

Teaching Everyone Animals Matter (TEAM) Providing Ongoing Benefit to Sacramento County's Animal Shelter

Since 1997 TEAM has provided funding to improve the health, welfare, and adoptability of Sacramento County's sheltered animals. We believe the work we have done and the funding we have provided have contributed to greater consideration of animal welfare by residents of Sacramento County. With a focus on reducing the number of unwanted animals in the County, the members of the TEAM board are committed to providing improved outcomes for more and more shelter animals.

After our formal 501(c)(3) incorporation, TEAM's first major project was to work with the County and the UC Davis Veterinary Medical School to set up the first-ever on-site medical care program for Sacramento County's sheltered animals. Next, TEAM sponsored annual Animal Care Fair events to bring the community's attention to the shelter and to promote the adoption of animals.

Since the beginning, our contributors have provided funding to assure the establishment and continuation of the following programs.¹

Animal comfort, adoption promotions, volunteer needs: Nearly every animal coming into the shelter is treated with flea control medication purchased by TEAM; without treatment, animals with fleas were euthanized or, the lucky ones, were adopted with fleas. TEAM purchases special leashes; toys for socializing dogs; and grooming supplies and equipment. TEAM paid for the secondhand furniture for the shelter's feline habitat rooms, and purchases signage and other supplies for on-site and off-site adoption events. (TEAM funding for thousands of animals that came through the shelter: \$99,576.)

Special medical needs: With TEAM vouchers, shelter animals with unusual or complicated medical conditions can be taken to participating veterinary hospitals for specialized medical care not available at the shelter. (TEAM funding for more than 600 animals that would otherwise have been euthanized: \$73,279.)

Spay/Neuter. Spay/neuter is a Number One priority to reduce the number of unwanted animals coming into the shelter. TEAM sponsors monthly low-cost clinics, collaborates with the Sacramento Area Animal Coalition to provide subsidized surgeries for pets in low-income households, paid for the "wrap" on the spay/neuter van which went into low-income neighborhoods, and steps in to pay for outside veterinarians to spay/neuter adopted animals when a shelter veterinarian is not available. (TEAM funding for more than 1000 animals: \$51,120.)

LAPCATS and FUR. Adoption and foster programs supported by TEAM. LAPCATS focuses on adult cats and has placed more than 750 cats and kittens (and occasional dogs) since it began in 2005. FUR, Friends of Unwanted Rabbits, has rescued and adopted over 500 rabbits since its inception in 2004.

Additional accomplishments:

- In 2002 TEAM outfitted the newly leased medical trailer with equipment needed for the on-site veterinarian. TEAM funding: \$14,133.
- TEAM organized and funded the county's first, and to date only, outdoor advertising (billboard) campaign and bilingual community mailing urging spay and neuter.
- TEAM initiated and supports the county shelter's "Critter Tip" program, which offers rewards and incentives for those who report animal abuse and neglect.
- TEAM operates a retail store, Critter Outfitter and Boutique, inside the state of the art new animal shelter to provide funding for even more successful outcomes for shelter animals.

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¹ (Numbers in parentheses are for calendar years 2005 through 2009.)