



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Executive Summary

This report summarizes operational levels of Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) and highlights the accomplishments of those engaged in the support of animals and people across the county. This annual report focuses on three key areas: sheltering summary, foster programming, and community engagement, with strategic planning updates for each of these focus areas.

To summarize the key statistics, during FY 2024-2025:

- SBCAS brought 6,475 animals into care, an increase of 327 over FY 2023-2024, and 727 more than FY 2022-2023.
- Adoptions surpassed 3,000, more than ever in recent history.
- Traditional foster placements continue to increase with nearly 3,000 pets spending time out of the shelter during recovery from a medical condition, while awaiting alteration surgery, or for a short break.
- The Doggy Day Trip program (allowing the public to easily foster a shelter dog for the day to provide opportunities for dogs to take a break from shelter life) facilitated over 3,200-day trips, demonstrating continuing expansion in our community's involvement.
- Over 22,000 volunteer hours were generously provided by individual community members; a 16.7% increase from the prior fiscal year.

Animal Services Operational Highlights - Fiscal Year 2024-2025

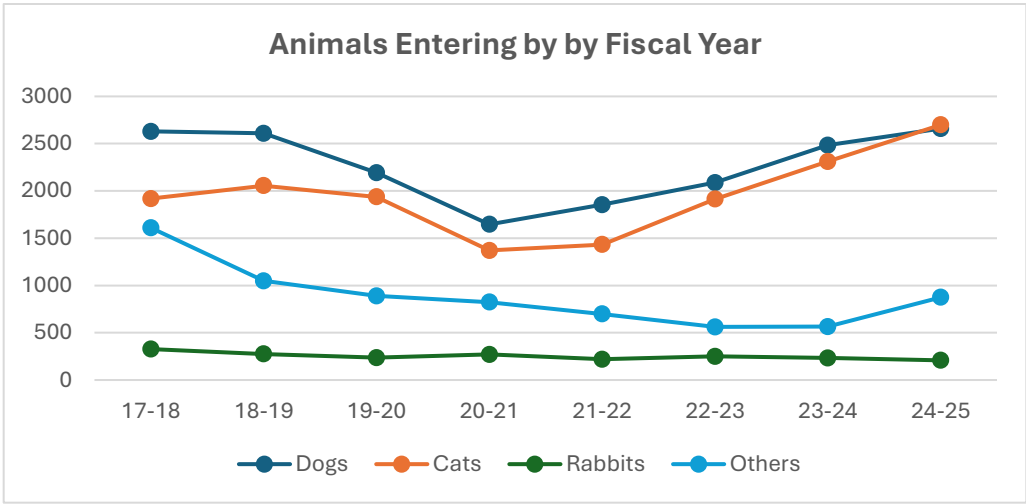
1. Sheltering Summary

The total number of live animal intakes (6,204) have increased by 17% from the prior fiscal year; we saw a small decrease in the number of stray pets entering the shelter and an increase in community cats, disaster evacuations, and safety net participants. The Stray Animal Task Force has provided insight into the causes of strays, the implementation of Petco Love Lost and Docupet, and low cost and free spay/neuter across the County by our partner agencies, have begun to turn back the influx of strays caused by the reduction in veterinary care during the pandemic.



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Total live outcomes for animals exiting the county shelters (5,450) increased by 8.3% from the prior fiscal year. Changes to shelter hours to include Sundays and the extension of closing from 5pm to 6pm, along with increased involvement at community events and increased media engagement, drove shelter adoptions to increase 24.5% to nearly 3,000. Despite the significant increase in total live animal intakes, non-live outcomes only rose slightly from the prior year, leading to an overall increase in the live release rate for the year to 90.3% from last year’s 90.1%. It is important to note that SBCAS previously transitioned from Asilomar reporting standards, which do not include owner requested euthanasia, to a more transparent “Noses In – Noses Out” reporting standard that includes all non-rabies vector animals.

Table 1. Shelter Outcomes by Fiscal Year.

		FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Live Outcome							
	Dog	2290	1679	1899	2062	2558	2550
	Cat	1859	1240	1496	1785	2254	2457
	Rabbit	276	221	208	199	202	213
	Others	622	648	578	335	397	483
Non-Live Outcome							
	Dog	130	79	156	115	105	115
	Cat	210	142	180	256	331	302
	Rabbit	328	207	317	301	335	40
	Others	221	141	122	100	79	373



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2. Foster Programming

SBCAS recognizes that no matter how nice a shelter is, it is still a temporary shelter. To continue striving for the most humane environment for pets in our care, SBCAS continues to focus on increasing foster program structure and support. Our foster program has enabled us to meet the increased need of pets in the community, while also maintaining manageable shelter census counts within the facility and staffing levels, and has become one of the largest in the state. At any given time, roughly half of the animals in our care are in foster homes.

Table 2. Foster Placements for FY 24-25.

FOSTER PLACEMENTS FY 24-25					
	Total	CAT	DOG	RABBIT	OTHER
Adopt	742	149	509	61	23
Day Trip	3,219	7	3,209	2	1
Hospice	5	0	5	0	0
Medical	198	111	55	23	9
Neonate	867	728	96	42	1
Overnight	429	9	420	0	0
Safety Net	52	0	8	0	44
Shelt Brk	517	8	505	0	4
To Adopt	25	9	16	0	0
To Place	150	29	115	4	2
Total	6,204	1,050	4,938	132	84

3. Community Engagement

SBCAS believes that people are the solution, so we engage and empower them. In addition to increasing our foster opportunities, SBCAS has continued embracing volunteers to help us meet the requirements of our mandates and expectations of our communities. Through expansion of our clinic volunteer program, the addition of a third volunteer foster coordinator, and volunteers leading seven orientations a month, we continue to have more hours gifted to us year over year. The following table indicates the continued growth of hours donated by community members to support and assist SBCAS



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care for shelter animals. In Fiscal Year, 24-25 Over 22,000 volunteer hours were generously provided by individual community members; an increase of 16.7% from the prior fiscal year.

Table 3. Volunteer Hours by Fiscal Year and Yearly Change.

Fiscal Year	Volunteer Hours	Change %
20-21	6,002	-48.3%
21-22	8,606	43.4%
22-23	15,931	85.1%
23-24	18,863	18.4%
24-25	22,014	16.7%

Strategic Planning Updates

Among the things to expect in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 include:

- The placement of 20 microchip scanning stations across the County thanks to a gift from the Santa Barbara Foundation to the Santa Barbara Animal Care Foundation.
- Remodeled and upgraded dog play yards at our Goleta campus thanks to a gift from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to the Santa Barbara Animal Care Foundation.
- Brightly painted Lompoc shelter thanks to County General Services.
- Potential for two murals in collaboration with the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture.
- Results of an ongoing fee study with considerations for a revised consumer fee structure.
- Tails of Hope event (held September 21, 2025), a fundraising gala aimed at expanding community awareness of the work we do and celebrating our collaborations across the County.

Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and our community partners for their continuing support and cooperation in our mission to treat every pet as an individual and to give them every opportunity for a happy future. Together, we are making a significant difference in the lives of these incredible animals and the people who care for them.



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Through our partnerships with non-profits across the County, primarily with CAPA (Companion Animal Placement Assistance, Lompoc), C.A.R.E.4Paws, BUNS (Bunnies Urgently Needing Shelter), and K9PALS (K-9 Placement and Assistance League, Santa Barbara), SBCAS operates pet resource centers at each shelter. Based solely on donations, SBCAS was able to distribute over 28,000 pounds of pet food this past year. Additionally, we were able to provide pet owners with supplies like litter, leashes, beds, treats, and jackets to assist and to support the care of animal companions within their home environment.

For many years, SBCAS has worked closely with non-profit partners to improve the quality of life for pets living in animal shelters across the County. ASAP Cats and BUNS have been providing voluntary services and supplies under Board approved MOUs since 2017, and we are eternally grateful for their support and assistance in caring for felines, rabbits, and guinea pigs. In addition, we received support through coverage of veterinary bills, behavior training specialists, and pet supplies from CAPA, K-9PALS, and Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation. These partners provide invaluable support directly to the pets in the care of the shelter.