



# NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services  
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90012 / [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com)

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## For Immediate Release

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Contact: Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager  
Email: [Brenda.barnette@lacity.org](mailto:Brenda.barnette@lacity.org)  
Phone: (213) 482-9558

## The Year of the Rabbit

### Lucky Rabbits – a Lifetime Commitment, a Devoted Companion

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Chinese New Year falls on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. It's the *Year of the Rabbit* – a year for people to hop out of misfortunes and leap for a brighter future, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. As we approach the Year of the Rabbit, we are reminded that often, adorable baby rabbits are given as gifts. Sadly, too many are quickly discarded or die.

If your family is not ready for a lifetime commitment to a bunny, get a plush toy rabbit to celebrate the Chinese New Year instead. If you are ready for a great companion, visit one of the *Los Angeles Animal Services' Shelters*, where our experienced staff or rabbit volunteers will help you find the bunny who is just right for you.

Rabbits are affectionate and personable, however, they do require a lot of care and attention. A well-cared-for rabbit can live 12 to 15 years. Rabbits are house pets and do best in pairs. Bunnies adopted from Los Angeles Animal Services will be spayed or neutered. It's best to pair a spayed female with a neutered male, or adopt an already bonded pair.

Rabbits are fun:

- Often a happy rabbit will jump, twist and turn in the air. This dance is called a "bink."
- Rabbits are not rodents. They are lagomorphs.
- When a rabbit shifts its nose up and down, it is called "nose blinking."
- Rabbits can be trained, and there are even agility competitions for rabbits.
- Rabbits have about 17,000 taste buds - almost twice the amount found in humans!
- A group of rabbits is called a herd.

*Los Angeles Animal Services' Shelters* have wonderful bunnies, dogs, cats, and other critters who can't wait to be part of your family! So "hop" on over to one of the *Los Angeles Animal Services' Shelters* if you're looking for a New Best Friend!