



## **LINCOLN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER** **SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

1. **Volunteer Program:** The Lincoln County Animal Shelter (LCAS) operates a volunteer program comprised of about 30 members who donate upwards of 200 hours per month toward the operation of the shelter. Volunteers help with office work, data entry, socializing, grooming and exercising the animals (dog walks in the community), cleaning, answering phones, servicing customers, preparing and distributing flyers, taking photos of the animals, updating Petfinder, and helping with the annual Boomer Bash fundraiser. Future projects will include: preparing a release for “pet of the week”, and compiling statistics on the number of animals received, adopted, transferred, redeemed, and spayed/neutered. A volunteer coordinator works closely with staff to ensure needed tasks are completed, a schedule is kept so there is space for volunteers to work on their assigned day, training is provided when needed, and hours are recorded and reported.
2. **Court Advocacy Program:** A volunteer coordinates with the Lincoln County District Attorney’s Office in cases involving animal abuse, neglect, abandonment, and cruelty. The volunteer follows the case through the court system and reports outcomes and solutions to the case. This program is small but it is hoped this will provide a voice/advocacy for the animals involved.
3. **Foster Program:** This program is in its infancy and will include recruiting foster homes for animals with special needs, and for an overflow of shelter animals. It is hoped the homes will actively recruit “forever” homes for their foster animals. The program includes having the prospective foster family accepted as volunteers, which includes passing a background check. It also will entail them going through a home visit in order to better match the needs of the animal with the home environment/yard and physical capabilities of the family. A new “Watch Me Grow” foster program is being implemented to handle the influx of cats/kittens during “kitten season” each spring. Homes with a spare room are needed for momma cats and their litters. It is hoped this arrangement will work to keep the kittens in a socialized home environment until they are weaned (8 weeks old) and until each kitten weighs three or more pounds (usually around 12 weeks) so they can be spayed or neutered before adoption placement.

4. **Inmate Program**: LCAS operates with the assistance of inmate workers from the Lincoln County Jail. They help with cleaning and sanitation, laundry, socialization, grooming, and exercising/playing with the dogs in a fenced-in yard. They organize storage areas, unload shipments of food and supplies, and prepare food for the pet food bank and Meals on Wheels program. They become familiar with the animals and are able to answer questions about the animal's personality and behavior. They work seven days a week and donate upwards of 800 – 1000 hours per month to shelter operations.
5. **Pet Meals on Wheels Program**: Through a monthly commitment from Central Coast Humane Society and community donations of pet food and money, LCAS provides pet food for animals of home-bound seniors. The food is received, stored and packaged at the shelter then delivered once a month to the Senior Center for distribution to all areas of the county via the drivers when they deliver meals to seniors.
6. **Food Bank**: LCAS keeps a supply of pet food for those in need of a little help during hard economic times. The public accesses this program during regular business hours and are given a supply of food for their animals to help them through until their next pay day. We ask that the recipients "give back" to the program when they are able. To ensure enough food for all, we ask that recipients access the food bank no more than once per month. At the end of four months, we ask that recipients' pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and licensed if not done so already. Central Coast Humane Society has grants from time to time that can assist with spay/neuter surgeries and sometimes vaccinations. Please contact them at 541-265-3719. If the cost of ownership of the pet is more than the family can handle, they can ask that their pet be added to our "Match Maker" list.
7. **Lost and Found**: The shelter coordinates a service to match up pets that are lost by their owners or found by a Good Samaritan. The database includes the date we receive the information, the kind of animal, description, approximate age, location where found or lost, and the name and contact information of the reporting person. If we receive an animal into the shelter we check the lost list and notify owners if there is a match. We ask that persons notify the shelter if an animal is returned to or found by their owner when it doesn't involve the animal being in the shelter so that we can update our list. An on-line database is scheduled to be launched this year so owners / finders can enter their information 24/7 from their home. It is hoped this will greatly increase lost pets being found and found pets being returned home.
8. **Match Maker (Wanted, Surrender, Give-a-way)**: LCAS keeps a list of people who want to adopt a certain kind / age / or breed of animal if such an animal is not present in the shelter when they inquire about adoption. We also refer them to Petfinder and provide a list of other shelters and humane societies they can check. If a person has an animal they need to surrender to the shelter or give-a-way to another home, LCAS keeps this information in order to receive the animal into the shelter when there is room, or to coordinate the pet's parents with a prospective adopter – an exchange that can take place outside the shelter.

9. **Breed and other Rescue Groups**: LCAS keeps a list of breed rescue and other groups (such as Senior Dog Rescue) to contact if we have an animal that needs placement and is not getting adopted from LCAS in a timely manner. We contact the groups and coordinate their receiving the animal if they agree to accept.
10. **Second Chance Transfer**: LCAS participates in the “Second Chance Program” amongst various shelters and humane societies. This entails transporting animals to another shelter that agrees to accept them if the animals are not getting adopted through the Lincoln County Animal Shelter. This gives the animals an exposure to a different locale and base of clientele. If that shelter is not able to get the animals adopted, they are received back into the originating shelter to continue the adoption search.
11. **Service Providers Information Station**: LCAS is setting up an area of information of the various animal related service providers in Lincoln County. This includes trainers, groomers, pet sitters, animal behaviorists, therapy dog groups, agility groups, service dog organizations, day care and boarding businesses, Humane Societies and their programs, and other non-profit organizations providing support and funds to LCAS. Each provider or organization is welcome to keep a supply of their brochures, flyers and business cards stocked in the containers provided.
12. **Medical Trust Fund**: LCAS holds a “Boomer Bash” each year to raise funds for special medical needs of the animals. (Boomer is the shelter cat) The funds are used for such things as surgery, fixing broken bones, working with special medical conditions, and restoring an animal to “quality of life”. Money is also placed in the trust when received and designated “for the animals”. The medical trust helps animals get over a hurdle so they can be adopted. All funds are spent directly on the animals.
13. **Pre-adoption Spay/Neuter**: LCAS takes the stance that all animals should be spayed or neutered before they are adopted. We can make exceptions for kittens and puppies that are too young or don’t weigh enough to go through the surgery. Rather than keep the animal in the shelter we will place with adoptive families that agree to spay or neuter their kitten or puppy when they are old enough. Volunteers follow up with phone calls and verifications so we are assured the animal is altered and doesn’t contribute to the overpopulation of pets. If it is not altered in a timely manner, we require the owner to return the animal to the shelter.
14. **Pre-adoption Counseling**: Our staff of animal care specialists provides counseling to prospective adopters to better match the animal to the family. We find out if the adopter has other animals (and if they are licensed), what kind of animal they are looking for, what breed, size, gender and age, if they have a fenced yard, and if they are looking for a very active pet or one that will require less exercise. If we have an animal that fits their needs, we introduce them, let them get acquainted and interact with the animal. If we don’t, we refer them to other shelters and Petfinder.com. Adopters are informed of the history of the animal, if they have any medical needs that may be

ongoing and the approximate cost for meds per month if needed. If the family has other pets or children, we encourage them to bring in their (healthy) pets and children for introductions. Should the family become interested in an animal that doesn't meet their stated needs, we counsel them about that animal's behavior, personality and activity level so they can make an informed decision as to whether that match would really work with their family or not. If we feel the placement would place the family or animal in an unsafe situation, we politely explain our reasoning and deny the adoption. We want any adoption to be the "first home, forever home" for the animal after leaving the Lincoln County Animal Shelter

15. **Lifetime Guarantee:** When an adoption takes place and unforeseen circumstances happen in the lives of the adoptive family, we offer a lifetime guarantee so they can return the animal to the shelter if they are unable to keep it. In fact, we ask that any animal adopted from LCAS be returned to the shelter rather than be abandoned or placed in an unsafe situation. If an animal is adopted with a medical condition unknown to shelter staff at the time of adoption, the owners can return the animal to the shelter and we will deal with the medical issue.
16. **Preventive medical/vet care plan:** Upon intake each animal is given a medical check-up by one of our Animal Care Specialists. They check for any unusual conditions that may need a vet's care. A vaccination is given along with treatment for fleas, ticks, and worms. Each dog receives a treatment to prevent "kennel cough", and each cat/kitten is given a blood test to check for feline leukemia and immunodeficiency disease. Other health procedures are performed such as a medicated bath if the animal has skin problems, and cleansing of any wounds. Medication is started for those ailments / diseases for which the specialists have been trained. If the animal needs to be seen by a vet, an appointment is made with one of our local veterinarians.
17. **Community and Professional Education:** LCAS provides information brochures on typical animal behavior, adoption considerations, animal enrichment, training, behavior problems and solutions, how to let the animal choose you, and the commitment, cost, time and love it takes to bring a new pet into your family. We consider professional education a must for our staff, both for increasing their skill level and knowledge, and for cost control.
18. **Shelter Rounds:** This is a program whereby a local veterinarian comes to the shelter to provide education and training for staff to allow them to better recognize health problems with the animals and to treat them accordingly. The vet also evaluates animals with special needs, verifies staff is pursuing the correct treatment plans, and provides rabies shots when needed. This program has proven to be very successful both in providing staff with professional education and the ability to recognize problems and start appropriate treatment without incurring the expense of a vet visit every time a new animal arrives.

19. **Community (Feral) Cat Support:** LCAS works closely with the Central Coast Humane Society who funds spay and neuter of feral cats in the county. We encourage the community to work with feral colonies rather than killing the cats or “moving” them to another location – a solution that often doesn’t work as another colony tends to move in when the original colony is gone. An effective way to control the colonies is to have each cat spayed or neutered to stop reproduction and control disease. Vaccinations are recommended. Once the colony is stabilized, the members live out their lives eventually decreasing in number as they age and die. Shelter (dog houses), food and water are provided by the caretakers. The shelter helps the managers of these colonies by providing food when needed.
20. **Animal Services Deputies:** LCAS partners closely with the Patrol Division of the Sheriff’s Office that oversees the Animal Service Deputies. They provide humane intervention for animals that may be lost, homeless, neglected, abandoned, abused or causing problems with neighbors and/or livestock. If an animal is causing problems for someone other than the owners, it can be seized and housed at the shelter until a hearing takes place in front of the Dog Judge to decide a disposition. When an animal is taken into protective custody, it is held at the shelter until the owner can redeem the animal, or a forfeiture hearing is held to legally take the animal from the owner for placement in a safe environment. In either case the animal can be placed for adoption.
21. **Emergency Care:** If an animal is injured in one of our communities and the owners are unable to pay for the medical care, LCAS can work toward a solution with the owners, vets and law enforcement. The owner can relinquish the animal to shelter ownership if the shelter feels it is able to restore “quality of life” to the animal by using a portion of the medical trust fund.
22. **ADOPTION!** Last but not least we offer adoption of wonderful pets who will give a lifetime of love, companionship, laughter and joy. The cost of adopting from our shelter: **PRICELESS!**