



Please contact Ventura County Animal Services if you wish to use our logo for fundraisers, events, or any official or unofficial activities. Our logo should never be distorted, recolored, rotated or altered in any way. Thank you.

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Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) is an open admission, life-saving, municipal animal welfare agency in the County of Ventura. The Camarillo Shelter, the main shelter, is located between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Counties and houses the Administrative Offices and Veterinary Hospital. The Camarillo Shelter has a 400-animal capacity which can increase to over 900 during declared natural disasters.

The Simi Valley Animal Shelter is smaller facility located three miles from Moorpark College and can house up to 40 animals. The Simi Valley Shelter, however smaller, offers many of the same services and opportunities as the Camarillo Shelter, such as the intake of stray and surrendered animals, pet adoptions, pet licensing, the reclaim of lost animals, and volunteer opportunities.

VCAS offers a wide array of programs and services to the residents and animals of Ventura County. These services include animal sheltering, pet adoptions, lost & found, field services, cruelty investigations, pet licensing, TNR surgical services, low-cost vaccination clinics, volunteer/foster opportunities and emergency disaster response.

VCAS provides contract services to the residents of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, Ventura, and all unincorporated areas of Ventura County. VCAS is dedicated to improving the lives of the animals in their care, and to safeguard the community through rabies suppression and the sheltering of stray animals.

Mission

The mission of VCAS is to improve the lives, health, safety, and well-being of animals under our care and within our community, to be timely and compassionate in our response to customer



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Foster a culture of transparency, ethical decision making, mutual respect, continual learning and collaboration.

Socially Conscious Shelters are committed to full transparency. This can include reporting accurate statistics, sharing policies, and fully and quickly admitting when mistakes are made. Integrity must be the foundation of all decisions. Every shelter can learn something from every other shelter—it is important to be curious and to share innovative solutions to common problems. Only by working together can we ensure the best outcomes for all animals.

Q: Are you still a no-kill shelter given your adoption of the SCS model?

A: Yes. VCAS continues to meet and/or exceed all no-kill benchmarks, goals, and philosophies while maintaining a 90% or higher live release rate (LRR). It is critical to note that VCAS will never compromise the health and safety of an animal to maintain live outcome statistics. Statistics do not control our daily activities. Decisions are never made to maintain a high LRR. Our Live Release Rate (LRR) is the result of hard work and our commitment to life-saving practices. We are fully transparent about our shelter metrics as they are posted [each month online](#).

The adoption of the Socially Conscious Sheltering model does not change our day-to-day lifesaving efforts that we have grown and have continued to build upon since 2013. SCS is simply a framework that more accurately describes who we are as an inclusive, positive, and compassionate animal welfare organization. We continue to work towards finding the best possible outcomes for all animals which is the fundamental goal of this model. SCS provides a clear message about our commitment to providing quality care to the people and animals of Ventura County.

Q: How was the Socially Conscious Sheltering movement developed and initiated?

A: The Socially Conscious Sheltering movement was created because of the intense need for this conversation. In Colorado, four (4) large animal shelters practiced Socially Conscious Sheltering without having articulated it as such. The CEOs of these shelters (Jan McHugh Smith, Judy Calhoun, Lisa Pederson and Apryl Steele) met to discuss their animal welfare beliefs, including shelter practices. Out of that conversation came the Socially Conscious Sheltering (SCS) model. The model was then shared with shelter CEOs from across the United States for their feedback, each shelter with different communities, intake policies and levels of community engagement. The insight was incorporated into the fundamental goals of Socially Conscious Sheltering, and a website, www.scssheltering.org, was created. Before a marketing strategy could be developed, Socially Conscious











