



WHY SHOULD I DONATE TO SAN FRANCISCO ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL? FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Isn't SF/ACC a city-funded agency?** Yes, San Francisco Animal Care and Control receives funding from the city. However, we share city funding with approximately **75** other municipal agencies and in today's economic climate that means every agency is left with less than they need to operate the way they'd like to.
- 2. But I already donate to the SPCA—isn't that the same thing?** We think it's great that you donate to the SF/SPCA! In fact, the SF/SPCA is our primary partner and our adoption agreement with the SF/SPCA has served as a national model for partnership between agencies. Additionally, we assist the SF/SPCA with their Feral Fix program that helps reduce the feral cat population. **BUT** ACC is a LOT different from the SF/SPCA.
- 3. Okay, so they're two different agencies on paper. But is there really a difference?** Yes—as the city's open admissions shelter, the ACC faces many challenges that other agencies don't.
 - Unlike the private nonprofit SF/SPCA and other limited-admission shelters and rescues that can choose which animals to accept, ACC takes every animal that comes through our doors. That means EVERY animal—wild or domesticated, including farm animals and exotic pets. And we work tirelessly to make sure our less traditional domesticated animals like our lovely rats, hamsters, rabbits, chickens, chinchillas, reptiles, pigeons, and many more, get just as much love, attention AND opportunities for adoption as our dogs and cats.
 - Because we have local wildlife coming through, we provide wildlife education to Bay Area residents to encourage peaceful co-existence.
 - Our Animal Cops are responsible for enforcing laws relating to animals, including animal cruelty and neglect, as well as going on real rescue missions to help local animals. They are bona fide TV stars and have been featured on Animal Planet! If you come for a visit, we can probably arrange an autograph or two. 😊



4. I see. So let's say I want to donate money to the ACC...how do I do that and where does it go? First of all, thank you. We know that in today's economic climate that it's a lot to ask people to donate funds to us. But you should know that your donations—money, in-kind donations, or volunteer time—go a long way to enable us to make our guests' lives as enriched as possible. Your donations can go toward anything from toys and treats to behavioral assessment and classes, or from volunteer training to obtaining new rescue vehicles for our Animal Cops. You can donate online at the Friends of ACC website (http://helpacc.org/donate_new.html) or bring your in-kind donations to 1200 15th Street (at Harrison).

5. That all sounds nice, but do the animals really need all these "extras"? YOU BET THEY DO! Our guests are lucky enough to benefit from our amazing behavioral and training team who works to carefully assess the animals and their needs, and to enrich the animals' daily life in the shelter to help them cope, if not thrive, in the shelter environment. But in the current economic climate, this wonderful program is not funded by the city at this time. And while it may sound like an "extra" on paper, it's important to note that ACC placed approximately **86%** of the cats and dogs that came through our doors last year, as compared to the national average across municipal shelters, who average **36%** for live releases. Without donations, we cannot afford to provide the behavioral training that helps our animals so much!

6. Wow! That's amazing. But unfortunately I don't have any spare money for donations now... We COMPLETELY understand—many of us are in the same boat. But regardless of your financial situation, you can still help! We're always looking for dedicated volunteers to spend time with our animals, organize fundraisers, do community outreach, and so on. And for anyone out there who thinks the city shelter is "too depressing"...we challenge you to come down and meet not only our staff but also our guests—we have a wide array of amazing animals every day who are full of love and life. They inspire us and we hope they inspire you too.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about San Francisco Animal Care and Control. We appreciate your support!

