

# Animal Services Update

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January 23, 2024




# YCAS Status Update

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- Agreements with Local Jurisdictions - Green
  - New agreements have been reached with all contracting jurisdictions.; one year term with two one-year options;
  - West Sacramento to join JPA following amendment approval
  - Online pet licensing, fee study, increased public engagement
- Veterinary Services – Green
  - Recently hired a full-time permanent DVM; RVT recruitment in process
  - Awarded \$363k grant from UC Koret Shelter Medicine Program
- Deferred Maintenance - Green
- Transition - Green

# YCAS Status Update




**YOLO COUNTY  
ANIMAL SERVICES**

## Message from the Director

Stephanie Amato

Dear **LastNameBR**,

I am reaching out to you today with an update regarding the backlog of spays and neuters for pets adopted from the Yolo County Animal Shelter. We know this backlog has been deeply frustrating, and we are so appreciative of your patience as we navigated the challenges of finding a new veterinary team for our shelter.



Fortunately, the following developments will help us finally close the gap to get everyone's pets spayed or neutered in the next few months:

- **Grant Funding:** This month we were awarded \$363,450 through the "California for All Animals" shelter assistance program to increase capacity of spay/neuter services for cats and dogs adopted in 2023 and 2024.
- **New Veterinary Team:** Dr. Jennifer Kwan joins our team this week with over ten years of experience working in shelter medicine in the Bay Area and more recently in Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Additionally, 4 technical support staff have been identified with open recruitments for 3 positions remaining.
- **Veterinary Partnerships:** We worked closely with local and neighboring county veterinary clinics, the Gourley Center at UC Davis, and SPCA of Solano County for external support.

We believe that these changes can help address the spay/neuter backlog for recently adopted and current shelter pets, as well as provide important opportunities for expanding our positive impact on the Yolo County community. These changes will take effect in the first couple months of 2024.

Our staff will be reaching out to you in order to arrange for your adopted pet's spay/neuter once we receive your response to the questionnaire below:

[SURVEY \(English\)](#)

[SURVEY \(Español\)](#)

# Proposed YCAS Transition

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- Staff recommends Animal Services transition to the Department of Community Services
  - DCS engages in similar functions (Code Enforcement and Cannabis Code Enforcement), has robust administrative capability
  - Full transition will likely take several months
- Sheriff's Office and DCS agree with recommendation
- Staff also recommends the Board request the Animal Services Planning JPA to consider collective interest in shared governance model

# Recommended Action

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1. Approve amendment to Animal Services Planning Agency Joint Powers Authority agreement to include City of West Sacramento
2. Direct staff to proceed with transitioning Animal Services from the CAO/Sheriff's Office to the Department of Community Services
3. Request the Animal Services Planning JPA to consider its collective interest in a shared governance model of Animal Services