



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

Spotlight on Rusty

Rusty is that goofy best friend who always brings fun. He's the life of the party, the toy hoarder, and the zoomie champion rolled into one freckle-faced package. Friendly with people and pups alike, he's looking for an active family who appreciates a little chaos, a lot of love, and doesn't mind dog hair as an accessory.

✨ Likes: Toys (all of them), new friends (two-legged AND four-legged), and spontaneous zoomie sessions.

🙄 Dislikes: Sitting still for too long (life's too short!).

📖 Currently working on: Basic obedience... because apparently "sit" means more than just a suggestion.



As autumn settles in, our shelter saw a steady flow of new arrivals and meaningful strides in care and collaboration. 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-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 October, our shelter welcomed a total of 46 new animals into care. This included 13 cats and 31 dogs, reflecting steady intake trends for companion animals in our region. Additionally, we received one ram and one pig, highlighting the diverse needs of our community and the shelter's ongoing role in supporting both domestic and livestock species. Each intake represents an opportunity to provide safety, medical attention, and a path toward adoption or appropriate placement.
- **Shelter Services:** During the month of October, we successfully facilitated the adoption of 15 cats and 15 dogs, transferred 8 animals to other animal rescue organizations, and reunited 8 pets with their owners.
- **Clinic Services:** Our clinic performed 55 spay and neuter surgeries, administered 74 rabies vaccinations, and implanted 66 microchips in October.
- **Animal Protection Services:** Officers responded to 272 calls for service with 26 categorized as priorities which include biting animals, cruelty complaints, animals in distress, aggressive loose animals, and law enforcement assistance.
- **Dog Licensing:** 575 dog licenses were sold during the month of October generating \$22,295.00 in revenue.
- **Caravan Services:** In October the caravan performed 38 spay/neuter surgeries, administered 80 rabies vaccinations, and implanted 46 microchips.

Upcoming Caravan Dates: The Caravan is scheduled to be at JD Redhouse in Willits on 11/18 and the Laytonville Garden Club on 11/21.

Did you know? Microchips Reunite Families - and Protect Ownership

Microchipping is one of the most effective ways to ensure lost pets find their way home. Unlike collars or tags, microchips are permanent and can't fall off or be removed. When a lost animal is brought to a shelter or veterinary clinic, a quick scan can instantly identify the owner-saving time, stress, and even lives. This is especially important for free-roaming cats, who often travel unnoticed and may not wear visible ID. Microchips give them a voice when they can't speak for themselves. **Microchips also serve as legal proof of ownership**, which can be critical in cases of disputes or lost pets being claimed by others. To ensure your pet's microchip works for you, it's essential to keep your contact information up to date. If your phone number, address, or ownership status changes, update your microchip registry right away.

Pet owners can bring their animals to our shelter anytime during open hours-Tuesday through Saturday-to have them microchipped for just \$17.00. No appointment necessary.

Let's work together to keep families whole, pets safe, and ownership protected.

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.

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.