



County of Mendocino
Department of Animal Care Services
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Mendocino County Animal Care Services

Every once in a while, a dog comes along who reminds you what resilience looks like, and that's Cricket. This young Lab mix may have started life on the streets, but you'd never know it from the way her tail wags when she sees a friendly face. Cricket's past is a mystery, but her future is full of promise. Cricket adores toys, lights up around other dogs, and melts into people she trusts. Every day, she gets a little braver, a little sillier, and a lot more loving. Read more about Cricket and her friends at mendoanimalshelter.com.



Operational Highlights:

- **Intakes:** In March 2026, our shelter welcomed a total of 44 new animals into care. This included 9 cats, 33 dogs, 1 tortoise and 1 turtle reflecting steady intake trends for companion animals in our region. Each intake represents an opportunity to provide safety, medical attention, and a path toward adoption or appropriate placement.
- **Shelter Services:** During March 2026, we successfully facilitated the adoption of 9 cats and 9 dogs, transferred 3 animals to other animal rescue organizations, and reunited 6 pets with their owners.
- **Clinic Services:** Our clinic performed 36 spay and neuter surgeries, administered 52 rabies vaccinations, and implanted 37 microchips in the month of March 2026.
Animal Protection Services: Officers responded to 223 calls for service with 31 categorized as priorities which include biting animals, cruelty complaints, animals in distress, aggressive loose animals, and law enforcement assistance.
- **Dog Licensing:** 667 dog licenses were sold in March 2026, generating \$27,022 in revenue.

Animal Balance Update:

Our first Animal Balance mass spay and neuter clinic, held March 6-8, was a tremendous success. Over the three-day event, 209 Mendocino County animals were spayed or neutered, marking an exceptionally strong start toward our annual goal of 600 surgeries.

In addition to sterilization services, the clinic provided critical preventive care, including 181 rabies vaccinations and 175 microchips administered to community pets. These numbers reflect both the high demand for accessible services and the meaningful impact of this collaborative effort.

We are deeply grateful to Animal Balance, Dogwood Animal Rescue, and the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication made this clinic run smoothly from start to finish. Their partnership and commitment continue to expand our ability to serve residents and improve animal welfare countywide.

Planning is underway for our next two clinics, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the months ahead.

Looking Ahead:

- **Volunteer Orientation:** Join us for volunteer orientation on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 am.
- **Empty the Shelter Pack Walk:** Join us for our monthly Empty the Shelter Pack Walk the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Help us get every dog out for a group walk, participate in training sessions, and enjoy socializing time with the dogs. This walk is open to all community members.
- **Second Animal Balance Clinic:** We look forward to welcoming Animal Balance back for our next clinic on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, building on the momentum and community support from our successful March event.

Upcoming Adoption Events:

Come meet and maybe even adopt your new best friend at one of our community adoption events. We'll be at the Ukiah Library on May 23 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Conclusion: Our Animal Care Services program continues to have a positive impact on the community, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our team. We remain committed to our mission of promoting animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.