

Animal Shelter Data

2023 intake and adoption totals by Species:

Intakes

Canine: 3,335 Feline: 3,311

Other: 394 (Includes: Equine, Reptile, Livestock, & Aviary)

Adoptions

Canine: 2,176 Feline: 1,752

Other: 150 (Includes: Equine, Reptile, Livestock, & Aviary)

2024 Jan-July intake and adoptions by Species:

Intakes

Canine: 2,615 Feline: 2,176

Other: 197 (Includes: Equine, Reptile, Livestock, & Aviary)

Adoptions

Canine: 1,656 Feline: 1,449

Other: 40 (Includes: Equine, Reptile, Livestock, & Aviary)

Amount of grant funding requested

\$95, 000

Budget for how the grant funding will be spent

See Attached Utilization Chart

Proposal Title

PAWSitve Play Shelter Initiative

Description of how the grant funding would address the needs/challenges of your organization and/or community, including the specific activities to be implemented to address those challenges/needs

One primary goal for this funding is to improve the shelter play yards, which currently contain some outdated, broken, and inefficient toys, equipment, and space. We'd like to make them accessible year-round for use with more solid covers. Currently, extreme heat, rain, and snow often prevent safe use of the yard. The items to remedy this situation must withstand 100 mph winds, heavy snow, and rain.

In addition, replacement of broken and old equipment is needed, with longer lasting and safer equipment and amenities such as pools, agility equipment, and benches. We would like to also add equipment for daily enrichment geared towards specific drive levels to provide adequate engagement for all types of animals, such as a treadmill and swift paws for high drive/high energy dogs that need more active forms of play to prevent behavioral issues such as kennel stress and aggression.

Another goal for this funding is to provide improved enrichment directly to the existing kennel and visiting areas. This includes visual stimuli such as calming or engaging videos or blocking visuals to help reduce stress while transferring dogs in kennels or preventing visual reactivities from dogs in opposing kennels. Improving auditory stimuli by updating the speaker system

throughout the facility, or at minimum adding sound to the cat room, the hospital room, and the intake/rescue only cats' room to provide adequate calming music. In addition, providing video in certain cat-focused areas to provide visual stimuli such as nature videos. Lastly, adding sound absorbing material in selective areas to help with lowering noise pollution and reducing stress.

San Bernardino Animal Care will also use televisions and sound systems (when not in use for the animal's benefit) to provide information regarding our volunteer programs and upcoming adoption or fundraising events for facility visitors.

The information and/or measures you will use to know if the activities outlined in your proposal achieve the results you expect.

- Observing the stress levels and behavior of dogs and cats in our care and how they improve, as well as an anticipated increase in adoption rates.
- Monitoring data over the next three months of cats and dogs that are placed on our rescue-only lists and track for changes in those numbers up to 12 months after changes are made.
- Measuring sound decibels in the kennels morning, afternoon & evening; before and after visual and sound stimuli/barriers are added.
- Tracking volunteer sign ups and event attendance.

Psychological Health Specific Questions

Assessment of your organization's current ability to effectively provide for animals' psychological health in your care

- not at all able
- slightly able
- somewhat able
- very able

Biggest behavior challenge(s) your organization faces among animals you are, or could be, serving

- High arousal, hyperactivity, "jumpy/mouthy"
- Human-directed aggression/reactivity
- Aggression/reactivity toward their own species
- Aggression/reactivity toward another animal species
- Unruly, lacking of manners or basic training
- Inappropriate urination, defecation, marking or spraying
- Destruction issues
- Excessive vocalization
- Separation anxiety behaviors
- Anti-social but not aggressive
- Fearful but not aggressive or reactive
- Depressed, shut down
- Other (please describe):

Top 3 most important selections from above in order and why you selected the ones you did

- **Excessive vocalization**
Lack of visual barriers and sound reduction material results in exacerbated kennel stress, with animals vocalizing each time they see a person or a dog being transferred into a kennel. This results in most dogs joining in and raising the arousal/stress of all dogs in the kennels as well as the animal being transferred. Added stress/arousal can result in the dogs acting out uncharacteristically and /or dangerously, lowering their chances of adoption.
- **High arousal, hyperactivity, “jumpy/mouthy”**
Some of the dogs become rescue-only or end up in quarantine due to their vocal behavior, causing or nearly causing harm to other animals, members of the public, and/or staff. Their high arousal becomes exacerbated from the high stressor environment, with loud barking, and lack of exercise and/or adequate enrichment.
- **Unruly, lack of manners or basic training**
Many adopted animals or owner surrenders could be resolved with basic training. With improvements to the play yards, we're hoping to offer group training to help lower the number of owner surrenders, as well as being able to work on training year-round with many longer-term stay dogs.

Most significant barriers that your organization faces to providing behavioral care for animals in your shelter/rescue

- **Insufficient staffing**
- Lack of staff time
- Staff don't have the applicable expertise
- High turnover
- Insufficient funding
- Staff burnout
- **Challenges balancing medical and behavioral needs**
- **Behavior challenges limiting adoption interest**
- **Lack of post adoption support**
- **Lack of behavior modification and training resources**
- **Lack of environmental enrichment**
- **Lack of suitable space to provide for behavioral needs**
- **Lack of equipment/tools/materials**
- **Lack of volunteer/foster support**
- Long LOS exacerbating behavioral challenges
- Challenges making behavioral euthanasia decisions
- Challenges accessing or administering pharmacological support
- Other (please describe):

Top 3 most important selections from above in order and why you selected the ones you did.

My hope for this grant is to assist in critical ways throughout the Animal Care Division, with providing environmental enrichment, improved equipment, and an increase in training resources to further educate staff and volunteers on why these are important.

- **Staff don't have the applicable expertise**
Some staff and volunteers could use enhanced animal behavior and body language training, and how to objectively describe this behavior in the animal's records. By improving the overall stress environment within the shelter and enhancing training, this will assist with how animals are marked as "rescue-only" or not.
- **Lack of environmental enrichment**
Improvement of environmental enrichment is needed to reduce stress/overstimulation, improve animal behavior, and the animal's welfare while at the shelter. Using grant funding to improve enrichment will mediate these issues.
- **Behavior challenges limiting adoption interest**
Dogs that are kennel stressed or over stimulated often act out, resulting in lack of interest by potential adopters. Dogs that are overstimulated, behaving aggressively, and/or untrained are occasionally returned to the shelter as adopters are not able to assimilate the animal to their home. We'd like to provide more training and adequate enrichment with some of the tools and equipment we've requested to help increase adoption interest and raise successful adoption rates.

Proportion of your animal population that experiences behavioral challenges that negatively impacts their welfare (best estimate)

- 0%
- 1-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-100%
- NA

Proportion of your animal population humanely euthanized due to behavior challenges (best estimate)

- 0%
- 1-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-100%
- NA

Types of behavior these animals displayed prior to humane euthanasia (Details about specific animals are welcome)

Many of these dogs or cats are unsafe to handle or have one or more bites recorded. Currently we have a PDA case of 12 dogs (near or just under 6 months old) that are in quarantine. These dogs chased a woman who was out for a jog and mauled her nearly resulting in loss of a limb and multiple lacerations all over her body. The attack only ended when an officer arrived and was forced to shoot and kill one the dogs.

Even after a month these dogs have maintained their aggression. Lunging at anyone that approached the kennel, biting staff, and being unable to handle (even one on one). No fearful body language or behavior, just aggression has been observed even towards those that feed and interact with them daily. It's an unfortunate circumstance but it is highly likely these dogs will be chosen for euthanasia for the safety of the public once the investigation is over.

Other examples may include dogs or cats that are sick or injured upon entry to the shelter. Rescuers have opportunities to pull these animals, but many are unlikely to improve in the shelter environment. These animals are often prioritized to rescue groups, however if no rescues take the animal within a reasonable amount of time, the choice is made to prevent the spread of illness and betterment of the animal.