

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 9, 2008

LA ANIMAL SERVICES HOSTS HUNDREDS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR "BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK" CELEBRATION AT NORTH CENTRAL SHELTER

Los Angeles – More than 250 Los Angeles elementary school children are expected to attend LA Animal Services celebration of "Be Kind to Animals Week" at the North Central Animal Care Center, Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The North Central Animal Care Center is located at 3201 Lacy Street near the Gold Line Lincoln Heights station.

The event, which is open to the general public, features a humane educational theme and celebrity appearances by "dog whisperer" Cesar Millan and actor Dick Van Patten, along with City Councilmembers Ed Reyes, Jose Huizar, Tony Cardenas, LAUSD Schoolboardmember Monica Garcia and others. Free spay/neuter for low-income pet owners will be offered and dozens of lovable dogs, cats, rabbits and other animals will be available for adoption.

"We want to expose the students to our wonderful shelter animals, to the joys and responsibilities of being pet guardians, and the exciting possibilities inherent in working with and for animals," explained Ed Boks, General Manager of LA Animal Services. "Such professionals as Cesar Millan will be on hand to conduct demonstrations that show the kids the kinds of great things any animal lover can do if they invest the time and care to be kind to animals."

Sixteen LAUSD schools are sending busloads of students to attend the event, which will include a short ceremonial program at noon. Dog, cat and rabbit kennels, informational booths and displays and spay/neuter clinic services will be open to visitors for the entirety of the event.

"Be Kind to Animals Week" is an annual occurrence first held in 1915 by the American Humane Association. This year's LA Animal Services observance is being coordinated by Board of Animal Services Commissioner Irene Ponce with the help of department staff and community sponsors.

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 <u>www.LAAnimalServices.com</u>.

We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!