer, which has now been surplused. We currently have five F-250's in our fleet that are able to haul the horse trailer we currently use. In addition, the department does not grant special privileges or items for being a supervisor and there is no purpose to retain this vehicle in our department. Our next field supervisor will be assigned a fully operational truck (09-22) identical to the type the rest of the team uses.

Vehicle Number	Vehicle Age	Current Vehicle Mileage (30 July 2022)
19-18	3 years	26,000

Based on a market analysis from the Fleet Manager, it is expected that the truck will resale for $40,000-50,000, covering the price of the requested cargo van. We are choosing a cargo van because moving away from trucks to vans makes sense for a number of reasons. Most dogs can easily step into a van by themselves without having to be picked up, reducing back and knee injuries, as well as the likelihood of bite incidents due to our officers lifting dogs with unknown personalities. Additionally, van cabins offer air conditioning and heat in the harsh climates we operate in.

We will also have better access to the pets in the back with the large side and back doors that vans offer. Our officers will no longer have to crawl into the back of a truck's bed to retrieve an animal. In addition, we often transport a large amount of animals for spay and neuter procedures, which do not currently fit comfortably in a single truck, resulting in multiple employees or volunteers having to transport the pets.