

# Pawsitive Steps Academy

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## What is Pawsitive Steps Academy?

- ▶ Collaboration between Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC), Department of Probation, Department of Public Health (DPH), and Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- ▶ Underage kittens are fostered by juvenile girls living at Camp Scott
- ▶ Core Values:
  - ▶ Responsibility
  - ▶ Team work
  - ▶ Care
  - ▶ Commitment



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## How it works- DACC

### KITTEN INTAKE CRITERIA -

The Pawitive Step Academy will accept the only kittens that meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Weaned healthy kittens
- ▶ Bright, alert, responsive (BARK)
- ▶ Generally good health
- ▶ Weigh between 12 oz. and 1.5lbs
- ▶ Body condition of 4/9 or more
- ▶ Able to maintain normal body temperature on their own
- ▶ Able to eat on their own & have healthy appetite
- ▶ No signs of hair loss
- ▶ No signs of diarrhea or vomiting
- ▶ Friendly (can be shy but no swatting, spitting)

\*\*\*If one kitten in litter does not meet all of the above criteria, the litter will not be able to participate in Pawitive Step at that time\*\*




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## How it works- DACC (continued)

- ▶ Kittens are sent to foster for one- two weeks
- ▶ Final determination is made by veterinarian on day of drop-off to ensure all criteria for participants is met



### Medical Checklist for Exit exam

The following is the selection criteria for kittens to be admitted to the Pawitive Step program.

- ▶ Age between 4 and 6 weeks
- ▶ Weight at least 3.0lb
- ▶ Body Condition Score: 5/9
- ▶ Given first set of shots and dewormed (including Moxidectin paste)
- ▶ Negative on Fecal FIV test
- ▶ No hair loss, fleas, scarring, nasal or ocular discharge, or diarrhea.
- ▶ Active and curious and eating solid food

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## How it work- Probation

- ▶ DACC provides information session to all girls living at Camp Scott
- ▶ From information session girls decide if they are interested in participation
- ▶ Participants are screened through Department of Probation and DMH
  - ▶ 6 participants per cohort
  - ▶ Require specific criteria or milestones to be met for participation
- ▶ Cohort attends an orientation
  - ▶ Orientation covers daily care requirements, safe handling, medical red flags
  - ▶ Kittens are delivered the same day




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## Kittens on the Grounds

- ▶ Kittens remain at Camp Scott until 2lbs
- ▶ Pawsitive Steps Lead Staff and Volunteers visit Camp Scott once per week
  - ▶ Check-in regarding how kittens are doing and cover that week's curriculum
  - ▶ Team Building activity
  - ▶ Check-in with Camp Scott Program Lead
- ▶ Field Trips!
- ▶ Kittens return to DACC Care Center every two weeks for veterinary exams
- ▶ Kittens are promoted for adoption
  - ▶ Priority is given to family of girls participating in Pawsitive Steps Academy
  - ▶ 4 Kittens have been adopted by families of Pawsitive Step Academy participants.




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## Graduation!

- ▶ Quarterly Graduation for all cohorts
- ▶ All staff and supporting organizations are invited to graduation
  - ▶ Family of participants are also in attendance
- ▶ Graduation is facilitated by Pawsitive Step Academy participant
- ▶ Participants present their Capstone Project
  - ▶ Culminating piece and reflection of their experience
- ▶ Kittens from last cohort are handed off to their adoptive families
- ▶ Each girl is presented a Certificate of Completion
- ▶ Post-graduation participants serve as mentors to the next cohort




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## Supporting Documents

- ▶ Pawsitive Steps Academy Standard Operation Procedure
  - ▶ Intake and Flow
  - ▶ Medical guidelines
  - ▶ Cleaning procedure
  - ▶ Adoption procedure
  - ▶ Emergency protocols
- ▶ Pawsitive Program Guidelines for staff
- ▶ Pawsitive Steps Handbook for participants
- ▶ Daily and Weekly Personality and Medical forms

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# Curriculum

- ▶ Humane Education focused on community healing
  - ▶ Always related back to core values- "How does responsibility tie into the work with the kittens, themselves, and the world outside of Camp Scott?"
- ▶ Vocational skills and skills for re-entry (life skills)
- ▶ Journaling to allow appropriate expression of emotions related to caring for the kittens and life in Camp Scott
- ▶ Guided questions to help participants understand the impact they are directly and indirectly making
- ▶ Field Trips to visit DACC Care Centers and other animal related organizations

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# Questions

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