



NEWS RELEASE



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City Seeks to Bring Peace to Some Owners of Lost Pets

Los Angeles – In a new citywide program, all Bureau of Sanitation Dead Animal Collectors will now work with LA Animal Services to help bring closure to guardians of pets found dead in Los Angeles. Sanitation Collectors now carry microchip scanners to upload guardian information and/or they will take tags on any dead animals collected and forward this information to LA Animal Services, who will then try to contact the guardians of these pets.

This new procedure addresses a tragic gap in the city's services. Prior to the new policy, guardians of tagged or microchipped pets picked up by Dead Animal Collections never knew that their lost pets had been found.

"When people heard about this oversight they were justifiably mortified", said Andrew Garsten, a member of the Echo Park Animal Alliance (EPAA) and Board Member of the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council (GEPENC). "They were saying 'What if Fido got lost, I was looking for him at the shelter, but he already had been found by the city, dead in the streets? I would never know what happened to him.'"

Garsten and Christine Peters, cofounder of EPAA and also a member of GEPENC, got together to discuss the situation. They then sought the support of local LA City Council President Eric Garcetti (CD13). Garcetti's office sought after the necessary changes in procedures and proper equipment for the Dead Animal Collections Unit. In the summer of 2006, the Dead Animal Collection unit began a pilot program to scan and collect information at its Central Division.

This month the Bureau of Sanitation announced that the program is now implemented citywide!

"It is a tremendous relief to see this interdepartmental partnership up and running citywide," said Ed Boks, general manager for LA Animal Services. "As we all labor to create a more humane LA, this common sense program allows guardians of pets with identification found by the Department of Sanitation to be notified by LA Animal Services, so they can finally stop worrying, start the grieving process, and eventually make peace with the passing of their companion."

**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!