



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February is Spay/Neuter Awareness Month What are the Benefits?

Los Angeles, February 7, 2017 – February is recognized as National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month to encourage pet owners to have their companion animals sterilized before the warmer months of the year when puppies and kittens are born. In honor of the month, LA Animal Services reminds pet owners about the benefits of spaying or neutering your furry family member.

“Spay/Neuter Awareness Month is a great opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of sterilization,” said Brenda Barnette, LA Animal Services General Manager. “By spaying or neutering your cat or dog and spreading the word to others, you are helping to prevent unwanted pets births, reduce stray animals and decrease the number of pets crowding our City animal shelters.”

Spaying or neutering your cat or dog not only reduces shelter intake but it may enhance the life of your four-legged friend:

- Spaying or neutering may add to the longevity of your best buddy by decreasing the risk of certain cancers and other diseases.
- Spaying or neutering decreases the chances of your pet roaming. As a result, they are less likely to escape your yard and get lost or hit by a car.
- Spaying or neutering may reduce or eliminate males from marking objects with urine and females will not have heat cycles.
- Spaying or neutering may curb undesirable behaviors such as fighting or biting.

Spaying/neutering your companion animal is not only a loving thing to do for your pet, it's the law in the City of Los Angeles for all cats and dogs to be spayed or neutered after the age of four months.

LA Animal Services offers **free** spay/neuter services to low-income LA City residents and **discount** coupons to any City resident for three dogs and three cats per household. The free and discount vouchers are available at all six LA Animal Services Shelters.

To find the nearest shelter, visit LAAAnimalServices.com/shelters.

To learn more about LA Animal Services Spay and Neuter programs and find participating veterinary hospitals, spay/neuter clinics and mobile spay/neuter clinics in your area, visit LAAAnimalServices.com/spay-neuter.

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.

To learn more visit: LAAAnimalServices.com.

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