



County of Mendocino
Department of Animal Care Services
298 Plant Road, Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-4427

Mendocino County Animal Care Services

Spotlight on Lilly

Lilly is a beautiful brown tabby kitten with bright eyes full of wonder and just the right dash of sass. A little independent by nature, she enjoys her solo adventures around the house, exploring every nook and cranny like the curious kitty she is. But don't be fooled—when the toys come out, Lilly's playful side shines! Feather wands, jingly balls, and crinkly tunnels are her jam, and she's always up for a good game (on her terms, of course). Lilly is the perfect companion for someone who appreciates a kitten with a mind of her own, but who's always nearby, keeping an eye on the fun—and occasionally pouncing right into it.



This month has been a period of significant activity and progress for our Animal Care Services program. Our dedicated team has continued to provide essential services to the community, ensuring the well-being of animals and promoting responsible pet ownership. The Animal Care Services program areas include Shelter, Clinic and Animal Protection Services. These programs provide animal education outreach, adoptions, volunteer opportunities, fostering, lost and found services, feral cat trap-neuter-release programs, dog licensing, low cost spay and neuter, veterinary care, animal health education, rabies vaccinations, micro-chipping, impounding of lost and stray animals, responding to injured, ill and suspected cruelty complaints, and promoting responsible pet ownership.

Operational Highlights:

- **Shelter Services:** During the month of September, we successfully facilitated the adoption of 9 cats and 8 dogs, transferred 15 animals to other animal rescue organizations, and reunited 9 pets with their owners.
- **Clinic Services:** Our clinic performed 73 spay and neuter surgeries, administered 89 rabies vaccinations, and implanted 70 microchips in September.
- **Animal Protection Services:** Officers responded to 250 calls for service with 30 categorized as priority which include biting animals, cruelty complaints, animals in distress, aggressive loose animals, and law enforcement assistance.
- **Dog Licensing:** 529 dog licenses were sold during the month of September generating \$18,685.00 in revenue.
- **Caravan Services:** In September the caravan performed 13 spay/neuter surgeries, administered 26 rabies vaccinations, and implanted 15 microchips. The caravan was in Laytonville on 10/2 and partnered with Second Chance Rescue in Fort Bragg for a vaccine clinic on 10/3 where 63 animals were seen, 36 rabies vaccines administered, and 78 other vaccines like Parvo and FVRCP vaccines for cats were given. Only 10 animals were microchipped at this clinic due to all the other animals already having a microchip! This is great progress.

Upcoming Caravan Dates: The Caravan is scheduled to be at JD Redhouse in Willits on 10/21

Market and Industry Insights:

- **Trends:** Shelters are shifting focus from intake to prevention by helping families keep pets through food pantries, low-cost vet care, and behavioral support.
- **Online tools** now allow potential adopters to browse animals, schedule visits and complete adoption paperwork remotely.
- **Challenges:**
 - Despite a slight dip in intake, shelters remain at or near capacity due to longer stays and slower adoptions.
 - Adoptions have dipped slightly year-over-year, especially for harder-to-place animals like senior pets and certain breeds.

Challenges and Risks:

- **Overcrowding and Capacity Strain:** Seasonal surges (e.g., kitten season) and slow adoption rates keep shelters near or over capacity.

- Health Risks: Overcrowding increases stress, illness, and euthanasia rates, and can trigger public backlash.

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.
- The Kennel Run: Join us October 25th at the Redwood Valley Industrial Park where the Who Crew a local motorcycle club has organized The Kennel Run to benefit the Ukiah Shelter. Donations are \$30.00 and include a lunch ticket and shirt. Also accepting donations of canned dog and kitten food, collars, leashes and Kong toys.

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.