



# Animal Care of Davis County

---

1422 E 600 N, Fruit Heights, UT 84037 801-444-2200 [www.daviscountyutah.gov/animalcare](http://www.daviscountyutah.gov/animalcare)

## We Need Your Help

The pets in our community need your help now more than ever. As we all navigate the post-pandemic economy, Animal Care of Davis County is struggling with record-breaking dog intake numbers (over 200 dogs came in during April 2023 alone!) while adoptions, fosters, and transfers are not keeping pace.

The COVID-19 pandemic took a great deal from so many, but one silver lining was that an unprecedented amount of dogs were adopted and fostered during this time. Believe it or not, there were a few weeks when our kennels were nearly empty. However, as folks began to venture back to work, most of 2022 proved to be more challenging for ACDC with slightly higher intakes, reduced operations caused by decreased staffing, and even fewer adoptions, resulting in overcrowding with thousands of pets waiting longer and longer to find loving homes.

This year, ACDC is struggling with even higher intake rates while the numbers for adoptions, fosters, and transfers continue to decline. Regardless of their size and age, there are too many healthy, adoptable dogs and puppies in our shelter. With fewer outcomes, their length of stay has increased significantly, which in turn stresses our resources as well as the pets themselves. To make matters worse, ACDC has also been experiencing a considerable influx of puppies due in part to a pandemic-induced, industry-wide hiatus of spay and neuter services, and we're now seeing a severe shortage of veterinarians available to catch up.

Thankfully, it's not all doom and gloom: There are new and exciting innovations and concepts happening at ACDC. These programs however impact almost every aspect of what we do to help animals and the people caring for them, so how can we improve programming without staff and resources? How do we inspire our staff when we are so overwhelmed and even our most reliable partners are unable to accept transfers? We all have to think outside of the box and support each other.

## A Call to Action

We must recognize that Animal Care of Davis County is in crisis. Whether it is a lack of staff, lack of veterinary services, or high intake numbers, all of these factors are now coming together and dramatically impacting the quality of care for the pets at ACDC and increasing the probability of euthanasia as the only outcome. So far this year, we have not been able to find the resources that were historically available to us through transfer partners, foster pools, and willing adopters. This dire situation forces perfectly adoptable dogs that were easily saved in the past to face tremendously longer stays in the shelter, resulting in greatly declined mental states which in turn, sadly, increases the likelihood of euthanasia. This is the unfortunate reality that many shelters in Utah, and across the nation, are currently facing.

We want (and desperately need!) you to be involved in identifying and taking part in finding solutions here at ACDC. We'd love to hear your creative and innovative ideas to help support the dogs in our care. In the meantime, here are four ways you can help us immediately:

- **Foster a Dog:** Fostering alleviates the strain on ACDC by freeing up space and staff. By caring for a pet at home, you're allowing another one to be saved by giving us an extra kennel and extra time to care for them while also helping prepare your foster pet for their forever home.
- **Pictures and Bios:** When walking our dogs, snap a picture and post it in the Facebook group, so we can update it online. It's also extremely helpful for you to jot down notes about the dog's behavior (likes, dislikes, manners, etc.) for potential adopters to find the perfect fit.
- **Transport Drivers:** You can help us get our pets to their spay/neuter appointments so they can get into their adoptive homes, or alternatively, make a trip to a transfer partner shelter or rescue for us.
- **Spread the Word on Social Media:** Finally, you can help us get the word out about the pets we have up for adoption by liking, sharing, and commenting on your favorite apps. You never know who's scrolling your feed and every additional post helps spread the word!

Until every pet has a home,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashleigh Young".

Ashleigh Young, Director  
Animal Care of Davis County