



# Public Information



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services  
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## For Immediate Release

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## PURRfect Friends

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Cats have been associated with humans for around 4,000 years and in ancient Egypt they were even worshipped as gods. In 2001, 55 percent of American households had furry family members. A study conducted in 2002 found that there were over 135 million companion animals in homes in the United States, and 75 million of those were cats. It certainly demonstrates that cats are very popular pets in America. In celebration of this, Los Angeles Services is celebrating June - Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month.

Ah, life with cats. Studies have proven that living with one can result in reduced blood pressure, lower stress levels and a general improvement in one's overall sense of well being. Children who are raised with them have higher self-esteem, learn nurturing and social skills and have a sense of responsibility for others.

Proclaiming the month of June as Adopt-a-Shelter-Cat Month couldn't be better timed. Kitten season is upon us. The first wave seemed to actually arrive in early May, and unfortunately, it appears that the Los Angeles Animal Shelters will have a full supply of kittens for many weeks to come.

The good news is that if you are ready to share your heart and home with one of America's most popular pets, now is a great time. Remember, there are a few things to consider. For a family with young children, small, playful kittens, although hard to resist, are probably not the best choice. A kitten who is several months old and still quite playful, or a young adult cat would be a better fit. Older cats who appear shy will do better in a quieter, adult household. If you are adding a cat to a family with dogs or other cats, be sure to ask adoption staff for helpful hints about how to make a successful introduction. A final thing to consider when selecting a feline friend is the length of the coat. All cats require some regular brushing, but those with longer hair will need it on a more frequent basis to promote a beautiful cat and prevent matting.

If you are considering adding a cat or kitten to your family, please consider a cat or kitten from your local shelter. If you do, you will be helping us save even more cats' lives this year.

The mission of the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of animals and people. Call us at 1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381 (TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com) to learn more.

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