

NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services 221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90012 / www.LAAnimalServices.com

For Immediate Release March 23, 2011

Contact: Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager Email: <u>Brenda.barnette@lacity.org</u> Phone: (213) 482-9558 Weil Public Relations Rachel@weilpr.com (818) 341-3646

Los Angeles Pet Adopters Prove "Green" is the New Color of Love!

More than 159 animals adopted during "St. *Paw*trick's Day: A 'Green' Adoption Event" on March 19th

Los Angeles, CA – Adopters and eco-friendly pet guardians filled all six Los Angeles City Animal Care Shelters on Saturday, March 19th, for "St. *Paw*trick's Day: A 'Green' Adoption Event" presented in association with Ruff Patches. At the end of the day, 47 cats, 109 dogs, and 3 rabbits and pocket pets found new homes with adoptive families – a 100% increase in the adoption numbers from the year before!

Interested adopters were also able to fill out "Come Back for Me" cards for dogs and cats who were not available during the weekend. As a result, LA Animal Services expects many more lucky four-legged pals to be adopted throughout the week.

"This event is another successful example of how the whole community working together as a team can increase adoptions," said LA Animal Services General Manager Brenda Barnette. "We are grateful for this opportunity to work with Ruff Patches, the Jason Debus Heigl Foundation and other local humane groups and we look forward to even more happy adoptions as a result in the weeks to come."

"We are thrilled with the number of adopted animals and the incredible generosity of our sponsors" said Christina Kilby, founder of Ruff Patches. "We look forward to producing many more events with LA Animal Services, and continuing to provide the highest level of customer service to help adopters find their new best friend."

Sponsors of Saturday's event included Natural Balance Pet Foods, SmartyKat, Planet Dog, Harry Barker, Animal Surgical & Emergency Center (ASEC), Modern Dog Magazine, K-EARTH 101 FM, Whole Foods Market and the Jason Debus Heigl Foundation. *Access Hollywood* correspondent Maria Menounos, *Cougar Town's* Carolyn Hennesy, and many other celebrities showed their support of the event as well. Other participating humane organizations included Take Me Home Rescue, Much Love Animal Rescue, Friends of Harbor Animals, Karma Rescue, Kitten Rescue and Stray Cat Alliance.

For more information about "St. *Paw*trick's Day: A 'Green' Adoption Event," and other events happening at all six LA City Animal Care Shelters, please visit <u>www.laanimalservices.com</u> or <u>www.ruffpatches.org</u>.

About LA Animal Services

LA Animal Services is the animal care and control agency for the City of Los Angeles. LA City Animal Shelters are LEED Certified by the United States Green Building Council, and the North Central Animal Shelter is LEED Gold. All mechanical systems at the shelters are energyefficient, construction waste was diverted from landfills, and wherever possible building materials for the shelters have recycled content.

About Ruff Patches

Ruff Patches is a Los Angeles-based humane organization dedicated to educating and assisting pet guardians, providing support to City and County shelter systems, and encouraging ongoing collaboration with local communities and other organizations.

About Jason Debus Heigl Foundation

The Jason Debus Heigl Foundation was founded by Nancy and Katherine Heigl to celebrate the memory of a wonderful son and brother. In 1986, Jason was killed in a car accident. He was fifteen years old. Throughout his brief lifetime Jason loved all animals, especially dogs, cats, and monkeys. He lived his life extending compassion and kindness to all creatures great and small. This foundation is his legacy. The mission of the JDHF is to eliminate the needless suffering inflicted on animals by human cruelty, indifference, and ignorance. It's primary focus is the greater Los Angeles area, for now.