



NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services

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LA ANIMAL SERVICES GENERAL MANAGER RESIGNS, CALLS ON COMMUNITY TO OVERCOME DIFFERENCES AND PUT ANIMALS FIRST

As Ed Boks resigns as general manager, he makes a powerful plea for community to remain focused on the plight of LA's animal residents: spay, neuter and adopt

Los Angeles – Ed Boks announced his decision today to resign his position as general manager of LA Animal Services. “I have given a great deal of thought to my experience as general manager” said Boks. “As I depart I would like to leave LA residents with a call to action that unifies rather than divides.”

The greatest challenge to Los Angeles’ No-Kill goal is effective, affordable, convenient spay/neuter options. As a community we must help prevent unwanted pets from being born while our city shelters are filled to capacity with healthy beautiful animals waiting for loving homes. Pet overpopulation is a community problem that requires constructive community involvement and unity to solve.

As Boks steps down, he asks every LA pet loving resident to demonstrate their commitment to helping animals by taking the following actions:

1. If you have a pet, spay or neuter your pet. It is now the law.
2. If you want to help someone who can't afford to spay and neuter their pet, go to www.LAspay.org and make a donation to help provide the surgery for others.
3. Ask your friends, colleagues and employers to match your donation.
4. If you have room in your home and your heart for a pet, adopt one from your local shelter. You can do this by viewing photos of adoptable pets at shelters and rescue groups at www.adopt-a-pet.com or at www.laanimalservices.com.
5. If you love your pet, license your pet. The number one reason animals die in shelters is because the owner can't be found.

“It is time LA pulled together to solve this societal problem,” said Boks.

We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!

In a letter to Mayor Villaraigosa, Boks listed his accomplishments over the past three and a half years including development of the most successful municipal pet adoption program in the nation; successfully opening six new state-of-the-art animal care centers; embarking on the Department's first Strategic Planning process; updating and standardizing policies and procedures to ensure a well-run Department; and building the finest animal care and control medical and executive teams in the nation. "Gratefully, all of this has successfully contributed to the lowest three years of pet euthanasia rates in the Department's recorded history," said Boks, "with every reason to expect continued improvement."

Boks' is all too aware of the politics that can misdirect the focus from those who need it most, LA's lost and homeless pets. Consistent with Boks' concern for LA's animals he is resigning his post with a call to action. "Whether you love me or hate me is irrelevant, I simply ask that you now turn your focus to the animals who need your help most. You can choose where to place your energy and efforts and your choice can really make a difference."

"Pet overpopulation is a community problem and LA needs to pull together to solve it. If you can do nothing else, please go to www.LAspay.org and make a life saving donation today."

LASPAY.org is a link to Social Compassion, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to reducing the number of abandoned and euthanized animals through spay and neuter programs. Boks is initiating the challenge by making a \$700 donation of his own to pay for the first ten surgeries. "This is a small gift for LA's animals and an investment in a solution to LA's pet overpopulation," said Boks. (The average cost of a City sponsored spay/neuter surgery in LA is \$70.)

For more information on LA's progressive spay/neuter law and programs visit: <http://www.laanimalservices.com/spayneuterlaw.htm>

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