



NEWS RELEASE



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LA Animal Services Announces Pit Bull Training Academy for City's Underdogs

Los Angeles – Amidst the horrific revelations of Pit Bull fighting that are sweeping the nation, LA Animal Services is launching a first of its kind program to help improve the lives of Los Angeles' Pit Bulls. The Pit Bull Training Academy is designed to assist Animal Services' quest to make Los Angeles the largest no-kill city in the United States by helping LA's most at risk and misunderstood pet population, the Pit Bull.

"Pit Bull and Pit Bull mixes represent 25% of all dogs rescued each year by LA Animal Services, 19% of all dogs adopted, and 41% of all dogs euthanized," said Ed Boks, general manager of LA Animal Services. "We are often asked if Pit Bulls are a dog problem or a people problem. The answer is both!" To address this problem, LA Animal Services is partnering with Villalobos Rescue Center, the largest Pit Bull training program in the United States, to establish the nation's first public/private Pit Bull Training Academy.

"What makes this new program so powerful", said Tia Torres, president of the Villalobos Rescue Center, "is that our teachers and rehabilitators are 'two legged Pit Bulls' who understand what it means to overcome being an underdog," referring to the parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation who are specially trained by the Villalobos Rescue Center to rehabilitate Pit Bull dogs.

The Pit Bull Training Academy allows parolees and Pit Bulls to work "hand in paw" to show the rest of the world that anyone can change for the better when given a second chance.

The South LA Animal Care Center Annex building is being transformed into "The Pit Bull Training Academy." Here many of the city's lost and homeless Pit Bulls will be housed, trained, and rehabilitated by their "two legged counterparts" who are intent on raising awareness and enhancing the adoption opportunities of this largely misunderstood breed by educating the public on what it takes to be a responsible Pit Bull guardian.

GRAND OPENING: SATURDAY – AUGUST 4th
Where: South LA Pit Bull Academy, 3320 West 36th Street
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Grand Opening festivities will include celebrity appearances by famous Pit Bulls trained by Villalobos and appearing in such movies and TV shows as "Veronica Mars", Alpha Dog, Domino, and multiple music videos and commercials.

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!