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FY 2015-16: BANNER LIFE-SAVING YEAR

36,839 Dogs, Cats, Rabbits and Others Saved!



Los Angeles, July 18, 2016 – Los Angeles Animal Services surpassed expectations ending 2015-16 with the highest **live-save rate of 78.74% for dogs and cats**. Add horses, rabbits, pocket pets and birds, **36,839 animals left our six City animal shelters** with a new lease on life!

Since 2011, Los Angeles City animal shelters have been making great strides towards achieving no-kill. A live save rate of 90 percent of every dog and cat entering the city shelter system is the nationally recognized benchmark for no-kill status and we are on target to reach that milestone by the end of 2017.

| DOGS ONLY | | CATS ONLY | Overall |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| YEAR | Live-Save Rate | Live-Save Rate | Live-Save Rate |
| 2015-16 | 88.44% | 66.35% | 78.74% |
| 2014-15 | 82.12% | 54.98% | 70.92% |
| 2013-14 | 80.70% | 54.46% | 70.30% |
| 2012-13 | 76.25% | 43.15% | 65.51% |
| 2011-12 | 70.10% | 37.91% | 57.80% |

How are we saving more shelter pets than ever before? We are collaborating with national partners, private animal groups and the community to find good homes for orphaned pets, we are providing and improving free and discounted spay/neuter services and we are expanding our Volunteer and Foster programs to help care for more animals to name a few life-saving strategies.

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The success is due in part to our public-private partnership with Best Friends Animal Society, a national organization working in Los Angeles to devote resources to help save the lives of thousands of companion animals, provide free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and lead the No-Kill Los Angeles initiative.

Los Angeles Animal Services also receives generous support from the ASPCA. They operate our largest spay/neuter clinic at our Chesterfield Square South LA Animal Shelter and this year they awarded us a grant to underwrite the adoption fees for cats over four months old.

LA Animal Services joined the Million Cat Challenge, a shelter-based campaign to save the lives of one million cats in North America over the next five years. That may sound like an audacious goal, but the Million Cat Challenge is halfway there!



Another big part of saving more animals lives are the 256 New Hope Partners whose partnership entitles them to reduced or no fees to pull abandoned pets at City shelters who are most at risk of being put to death due to space or who need longer-term medical care to thrive.

LA Animal Services implemented some major changes to simplify the Free and Low-cost Spay/Neuter Voucher program. Low-income residents are now able to self-identify their income status by signing an affidavit if they do not have one of the regularly required forms of verification. Additional enhancements to the program include: being able to use the voucher to spay/neuter rabbits, increasing the free

spay/neuter voucher value to \$125 and increasing the discounted voucher value to \$50 for dogs and rabbits. This is the first time in 15 years we have raised these fees for our partnering veterinary clinics and spay/neuter clinics.

Furthermore, we enhanced the Field Services and Programs to better serve our communities. We began the year, by launching the ACE (Administrative Citation Enforcement) program, which gives our Animal Control Officers the resources they need to ensure compliance with animal-related laws such the spay/neuter ordinance, rabies vaccination, licensing and more.



Our Department kicked off a comprehensive strategic planning process. There were fifteen meetings in the LA City Council Districts to gather the valuable input and ideas from the community that will be used to shape our strategic plan. The consultant will provide the important information gained to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) and this report will be used by staff to develop our community strategic plan for Board approval.

As we head into the 2016-17 fiscal year, we still have a lot of work to do. One of the challenges we continue to face is a staffing shortage. Though, we have made some progress to bring additional officers on board it has been a slow process. We are approved to add 32 Animal Control Officers and to fill vacancies in Animal Care Technicians and Administrative staff positions. These positions are critical to delivering the services we want to provide for the animals and people in our community.

We want to thank each animal lover in the City of LA for their support. Whether you are part of a community organization, a member of our staff, an elected City official, a volunteer, a foster parent, an adopter or one of our very generous donors, this is **your celebration**. Together, we are making a life-saving difference for countless animals and people who love them.

Thank YOU!

Los Angeles Department of Animal Services is one of the largest municipal shelter systems in the United States with six shelters serving approximately 60,000 animals annually and responding to 20,000 emergency calls involving an animal or person in danger. LA Animal Services promotes and protects the health, safety and welfare of animals and people.

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