



NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services
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Found Animal Foundation Plays Santa Claus to New Hope Rescue Groups

Los Angeles – LA Animal Services stands to be the beneficiary of a \$160,000 grant from the Found Animal Foundation. LA Animal Services recently presented to its Board of Animal Services Commissioners a number of revisions to the New Hope Program. The New Hope Program is a partnership the department has formed with over 125 non-profit animal rescue organizations.

The department was proposing the restoration of the spay/neuter fee (\$28) that had been charged to rescue partners in the years before the New Hope program was established in 2006. According to the report, this change was recommended because the City Council and the CAO recently expressed concern regarding an increase in the amount of waived fees incurred by the Department in the past year, chiefly related to the New Hope Program. Staff analysis concluded that New Hope Partners might be at capacity and therefore, "fee-free" adoptions were not resulting in the hoped for significant increase in rescue adoptions.

The difference between New Hope waivers in 2006-2007 and prior years averaged about \$150,000. The City has serious financial concerns in the next budget year and would be hard pressed to continue that amount of lost fees.

In order to mitigate the impact of the waived fees on the City's budget, but continue to allow New Hope partners the ability to use every dollar raised on care of the animals they rescue instead of on fees for spay/neuter, Dr. Gary Michelson, founder of the Found Animal Foundation, informed the Department today that he will donate \$160,000 to the Department's Big Fix Sterilization Fund to be used as the spay/neuter payment for any New Hope rescued animal in the current fiscal year. The donation is subject to approval by the City Council.

"The vision of New Hope is to allow our partners to maximize their limited resources so they can help as many animals as possible," said Ed Boks, general manager of LA Animal Services. "This magnanimous gift will allow our 125 partners to continue rescuing animals from our Centers that are surgically altered, microchipped, and vaccinated at no cost. This is the most wonderful holiday gift we could ever have imagined."

New Hope partners rescue nearly 6,000 pets annually.

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.

We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!