

# ANNUAL REPORT



**Riverside County  
Department of Animal Services**



**January - December**

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

In 2025, RivCo Department of Animal Services began undergoing a transformation. With new leadership, targeted investments, and support from the Board of Supervisors, we've been making system-wide changes to ensure more animals get the second chance they deserve, while balancing safety and humane care.

This effort is called **RivCo Rise** - a movement built on compassion, action, and community partnership. We are reshaping how we help animals by:

- **Expanding Community-Based Services:** Making spay/neuter, vaccinations, and pet owner support more accessible to keep animals in homes and out of shelters.
- **Growing Our Foster and Rescue Network:** Creating capacity beyond shelter walls by working with fosters, rescue partners, and transport teams.
- **Improving Reunification Efforts:** Using technology and field-based reunification strategies to get more lost pets back home, faster.
- **Investing in Transparency:** Publishing real-time data and progress reports to keep the public informed and engaged.
- **Innovating With Purpose:** Launching new shelter hours, mobile wellness units, and creative adoption events to increase positive outcomes.

The data in this report transparently highlights both the incredible progress achieved in 2025 as well as the opportunities still ahead.

**Together, we're building a future where every animal who can be helped, is helped.**



**V. Manuel Perez**  
District 4  
Animal Services  
Ad Hoc Member



**Yxstian Gutierrez**  
District 5  
Animal Services  
Ad Hoc Member



**Jose Medina**  
District 1



**Karen Spiegel**  
District 2



**Chuck Washington**  
District 3

# MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Riverside County Animal Services (RCDAS) exists to serve the animals and people of our community, and 2025 was a year defined by meaningful progress on both fronts. As one of the largest municipal shelter systems in the country, RCDAS took in 29,093 dogs and cats and 5,780 small animals, livestock, and wildlife, continuing to serve as a critical safety net for lost pets, animals affected by cruelty and neglect, and the pets of families facing hardship.

When I joined as Director in early 2025, I understood the challenges facing one of the nation's largest shelter systems. What energized me immediately was the passionate staff and volunteers, a caring community, and committed consultants and other partners all invested in the changes needed to help more pets and the people who love them.

There is much to celebrate: more pets were adopted, our foster and volunteer programs each doubled, we performed more spay and neuter surgeries than ever before, and when devastating fires struck our region, we were there.

And yet, we know the work is not finished. Reunification rates remain below where they should be. Shelter capacity continues to challenge us. Animals still wait too long, and some do not make it out when we run out of all other options. We are committed to reporting that reality transparently alongside our progress, because both are true.

The data in this report reflects an organization that is growing, learning, and refusing to accept the status quo. We are grateful to every partner, volunteer, foster, and community member who made 2025 what it was, and we are just getting started.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Martin".

**Mary Martin**  
Director of Animal Services



# INTAKES

## A Year in Review

### DOGS

	Blythe*	Coachella	Jurupa Valley	San Jacinto	Total
Seizure/Confiscate	19	295	423	524	1,261
Owner Surrender	47	535	1,627	735	2,944
Stray	265	2,608	6,777	5,375	15,025
Other	-	2	37	8	47
Total Intake	331	3,440	8,864	6,642	19,277

### CATS

	Blythe*	Coachella	Jurupa Valley	San Jacinto	Total
Seizure/Confiscate	3	21	48	87	159
Owner Surrender	6	214	325	215	760
Stray	254	2,608	3,558	2,475	8,895
Other	-	-	1	1	2
Total Intake	263	2,843	3,932	2,778	9,816

RCDAS operates four shelters across Riverside County and moves animals between locations to manage space and improve adoption outcomes. The intake is recorded at the shelter where an animal first enters, while the final outcome is counted at the shelter where it occurs.

Transfers: Animals transferred outside of RCDAS are counted as "Transfer Out" outcomes. Animals moved between RCDAS shelters are counted only once (one intake and one outcome) to avoid double counting.

Blythe Shelter Impact: Blythe takes in fewer than 900 animals annually. Most are transferred to the Coachella Valley shelter, where their final outcome is recorded. Because of this, Blythe has more intakes than outcomes, impacting the live release rate for that location, even when animals who arrive at that location have a live outcome at another location.

Cat/Kitten Intake Policy Impact: Cat intake is primarily limited to sick, injured, or vulnerable kittens requiring medical care. As a result, many cats entering the shelter are medically fragile, which contributes to higher rates of humane euthanasia or died-in-care outcomes. Euthanasia decisions are made with a focus on preventing suffering rather than meeting a specific live outcome benchmark. Healthy, free-roaming cats are supported through trap-neuter-vaccinate-return programs in partnership with colony caretakers to reduce unnecessary shelter intake.

# OUTCOMES

## A Year in Review

### DOGS

	Blythe*	Coachella	Jurupa Valley	San Jacinto	Total
Return to Owner	68	650	1,369	989	3,076
Adoption	44	1,679	3,534	1,774	7,031
Transfer Out	8	595	2,249	1,493	4,345
Total Live Outcome	120	2,924	7,152	4,256	14,452
Total Non-Live Outcome	13	312	1,533	1,280	3,138
Live Release Rate	90.2%	90.4%	82.3%	76.9%	82.2%

### CATS

	Blythe*	Coachella	Jurupa Valley	San Jacinto	Total
Return to Owner	1	45	54	32	132
Adoption	23	1,703	1,699	941	4,366
Transfer Out	-	352	426	437	1,215
Return to Field	20	236	207	164	627
Total Live Outcome	44	2,336	2,386	1,574	6,340
Total Non-Live Outcome	11	432	1,120	736	2,299
Live Release Rate	80.0%	84.4%	68.1%	68.1%	73.4%



# OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

-  Implemented Dog Day Out field trip program to reduce kennel stress, improve behavior, and boost adoption visibility.
-  Launched Ticket to Ride, a short-term foster program for pets scheduled for cross-country transfer or adoption.
-  Extended public hours by opening on Sundays and extending hours on weekdays, making it easier for the community to reclaim and adopt pets.
-  Waived Return-to-Owner (RTO) fees, removing financial barriers for pet owners and increasing the number of pets returned home.
-  Added Daily Report Cards to increase transparency and regularly issue urgent pleas during periods of over-capacity.
-  Increased frequency of fee-waived adoption events, helping more animals find homes faster.
-  Completed cross-country pet transfer flights and enhanced partner outreach, creating more placement opportunities and reducing overcrowding.
-  Enhanced marketing efforts, leading to better visibility for adoptable pets and increased community engagement.
-  DIBS program allows for people to pre-adopt a dog still on stray hold, reserving them to adopt as soon as the hold ends. It helps dogs move into homes faster.
-  A new MVP (Most Vulnerable Pets) Facebook group was created to boost visibility and support for pets needing extra help.

# ADOPTIONS

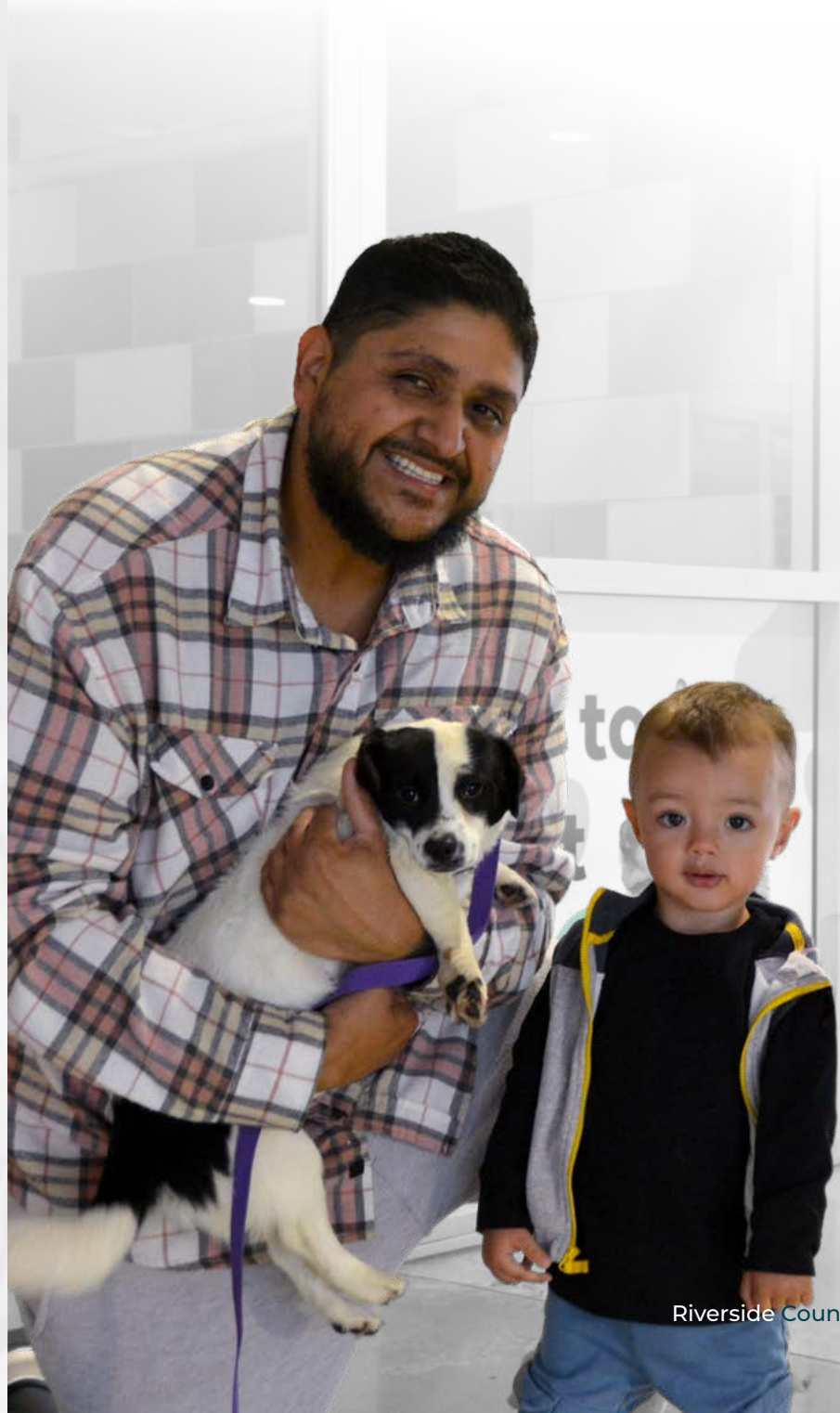
In April 2025, the shelter expanded to six days a week, adding Sundays and extending weekday hours until 6 p.m. The impact was immediate: the shelter saw approximately 65% more animals leave than enter

In October, hours shifted to Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and weekends, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In the first month alone, 196 more pets left through adoption, foster, or reunification than came in.



## East Finally Home After A 258 Day Journey

East's adoption highlights the department's commitment to providing care without time limits. He arrived as a stray and after 258 days at the shelter, he was finally adopted!



**11,397**  
cats and dogs  
adopted in 2025

 **1,303**  
more adoptions,  
a 13% increase  
from 2024

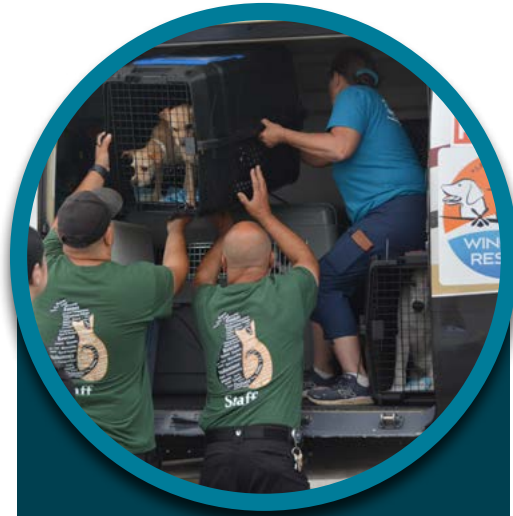
# FOSTER AND VOLUNTEER

Our volunteers play a vital role in the well-being of shelter pets and the success of our programs. They walk dogs, socialize cats, help adopters meet new pets, and support veterinary teams in clinics and mobile wellness events. Their tireless dedication saves countless lives. Foster caregivers help the shelter build capacity and provide nurturing homes for sick, injured and orphaned pets. This gives them a second chance, and gives healthy, adoptable animals a break from the stress of a shelter environment. We could not do what we do without volunteers and foster caregivers.

 **30,530**  
volunteer hours in 2025

 **892**  
volunteers, an **89%**  
increase from 2024

 **6,902**  
fosters, double the  
number from 2024



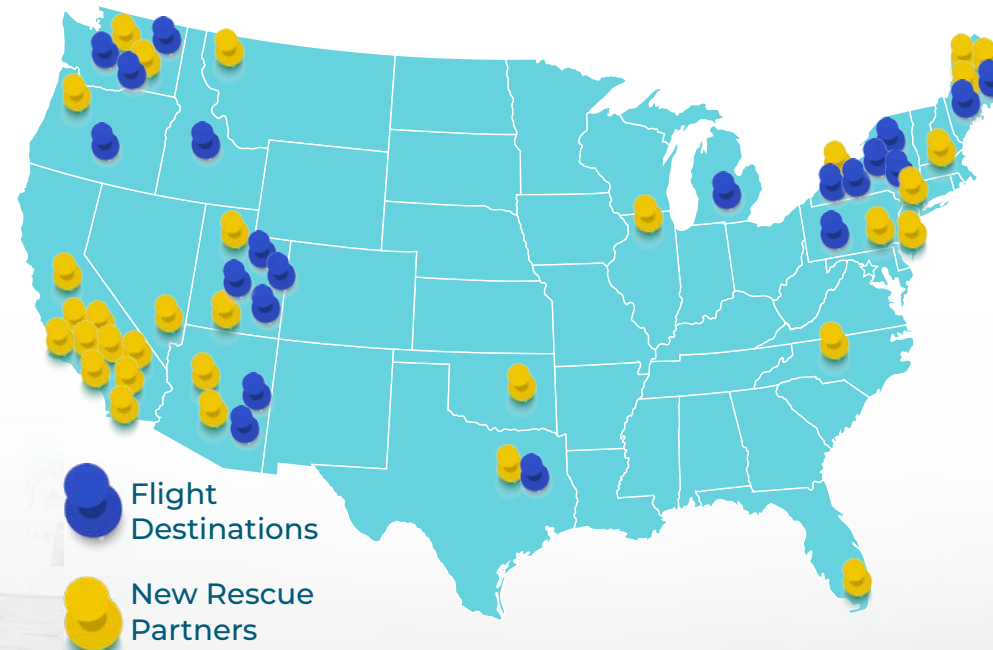
## Ticket to Ride

The Ticket to Ride Foster Program is a short-term commitment to provide temporary housing and care for a pet designated to be transferred to a shelter or adopter. This program frees up kennel space at the shelter while also giving the pets time to decompress in a home environment before they embark on their next journey.

# TRANSFERS

**4,345** + **1,215**  
Dogs + Cats

Were transferred to other animal sheltering organizations



## Partnering to Save Lives

With limited medical resources and isolation spaces for sick pets, the department partnered with the San Diego Humane Society to transfer 21 cats for treatment and adoption placement. This collaboration ensured the cats received the care needed for recovery and the opportunity to be adopted once medically cleared. Partnerships like this are essential in a high-intake system, allowing the department to address medical needs while responsibly managing overall shelter capacity.





### Cassi's Instant Connection: First Adoption from Dog Day Out

After 130 days in the shelter, Cassi made program history as the first dog adopted directly from a Dog Day Out experience. During her Sunday field trip visit to Petco, Three Dog Bakery, and the park, Cassi's sweet personality won over her DDO participants completely. The time with Cassi gave the family confidence to adopt her immediately rather than returning her to the shelter!



### Adopted, Returned, Running Out of Time Carter's DDO Saved Her Life

After being adopted and returned to the shelter, Carter was placed on the deadline list facing euthanasia. Volunteer Yvonne had previously taken Carter on Dog Day Out and witnessed her personality transformation outside the shelter environment. "She's social and fun, enjoys meeting other dogs, and walks nicely on a leash." When Yvonne learned of Carter's critical situation, she immediately mobilized to advocate for her, knowing Carter's true potential from their field trip experience. It wasn't long before Carter was adopted by a wonderful family.

# DOG DAY OUT

The Dog Day Out program, supported by VCA Charities, has become a lifesaving initiative at Riverside County Department of Animal Services (RCDAS). This field trip program has dramatically increased shelter dog enrichment and adoption success through real-world community experiences.

With over 1,000 dogs in care, kennels are typically housing up to 4 or 5 dogs. The crowded conditions and kennel stress make it nearly impossible to evaluate a dog's true personality in that environment. Once removed from the shelter, participants report information on Dog Day Out Report Cards that have been key to showing the dog's true personality, leading to more adoptions.

**In 2025, community members took RivCo's shelter dogs on 1,245 field trips.**



# LOST & FOUND

Riverside County reunites lost pets at a rate below national benchmarks for government animal shelters. Barriers to reclaiming pets can include not knowing where to look, outdated microchip information, reluctance to engage with government agencies, financial constraints, and other access challenges.

To improve reunification and reduce shelter strain, RCDAS began waiving reclaim fees for lost pets in 2025. That decision, in part, led to 3,208 cats and dogs returning home to their families. While some progress was made, continued investment in prevention, outreach, and access to services remains essential to keeping pets with their families and out of shelters.



### King's Microchip Success Story

King was spooked by fireworks on the night of 4th of July and found himself lost and alone, but thanks to his microchip and the fast action of an Animal Services Officer, King was reunited within hours.



### Getting Pepper Back Home

When 16 year-old Pepper escaped her home during a windstorm, her family was devastated. Fortunately, Pepper's microchip information was current, so we were able to quickly reunite her with her family.



# VETERINARY SERVICES

Our Veterinary Services team is responsible for the health of every animal entering RCDAS shelters. They also operate three spay and neuter clinics, which serve shelter pets and the community. The team oversees the Healthy Pet Zone, which offers free or affordable veterinary care to pet parents.



## Ghost's Road to Recovery — and a New Family

Ghost was just five weeks old, with an injured leg, when our Field Services team rescued him. After a full medical evaluation, a shelter staff member with experience fostering special needs pets took him for several weeks to recover and grow stronger. Once cleared for adoption, Ghost found a family within two days! As he continued to develop, his healed leg began to limit his mobility, and our veterinary team determined that amputation would give him the best long-term outcome. We performed the surgery and were able to quickly reunite him with his family.

# SPAY & NEUTER

Spay and neuter programs are one strategy of several aimed at reducing pet overpopulation, preventing unwanted litters, and decreasing shelter intake and euthanasia rates. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors has demonstrated its deep commitment to expanding access to spay and neuter services by investing in key resources, including: mobile wellness units and increased shelter veterinary staff.



**1,715** community pets assisted by mobile spay & neuter clinics

↑ **823** more than 2024



**17,349** spay & neuter surgeries performed in 2025

↑ **3,274** more than 2024



# FIELD SERVICES

Animal Control Officers perform a wide range of services for pets and people in Riverside County. They rescue injured animals, protect animals from cruelty and neglect, remove animals from inhumane hoarding situations, pick up lost and stray pets, respond to public safety incidents, and keep our streets safe from dangerous dogs. They are critical public servants.

## Top 5 Call Requests

1. Stray/At large
2. Deceased Animal
3. Sick/Injured
4. Aggressive/Dangerous Animal
5. Neglect/Cruelty Investigation



**39,712**  
responses to calls for service



**10,143**  
strays brought to the shelter



**33**  
Large-scale impoundment cases of 15+ animals



## Rosa Fire Response

When the Rosa Fire broke out in August 2025, RCDAS jumped into action to rescue and care for pets affected by the blaze. 53 animals including dogs, horses, goats and turkeys were cared for by staff at the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus and a local emergency center.



## Injured Donkey Round Up

Animal Services Officers responded to a call about an injured donkey in need of urgent help. With patience, care, and expert teamwork, our officers carefully rounded him up - ensuring he didn't worsen his injury - before transporting him safely to an equine center for specialized treatment.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In January 2025, a team of six Riverside County Animal Control Officers deployed to Los Angeles to support emergency response efforts during the Palisades Fire. Riverside County was the first operational area in the state to answer the request for assistance, extending support to the City of Los Angeles through California's Emergency Management Mutual Aid system. Tasked with less than 16 hours' notice, the team mobilized immediately.

Once on scene, the officers coordinated with multiple agencies and began responding to calls for help evacuating, locating, and caring for lost or injured pets. Over the course of the deployment, the team responded to approximately 180 calls and assisted more than 100 animals. Initially assigned for five days, their presence was extended to 9 days due to the massive need.



**BARKHELIA**  
**FREE ADOPTIONS**  
 April 9-12 & 16-19, 2025 · At all RivCo shelters

**ALL-STAR LINEUP**  
 German Shepherds  
 Terriers · Orange Cats  
 Dobermans · Poodles

**Tabby Cats**  
 Pitbulls · Chihuahuas  
 Black Labs · Calico Cats

[www.RCDAS.org/adoptable-pets](http://www.RCDAS.org/adoptable-pets)

**FINAL WEEKEND!**  
**CLEAR THE SHELTERS**  
 AUGUST 28-31, 2025

**\$0 FOR ALL PETS**  
INCLUDES SPAY/NEUTER, VACCINES AND MICROCHIP

**BE A SHELTER PET HERO!**

**FREE PET WELLNESS CLINIC**

**November 6, 2025**  
 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
 Palm Desert City Hall  
 73-510 Fred Waring Dr, Palm Desert, CA 92260

**Services available:**  
 Vaccinations, microchip, flea & tick treatment, dewormer.  
 By appointment only.

<https://bit.ly/rivco-wellness>

**FALL in love**

**Adoption fees waived**  
 September 3-30, 2025

[www.RCDAS.org/adoptable-pets](http://www.RCDAS.org/adoptable-pets)

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

**COME JOIN OUR FURRY FRIENDS!**  
**WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 8 | 4-7 PM**

RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES  
 6851 VAN BUREN BL., JURUPA VALLEY, CA 92509

**MUSIC & GAMES | TRUNK DISPLAYS | FOOD & CANDY**

**CRITTER KIDZ CAMP**

**Around the World in Two Weeks**  
 June 16-20 & 23-27, 2025

**Register today!**  
[www.RCDAS.org/critter-camp](http://www.RCDAS.org/critter-camp)

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FAIR & NATIONAL DATE FESTIVAL**

**FREE ADOPTIONS AT THE FAIR**

46350 ARABIA ST. INDIO CA, 92201

**FEBRUARY 15-17, 22-23**  
**MARCH 1-2**  
 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**MUST BE 18+ WITH VALID ID**

# EVENTS

Riverside County Department of Animal Services hosts a series of events across the year including: free pet adoption, humane education, animal care workshops, wellness clinics, spay and neuter clinics, and youth-focused animal enrichment events.

In 2025 we increased these events to help more pets.

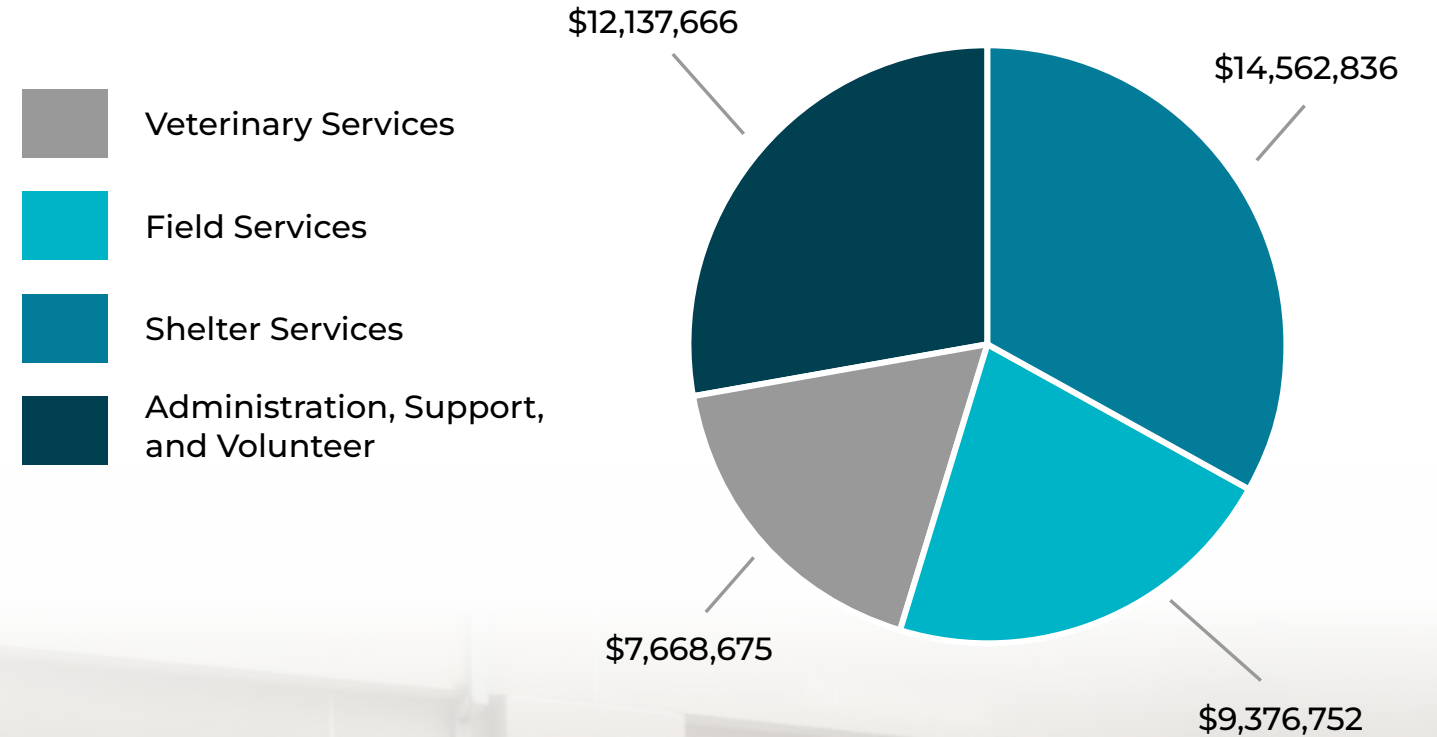


# BUDGET

Riverside County Department of Animals Services Division

**Total Budget FY25/26 \$43,745,931**

## Budget Breakdown



# Our Mission:

Working together to improve Riverside County for people and animals.



## Shelters & Hours

### Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter

Tuesday- Friday - 11 A.M.- 6 P.M.  
Saturday & Sunday- 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
Closed Mondays

### Coachella Valley Animal Campus

Tuesday- Friday - 11 A.M.- 6 P.M.  
Saturday & Sunday- 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
Closed Mondays

### San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus

Tuesday- Friday - 11 A.M.- 6 P.M.  
Saturday & Sunday- 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
Closed Mondays

### Blythe Animal Shelter

Monday- Friday - 10 A.M.- 4 P.M.  
Closed Saturdays & Sundays

## Follow us



@riversidecountyanimalservices



Riverside County Department of Animal Services



[www.rcdas.org](http://www.rcdas.org)



## Support animals of Riverside County

Scan to donate or visit  
[www.rcdas.org/donate](http://www.rcdas.org/donate)