

FREE

School News



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A Forever Home for Daisy!



Please see Long Beach City Auditor page 7.

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*Thank you for reading
School News*

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City of Long Beach, City Auditor



Laura L. Doud
City Auditor

A Heart-Melting Experience

Recently, I accompanied my daughter and her friends to the Long Beach Animal Care Services (ACS) shelter for their volunteer service. Little did I know that we would leave with more than just a meaningful experience.

The ACS shelter is a vital part of our community. It is a refuge for approximately 8,000 lost or homeless animals each year.

While working to reunite these animals with their families or find them new homes, the shelter provides essential care, resources, and medical treatment.

Last year my Office accepted Mayor Garcia's request to review ACS shelter operations. Our review found that ACS has a staff highly dedicated to animals' welfare. We also found the need for ACS to have a clear, shared vision with an effective, feasible strategic plan. Currently, there is a misalignment between stakeholder expectations and ACS' capacity of care. ACS has been attempting to provide care beyond what staffing and resources allow, impacting service.

As a result, the City is at a critical juncture. All stakeholders – City elected officials, City management, and the community – must determine what kind of shelter they want ACS to be. Stakeholders must solidify a vision and develop a strategic plan to guide policies and practices, outline programs, and marshal and prioritize resources.

As stakeholders, community members play an important role in shelter operations. There are many ways to get involved. Volunteer opportunities include feeding, walking and caring for the animals. There is also the need for blankets, food and monetary donations. And, of course, if you are ready to add to your family, you can open your heart and home to an animal in need by fostering or making the commitment to adopt.

I learned a lot during my time volunteering. We are fortunate to have many devoted advocates, rescue organizations, volunteers and donors. Their contributions are making a positive impact in the quality of life of the animals in the shelter.

At the end of our volunteer session, my daughter and I took a stroll through the cat cottages and that's when we spotted her, a cute cat with gold eyes. Once we held her in our arms and heard her sweet purr, we knew she had to be ours. Since the day we brought her home, Daisy has brought us much comfort and joy. So, fair warning, if you decide to volunteer, as well as a fulfilling experience, you may also leave with a new loving addition to your family like we did.

To find out more about ways to give back at the shelter, please visit www.longbeach.gov/acs.