



# NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services  
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## CAT-TASTROPHE FORCES POLICY CHANGE

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**Los Angeles** – LA Animal Services is announcing a change in policy to better handle this year's seasonal influx of pets.

It is kitten season and LA Animal Services is inundated with pregnant and nursing cats and orphaned neonates. The department is receiving nearly 1000 orphaned neonate kittens each month. To better manage the department's overcrowding a policy change is being announced today.

Owner relinquished pets represent 30% of all animals taken in by the city's Animal Care Centers causing serious overcrowding. Most of these animals are brought in over the weekend, the busiest days of the week. To better manage the number of animals in its Animal Care Centers and reduce the number of animals killed each day just to create space for incoming lost and homeless animals the department is restricting its hours for taking in relinquished pets. This change will also enhance customer service by more evenly dividing the workload throughout the week.

**Starting June 18<sup>th</sup>, Angelenos will only be able to relinquish healthy pets to LA Animal Services on Wednesday & Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For Tuesday & Thursday animals will be accepted from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.**

***Pets that are suffering will continue to be accepted at any time.***

"We are asking Angelenos to exhaust all their options before bringing them into one of our centers", said Ed Boks, general manager of LA Animal Services. "Talk to a dog trainer or behaviorist first, but if you feel you must relinquish your pet, you will help increase his or her chances of being re-homed by bringing your pet to us during these restricted days and hours just prior to our many weekend adoption events."

The department is currently constructing a **Safety Net** webpage to inform Angelenos of all our community's resources to help keep pets and people together.

For more information or assistance call LA Animal Services at  
1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381  
(TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com).

*We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!*