

**City of Moorpark  
Public Works Department  
Animal Control Division  
FY 2018-2019 Annual Report  
September 27, 2019**

**Introduction to Municipal Animal Programs**

Animal shelters evolved from pounds, which were used in colonial towns to round up and hold wandering livestock that could be redeemed from the pound master for a fee. Because an economic value was placed on these animals, they were often reclaimed. When the system began to be used to impound wandering dogs and cats, these animals were often killed because little monetary value was placed on them. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was founded in 1866 as the first animal welfare organization in the United States. The organization's original focus was on the mistreatment of horses, not dogs and cats.

The concept of animal control and shelters for domestic pets and stray dogs, in addition to livestock, slowly took hold, and cities began issuing dog licenses as a source of funding for these programs. However, the shelter's primary role was not to provide humane care and treatment of the animals but to provide public safety and to protect private property rights. In Ventura County, the Humane Society of Ventura County was organized in 1932 by a group of dedicated citizens concerned over animal welfare. They built and moved into their current facility in Ojai in 1982. The County of Ventura opened one of its early shelters in El Rio in the 1950's and relocated its main shelter facility to the Camarillo airport in 1987. A smaller east county shelter in Simi Valley was opened in 1978.

**Rabies Control:** The basis for modern animal control programs is rabies prevention. Throughout human history, few illnesses have provoked as much anxiety as rabies. Known as a distinct entity since at least 500 B.C., rabies has been the subject of myths and legends across time and cultures. Rabies (or hydrophobia), is a viral disease transmitted via the bite of an infected (rabid) animal, or by its lick over an open cut. The rabies virus is present in the infected animal's saliva. After a person is bitten by an infected animal, the virus multiplies at the bite site, and then travels along nerves to the brain. Once in the human brain, inflammation causes delirium, painful muscle spasms in the throat, and usually death.

Pet vaccination programs and prompt treatment of animal bites has reduced the number of rabies cases in the United States to an average to five per year. There are an estimated 65,000 human rabies cases each year throughout the world.

Rabies was a significant health problem in Southern California before the organized implementation of rabies control. In 1937, there were 847 confirmed rabid dogs in the City of Los Angeles. Periodic rabies epidemics occurred including one in 1955, when 1,300 Los Angeles County residents reported being bitten by a stray or rabid dog. In 1956, Los Angeles County required that all dogs within the County be vaccinated against rabies as a prerequisite to licensing. The incidence of rabies declined rapidly

and by 1960, mandatory vaccination of dogs in the United States largely controlled canine and human rabies. Between 1980 and 2002, ten people in California died of rabies, most diagnosed after death.

**Animal Rabies in Ventura County:** Bats are currently the most commonly rabid animal found in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The other common terrestrial reservoir species harboring rabies in the region are skunks. The control of rabies in bats and terrestrial wildlife mammals is very difficult.

### **Moorpark’s Role in Animal Control**

The Division is responsible for administering the City of Moorpark’s (City) animal control field activities, and the City’s contract with the Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) Department. The City began providing Animal Control services in October 2001, in lieu of contract leash law services by VCAS that was limited to eight hours per week. VCAS continues to provide animal shelter services, the Animal Nuisance Abatement Hearing Officer, and cat and dog licensing services as part of the basic contract with the City. VCAS previously provided certain statutory functions such as rabies suppression and bite investigations most of which was taken over by City staff in July 2015. Dog and cat licenses are also issued by City staff as a convenience to residents. Revenue from licenses for dogs and cats and other fees offset a portion of the cost of Ventura County Animal Regulation services.

**Field Services:** Staff responded to 1,708 animal service calls in FY 2018-19, compared to 1,670 animal service calls in FY 2017-18. The second chart on the following page lists animal services provided by category for the past five fiscal years.

Animal Service and Compliance						
FY 2018-2019	Service Calls	Citations	Nuisance Hearings	Other Animals to Shelters/Rescues	Dogs to Mpk Holding Shelter	Dogs to VCAS
July	147	1	0	4	1	1
Aug	157	1	1	2	4	0
Sept	127	3	0	4	3	0
Oct	145	2	0	0	4	0
Nov	172	4	0	1	2	0
Dec	111	7	0	1	0	0
Jan	141	7	0	3	5	0
Feb	139	21	0	2	2	1
March	157	4	0	2	2	2
April	114	1	0	1	0	1
May	173	7	0	4	4	1
June	125	5	0	2	2	1
<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>

CITY OF MOORPARK FY SERVICE BY CATEGORY					
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Dead Animals	130	112	141	190	240
Animals At Large	234	251	215	157	215
Animal Noise	117	113	129	113	73
Cites, Leash law	725	247	141	196	142
Other Service Calls	202	240	553	595	652
Cat calls	26	42	80	69	74
Licenses sold	550	440	321	350	312
Total Service Calls	1,984	1,445	1,580	1,670	1,708
*Other service calls refers to lost/found animals, animal welfare, wildlife & livestock calls.					

**City Animal Impoundment Activity:** Listed in the three tables below and on the following page are the total number of dogs, cats and other animals brought into shelters only by City staff. Dogs impounded are typically loose dogs running at large within the City. These are usually dogs without identification and the owner is unknown at the time of impoundment. Starting in mid-2015, staff started utilizing the City’s own kennel holding facility to hold found at large dogs for short time periods and to reunite local dog owners with their pets. This also helps save the City money on shelter fees. A small number of dogs go directly to Ventura County Animal Service shelters including dogs with signs of illness or injury, police animal impounds due to owner arrest, or dogs found after noon on Fridays all go directly to VCAS shelters. Use of the temporary holding facility resulted in twenty-eight dogs in FY 18-19 along with forty-one in FY 17-18 being diverted from VCAS shelters. Staff only impounded six dogs into VCAS shelters in FY 18-19 and eight dogs in FY 17-18. Cats impounded each year are typically stray/feral cats and kittens trapped by property owners, or sick/injured feral and domestic cats where the owner is unknown. Stray/feral cats trapped are now returned to the area trapped after VCAS sterilizes them and verifies they are healthy enough to return to the area found. Four cats were brought into the VCAS shelter by City staff during FY 18-19 and nine cats during FY 17-18. Staff also transported 22 other animals including livestock at large or orphaned/injured wild animals to Ventura County shelters or local wildlife rescues. Total shelter costs for the City for FY 18-19 was \$137,774 compared to \$117,224 in FY 17-18.

	Dogs Impounded Each Fiscal Year by Moorpark Staff								
	VCAS	Mpk	VCAS	Mpk	VCAS	Mpk	VCAS	Mpk	VCAS
	14-15	15-16	15-16	16-17	16-17	17-18	17-18	18-19	18-19
JULY	5	3	2	8	4	3	0	1	1
AUGUST	4	0	0	4	1	4	1	4	0
SEPTEMBER	1	4	1	3	2	1	1	3	0
OCTOBER	4	6	5	4	0	2	0	4	0
NOVEMBER	5	1	1	4	3	1	0	2	0
DECEMBER	2	2	2	1	0	6	1	0	0
JANUARY	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	5	0
FEBRUARY	3	4	1	1	0	6	0	2	1
MARCH	2	6	3	2	0	5	0	2	1
APRIL	8	6	2	1	0	9	3	1	1
MAY	3	9	4	2	0	3	1	2	1
JUNE	2	3	0	3	1	1	1	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>

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Cats Impounded Each FY by Moorpark Staff						Other Animals to Shelter Each FY by Moorpark Staff					
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19		14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
JULY	4	0	1	0	1	JULY	4	2	1	1	3
AUGUST	1	0	0	0	0	AUGUST	1	3	2	3	1
SEPTEMBER	1	1	0	0	0	SEPTEMBER	0	0	4	1	4
OCTOBER	0	0	0	0	0	OCTOBER	2	0	2	4	0
NOVEMBER	2	0	0	0	0	NOVEMBER	2	0	0	0	1
DECEMBER	0	0	0	1	1	DECEMBER	2	1	1	2	0
JANUARY	0	0	0	0	0	JANUARY	1	0	0	0	3
FEBRUARY	0	0	0	0	0	FEBRUARY	4	2	2	2	1
MARCH	0	0	0	4	0	MARCH	0	1	0	0	2
APRIL	0	0	0	4	0	APRIL	2	0	0	2	1
MAY	4	0	0	0	1	MAY	3	1	11	3	4
JUNE	0	0	0	0	1	JUNE	2	0	0	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>

Listed in the tables below are the total number of dogs and cats brought into VCAS shelters. This includes animals brought in by the public, law enforcement, City staff, and VCAS animal control staff. Comparing it to the charts above, it can be determined that the majority of animals brought into our shelters are those found or relinquished by the public. During FY 2018-19, City staff impounded approximately 4.7% of total dogs and approximately 4.5% of cats. Compared to the last fiscal year of 2017-18, City staff impounded approximately 5.6% of total dogs and approximately 11.2% of cats. Under the current contract with VCAS, shelter fees are now related to all animals impounded and will be used to determine fees starting in new fiscal years. Combined totals of both cats and dogs are also listed below by fiscal year.

Total Moorpark Dogs Impounded Each FY					
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
JULY	41	22	11	13	11
AUGUST	19	13	7	16	12
SEPTEMBER	13	15	12	22	11
OCTOBER	11	22	16	8	10
NOVEMBER	16	12	13	6	7
DECEMBER	18	13	20	10	5
JANUARY	18	11	8	10	9
FEBRUARY	14	14	12	8	13
MARCH	16	31	4	12	10
APRIL	24	15	8	12	10
MAY	13	10	7	13	15
JUNE	11	15	8	11	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>127</b>

Total Moorpark Cats Impounded Each FY					
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
JULY	7	7	5	9	7
AUGUST	16	17	10	11	9
SEPTEMBER	9	4	2	2	20
OCTOBER	25	4	6	6	8
NOVEMBER	11	2	3	6	5
DECEMBER	10	6	19	2	1
JANUARY	6	17	7	1	4
FEBRUARY	3	2	1	1	10
MARCH	4	8	2	6	2
APRIL	9	2	0	13	2
MAY	25	4	3	17	5
JUNE	16	2	10	6	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>89</b>

Total Moorpark Dogs & Cats Impounded Each FY					
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Dogs	214	193	126	141	127
Cats	141	75	68	80	89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>216</b>

**Mammal Predators:** There was one reported Mountain Lion sighting during the past fiscal year and one badger relocated from a front yard within the city limits during the past fiscal year. Reports of coyote and bobcat sightings within city limits are quite common. Coyote's will sometimes prey on cats and occasionally small dogs. These are most commonly pets left outside during summer nights or early mornings. Mountain Lion sightings and or tracks are occasionally reported in or near city limits in past years.

**Bats:** One dead bat was collected and tested negative for rabies in FY 18-19. Last fiscal year there was one rabies positive bat reported within the City. This bat was located within the Parkside tract. Homes within the Parkside tract have a roof construction design that bats sometimes find favorable to roost in shown in the photo below. This can be remedied by properly sealing these areas of the roofline after verifying no bats are present. The City has provided this information to homeowners within this tract on several occasions during the past eight years. No rabies positive bats were found during FY 16-17. Varying numbers of rabid bats have been found within the tract since 2011, when rabid bats were found in the highest numbers.



Past photo showing area under roof tiles in Parkside tract on a two story house where bats enter and exit.

**Flex Schedule Activity:** Staff flexed working hours multiple days each month for field services and special events, such as July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Time was flexed to perform field services outside of normal work hours, including weekends, early mornings, and evenings in problem areas for leash law violations, including City parks and other public places. Schedule flexing also occurred to accommodate training schedules and animal quarantines/bite reports, as needed.

Animal Licenses							
FY 2018-2019	Dog Licenses (City)	Interim Dog Licenses (City)	Cat Licenses (City)	Interim Cat Licenses (City)	VCAS & Vet Licenses	Total Licenses Sold	Last Year
Jul	17	4	2	0	434	457	452
Aug	21	3	3	0	354	381	493
Sept	8	2	0	0	369	379	387
Oct	29	13	0	0	407	449	505
Nov	17	14	1	0	230	261	432
Dec	26	10	0	0	333	353	395
Jan	18	4	0	0	398	420	460
Feb	15	5	0	0	274	294	461
Mar	30	16	0	0	439	485	481
Apr	18	5	0	0	481	510	600
May	24	8	0	0	461	493	620
Jun	15	3	0	0	457	475	529
<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>4,957</b>	<b>5,815</b>

License Sales, Fees Generated & Expenses								
City of Moorpark FY 12-13 to 18-19								
Year	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	
Licenses Sold	5,346	5,346	5,487	6,696	6,291	5,815	4,957	
Multi-Year Licenses	0	0	0	274	342	403	435	
Revenue Generated	\$ 147,631	\$ 163,904	\$ 160,834	\$ 174,082	\$ 211,206	\$ 194,859	\$ 173,424	
VCAS Expenses	\$ 174,909	\$ 197,868	\$ 186,830	\$ 127,964	\$ 139,637	\$ 139,312	\$ 172,079	
Remaining Funds to City	\$ (27,278)	\$ (33,964)	\$ (25,996)	\$ 46,118	\$ 71,569	\$ 55,547	\$ 1,345	

**License Activity:** Total license sales in the City for FY 18-19 was 4,957 licenses including 435 multi-year licenses. The City's FY18-19 licenses along with animal sale fees generated a total of \$173,424. Multi-year licensing began in FY 15-16 and counted as one license sale within that fiscal year. All multi-year licensing funds are also credited to the FY they are collected. Increases in multi-year licensing may be one factor in decreasing total license sales over the past two fiscal years. Implementation of senior licensing discounts starting in January 2018 has also been a factor in decreased licensing revenues during the past two fiscal years. While the City has operated with a licensing revenue surplus exceeding VCAS expenses the past four fiscal years, the revenue surplus was significantly reduced this last fiscal year with a combination of both decreased revenue generated with increased VCAS expenses.

**Licensing Fees:** There was one change in license fees during FY 18-19 for a slight increase averaging \$5 per year on unaltered dogs which went into effect county-wide on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (see Moorpark Animal License Fees tables on the following page).

Moorpark Animal License Fees FY 18/19			Moorpark Animal License Fees FY 19/20		
	Unaltered	Altered		Unaltered	Altered
6 Months	\$50	\$15	6 Months	\$53	\$15
12 Months	\$100	\$30	12 Months	\$105	\$30
24 Months	\$200	\$60	24 Months	\$210	\$60
36 Months	\$300	\$90	36 Months	\$315	\$90
*12 Month License			*12 Month License		
* Senior owner 55 & over	\$100	\$15	* Senior owner 55 & over	\$105	\$15

**Animal Nuisance Hearings:** Activity and results related to the last five fiscal years of animal nuisance hearings are summarized on the table below. An animal nuisance hearing can be held for seven (7) different categories of animal nuisance listed on the table below. These are listed under section 6.09.020 of the City’s Animal Ordinance. Only one (1) complaining party is required for a hearing for all categories with the exception of animal noise, which requires two (2) or more unrelated neighbors. Some nuisance hearings are held on an animal accused of violating multiple categories. A total of twenty hearings have occurred so far over the past eleven years. This list does not include a significant number of scheduled nuisance hearings that were cancelled by complaining parties after they filled out the form requesting a hearing. All of the City’s hearings were for dogs. A request for nuisance hearing may also be rejected by City or VCAS staff based on factors such as a lack of evidence or other lack of designated nuisance criteria. Amendments to findings are sometimes issued if original findings did not completely address the nuisance or if the animal owner was later found to be violating findings. City Animal Control staff can and do sometimes issue citations for animal owners violating findings, when considered appropriate.

Animal Nuisance Hearings						
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	Total
<b>Nuisance Categories</b>						
Injured Person	1				1	2
Threatening						0
Noise						0
Injured Pet			1			1
Property Damage						0
Trash Dumping						0
Chasing						0
<b>Total Hearings</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Results</b>						
Nuisance	1	0	1	0	1	3
No Nuisance	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Findings Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amended Findings	0	1	0	0	0	1

**Animal Licensing Canvassing:** License canvassing hours for FY18-19 was higher than average with a total of 654 canvassing hours and 1,779 homes visited (see table on following page). License canvassing hours for FY17-18 totaled 164.5 hours, FY 16-17 had 189 canvassing hours and FY 15-16 had 436 canvassing hours. The City has a maximum of 700 hours of canvassing services that the VCAS is allowed to provide per fiscal year.

Animal Regulation Activity Report					
FY2018-19					
Activity	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Field Licensing Hours	200	0.0	278.0	176	654
Homes Visited	823	0.0	627	329	1,779
Licenses issued	1217	1063	1199	1,478	4,957
Altered	65	967	1140	1,366	3,538
Unaltered	1,152	96	59	112	1,419

**Other VCAS Events/Activity in Moorpark:** The annual licensing and rabies clinics took place in the City on September 19, 2018 at the High Street Fire Station. The next scheduled rabies clinic in the City will be on September 10, 2019.

**Animal Control Administrative Citations:** In FY 2018-19, City staff issued 64 animal related citations for a total of 79 violations. Seventy-one violations were for failure to license; four for leash law, three for dog running at large; and one for animal noise. The VCAS issued no citations in the City during the past fiscal year.

**VCAS Animal Services Commission:** The Ventura County Animal Services Commission consists of one elected official from each participating agency. Councilmember Chris Enegren is the City’s current chair on the commission. The Cities of Santa Paula and Thousand Oaks are not VCAS members. The Commission schedules quarterly meetings with varying frequencies of cancellation. City and VCAS staff also regularly meets before quarterly meetings to go over specific items of concern at varying frequencies as needed. The last VCAS Commission meeting was held on 5/9/19 and a new contract was approved and renewed between both agencies.