



County of Mendocino  
Department of Animal Care Services  
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## **Mendocino County Animal Care Services**

### **Spay/Neuter Expansion Through High-Volume Community Clinics**

In 2025, Animal Care Services secured a major partnership with Animal Balance, Dogwood Animal Rescue, and a dedicated team of volunteers to deliver three high-volume, three-day spay and neuter clinics. These clinics represent one of the most significant expansions of accessible sterilization services our county has seen in years. The clinics are scheduled for:

- **March 6-8**
- **May 1-3**
- **July 31-August 2**

Across these three events, we expect to alter approximately 600 animals belonging to Mendocino County residents. This effort directly supports our long-term goals of reducing shelter intake and preventing unwanted litters. This initiative reflects the power of collaboration-nonprofits, volunteers, and county services working together to deliver meaningful, measurable impact for both animals and residents.

2025 was a year defined by meaningful progress, strengthened partnerships, and measurable impact for the animals of Mendocino County. 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, animal health education, rabies vaccinations, microchipping, impounding of lost and stray animals, responding to injured, ill and suspected cruelty complaints, and promoting responsible pet ownership.

### **Operational Highlights:**

- **Intakes:** In 2025, our shelter welcomed a total of 818 new animals into care. This included 302 cats, 509 dogs and 7 livestock animals 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 2025, we successfully facilitated the adoption of 132 cats and 155 dogs, 2 livestock animals, transferred 156 animals to other animal rescue organizations, and reunited 136 pets with their owners.
- **Clinic Services:** Our clinic performed 911 spay and neuter surgeries, administered 1,030 rabies vaccinations, and implanted 906 microchips in 2025.
- **Caravan Services:** In 2025 the caravan performed 483 spay/neuter surgeries, administered 573 rabies vaccinations, and implanted 459 microchips.
- **Animal Protection Services:** Officers responded to 2,909 calls for service with 394 categorized as priorities which include biting animals, cruelty complaints, animals in distress, aggressive loose animals, and law enforcement assistance.
- **Dog Licensing:** 6,454 dog licenses were sold during 2025 generating \$250,902 in revenue.

#### **Upcoming Caravan Dates:**

- Laytonville Garden Club on February 6<sup>th</sup>
- JD Redhouse in Willits on February 17<sup>th</sup>

#### **Dogs at large:**

Dogs at large remain a preventable risk to both community safety and animal welfare, and most incidents can be avoided with simple, consistent containment practices at home. Many at-large cases stem from avoidable issues such as broken fencing, unsecured gates, or doors left open during daily routines. Encouraging owners to regularly inspect and repair fences, install locks or self-closing mechanisms on gates, and talk with children and other household members about keeping doors and gates securely closed can dramatically reduce roaming. These small steps not only keep pets safe from traffic, wildlife, and injury, but also reduce nuisance complaints and the strain on Animal Care Services, allowing resources to be directed toward proactive community programs rather than emergency response.

#### **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.

#### **Upcoming Adoption Events:**

Come meet and maybe even adopt your new best friend at one of our community adoption events. We'll be at **JD Redhouse in Willits on March 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, and at the **Ukiah Library on May 23**.

**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.