



# FAITHFUL friends

SPRING 2017

## DOGS PLAYING FOR LIFE

One of the most important goals of the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation is to see the animals in the Department's care be adopted to forever homes. It is an incredible challenge, and although we have remarkable programs currently in place in hopes of meeting that goal, it's worthwhile to investigate new ideas and practices that are being introduced elsewhere. The "Dogs Playing for Life" program is one of those ideas.

"Dogs Playing for Life" is a non-profit organization that provides consulting services for animal welfare organizations to develop and implement enrichment, training and behavior programs for dogs awaiting adoption. The program, based in Colorado, promotes the positive socialization that results when dogs are brought together in a common area to play. Founder Aimee Sadler and her team bring their expertise to animal care centers and rescue organizations across the country to share the program's benefits.

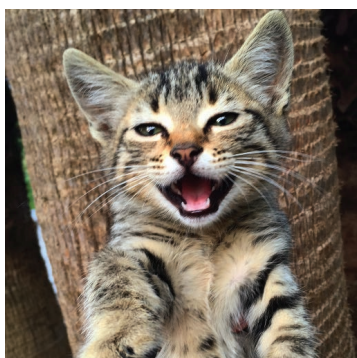
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



*A "Dogs Playing for Life" team member works with dogs at the Downey Animal Care Center.*

## FREE CAT ADOPTIONS!

**THAT WILL MAKE ANYONE SMILE!**



If you adopt a cat from one of our seven animal care centers, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) will pay the adoption fee!

So hurry to your nearest Los Angeles County Animal Care Center to take advantage of this great offer. It will make you smile!

For more information, visit <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov> or <http://aspca.org/adoptLAcats>.

# INSIDE:

NEW FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT 3 | A LONG DISTANCE ADOPTION 4-5





The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable foundation that supports the animals served by the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control. The Animal Care Foundation provides help to more than 60,000 animals each year. Through the leadership of a volunteer Board of Directors, money raised by the Animal Care Foundation is used in many ways to enhance the care and increase the adoption of unwanted animals.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Abby Douglass, President  
Chris Laib, Vice President  
Phillip Gharabegian, Treasurer  
Pauline East, Secretary  
John Gonzales  
Effi Mandler  
Melinda Peters  
Mark Sikand  
Renee Sikand  
Laurene Weste

## DIRECTORS EMERITI

Joan Ouderkirk  
Phyllis Sullivan



# DOGS PLAYING FOR LIFE

*Continued from Page 1*

Some dogs are perceived to be aggressive by the reputation of the breed. But a dog's environment, socialization, a healthy diet and a comfortable living space can make a big difference in the dog's demeanor. Dogs are carefully screened before they join the playgroups, and are gradually introduced to the groups to ensure positive interactions.

The program's team is comprised of highly experienced individuals who have experience working with dog breeds with varying personalities. The program states that it is best to let the dogs run without too much intervention. Team members try not to micromanage and just let the dogs work it out by themselves. All the while, they watch over the dogs in the play area with great care. Aggression in any of the dogs is met with a squirt of water from a bottle or the shaking of a can with coins in it; the dogs do not like either and stop the unwanted behavior. These actions help guide the dogs towards acceptable conduct as well as positive interaction with others.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control arranged for the program to come to Downey Animal Care Center for a two-week pilot of its program. The program cycled in more than 70 dogs a day, allowing them to play and stretch out in a newly constructed play yard. Experienced team members, assisted by Downey Animal Care Center staff members, brought the animals out of the kennels and introduced them in the play yard. They began with small groups of dogs to assess personalities and look for potentially aggressive behavior. The most socialized dogs were brought in first because they were most comfortable playing with other dogs. Some dogs did not want to play at first, but over time, and after watching the other dogs enjoying themselves and making new friends, they became more interested and joined the group.

When the two weeks was over, the team and staff agreed that they enjoyed seeing the dogs running and playing. It's a side of them that is not seen when they are in their kennels. By bringing the dogs together, they can be themselves. While the program provides multiple functions, including assessing behavior, improving healthcare to reduce stress, providing fun and enrichment for the dogs, the bottom line is that it is increasing adoptions.

Visitors to Downey loved to watch the dogs play



*Whether the dogs play together or just stretch their legs, the program benefits them with time out of their kennels to run, jump and play*



*All types of dogs were introduced to the program, including this bulldog.*

and were much more interested in adopting them seeing their personalities and how they interact with others. All dogs are welcome to participate in the program. Big, little, male, female, altered or not. During the program, the team cycles through the entire canine population of the care center.

The Foundation is thankful to the ASPCA and the Petco Foundation for their generous contributions to fund the program, and for supporting animals.

"Dogs Playing for Life" is featured on the County of Los Angeles Animal Care and Control's Facebook page.



# NEW FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT ABBY DOUGLASS

Abby Douglass has assumed the role of Board President of the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation. She has an extensive professional background in international event planning and management. Following employment with an international public relations firm, she had a 15 year career in international event planning, logistics and management, organizing major conferences and trade events all over the world. She now is following her dream of working in interior decorating and giving back to her community by volunteering.

Abby is a volunteer with IMPS (Internet Miniature Pinscher Service), a non-profit, national breed-specific dog rescue organization and an adoption partner of LACDACC. Abby has been with the group since 2003. She also serves on the board of Palos Verdes Performing Arts, a non-profit theater group in Palos Verdes, California.

Abby and her husband John share their home with their rescue dogs and usually a foster too! Abby has an intense love of animals and is dedicated to educating the public on animal welfare as well as improving the lives of homeless and abandoned pets through rescue and adoption. Abby has been on the board since 2005, taking over as president in 2017. Abby also serves as the Foundation liaison to the Carson/Gardena Animal Care Center.



## BE A PART OF TOMORROW... TODAY! BUY A BRICK!

The Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation is offering a way for donors to demonstrate permanent support for our Palmdale Animal Care Center.

Over 500 individual tribute bricks or 'pavers' are now available for you or your company's sponsorship. Each 'paver' will include your name and the message of your choice. Messages may be in honor or in memory of a person or a beloved pet. They will be placed strategically under the pergolas in front of the care center for all to see.

Sponsorships run from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the size of the paver selected. The pavers will become a permanent part of the care center and a reminder to Palmdale visitors of those who support our cause.

Funds from 'paver' sponsorships will support programs like 'Grooming Gives Hope' and 'Dreams Come True,' helping us further our mission – finding new, loving homes for all the animals in our care.

Sponsorship forms are available now on our website at <http://lacountyanimals.org>, by e-mailing [supporter@lacountyanimals.org](mailto:supporter@lacountyanimals.org) or by calling 323-854-1820.



### SUPERVISORS

Mark Ridley-Thomas, <i>Chairman</i>	2nd District
Hilda Solis	1st District
Sheila Kuehl	3rd District
Janice Hahn	4th District
Kathryn Barger	5th District

### DIRECTOR

Marcia Mayeda  
Administrative Office  
5898 Cherry Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90805  
562-728-4610

### ANIMAL CARE CENTER LOCATIONS

Agoura  
29525 Agoura Road  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
818-991-0071

Baldwin Park  
4275 N. Elton Avenue  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706  
626-962-3577

Carson/Gardena  
216 W. Victoria Street  
Gardena, CA 90248  
310-523-9566

Castaic  
31044 N. Charlie Canyon Road  
Castaic, CA 91384  
661-257-3191

Downey  
11258 S. Garfield Avenue  
Downey, CA 90242  
562-940-6895

Lancaster  
5210 W. Avenue I  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
661-940-4191

Palmdale  
38550 Sierra Highway  
Palmdale, CA 93550  
661-575-2888



## A LONG DISTANCE ADOPTION – SHANNON & STANLEY

Almost 1,900 miles separate New Orleans from Los Angeles, but it is not so far a distance to keep Shannon away from Stanley.

Shannon had just lost Brillo, her canine companion of over 17 years. She knew she would get another dog someday but wasn't quite ready yet. Shannon loved animals and always had a dog when she was growing up. She used to follow social media sites that showed dogs in need of forever homes. She missed Brillo so much she decided not to follow the sites for a while. She would always want to adopt them ALL and hated seeing all the dogs without homes.

One day, she stumbled upon an Instagram post that showed the photo of an unusual looking dog who was up for adoption. "I'm a sucker for an old dog, an unwanted dog, a mutt, an underdog," she said. "This poor little guy was owner-surrendered at age 13." He wasn't in the best condition; he had matted fur, was underweight, had a significant periodontal disease and his paws needed to be bandaged from recent injuries. The post said his name was Stanley. He was cute in a funny sort of way. He was old, and two of his front teeth pointed in opposite directions. She felt herself drawn to him. But there was one big problem. He was in Los Angeles, and she lived in New Orleans! How would she ever go about adopting a dog from California?



*Shannon and Stanley take a break on their journey.*

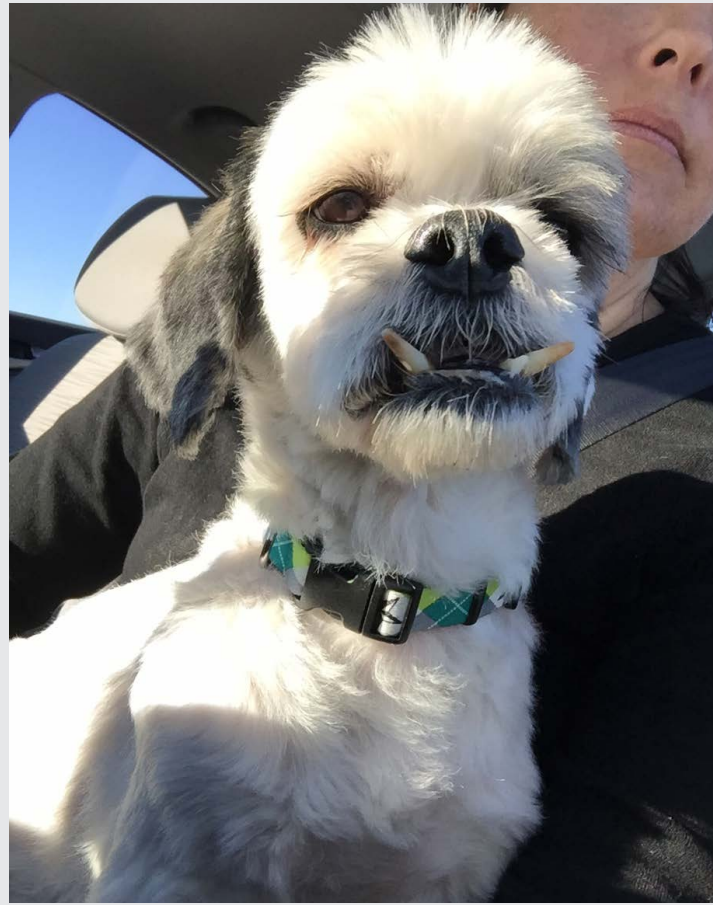


Shannon called the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) where Stanley was hoping to be adopted. She told them she wanted him but that she needed time to make arrangements. Rosemary, who was her contact at the DACC office, told her that a note would be posted on his kennel door to temporarily hold him. She was suddenly in a frantic quest to fly to L.A. and bring Stanley back with her. All the time, she was worried about him, his age, his health and she prayed nothing would become of him before she got there. A few more calls to Rosemary and the plan was in place.

The next day, Shannon landed at LAX. She picked up a rental car for the one-way trip home, saw the Hollywood sign, got lost in the hills, but then finally made it to Stanley.

Although he was more interested in sleeping than getting acquainted, Stanley curled up in the back seat for the six-hour drive home. Driving through Arizona, New Mexico, and several other states, they stopped periodically for gas, food, and water. They became more and more comfortable with each other. Stanley even crawled into Shannon's lap for part of the journey. He knew he had a new special friend...she did too.

Now, seven months later and enjoying life together, Stanley and Shannon go to the park almost every day. People love his energy and funny looks. He makes people smile. And Shannon, a young lady who was willing to travel a long distance for a dog she felt a strong connection to looks back at their adventure. She and Stanley are living happily ever after!



*Stanley poses for the camera.*

## A LONG DISTANCE ADOPTION - MARIE, ELGEE AND CALI

Marie Hanson arrived at the Carson/Gardena Animal Care Center knowing exactly what dogs she wanted to see. She came via airport shuttle with luggage in hand, from Canada. She had fallen in love with two dogs she had seen on the internet, and she was there to adopt them and take them back home with her.

Marie was interested in a beautiful three-year-old pit bull mix, named Cali and a five-year-old brown Chihuahua named Elgee. Because Cali was considered a dominant breed, Marie was required to complete additional paperwork and to take part in an interview. These steps are taken to ensure that she and Cali will be a good fit and that Cali will be welcomed by her other dogs and family back home.

Marie wrote to the Carson/Gardena care center after arriving home. She said that Cali had relaxed a lot, not being as excited and intense as she had first been. She walks on a treadmill when the weather is too cold to go outside.

She said that the older Elgee is the sweetest little thing, especially after having some much-needed dental work.

Marie extended her thanks to everyone for the adoption of Cali and Elgee. She is so happy to have them join her family.



*Elgee finds a sunny spot to relax in her new home.*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions made in memory of loved ones.

Ester Adams – in memory of Sammy  
Benjamin Arnold-Ladensack – in memory of Heinz Naef  
May Aung – in memory of Mika  
Christine L. Arias – in memory of Oreo & Ditto  
Kristin Bergeson – in memory of Gatsby Veith  
Dianne Boranian – in memory of Chloe  
Dianne Boranian – in memory of Trouble Mabec  
Edith & Seig Borck – in memory of Zeke  
Donna & Mark Briskie – in memory of Sinbad, Gina, Brittany & Thor  
Derrick Chi – in memory of Ginger  
John & Linda Clark – in memory of Madison  
Antonia Colton – in memory of Heinz Naef  
Emily Connor – in memory of Heinz Naef  
Sarah Corres – in memory of Jill & Chloe Mendes  
Barbara Davis – in memory of Dutch Sahini  
Mark & Ghislaine Davis – in memory of Ashley  
Peter & Sara Dudgeon – in memory of Heinz Naef  
Daniel Glicker – in memory of Goldie & Tina  
Daphne & Wayne Grigsby – in memory of Rocky O'Neil  
Daphne Grigsby – in memory of Rodgers Buehning  
Anne Hakenson – in memory of Roger & Rocco  
David & Jacqueline Hamilton – in memory of Sigmund Robbins  
Errolyn Hewett-Braham – in memory of Sable  
Alice Holzman – in memory of my wonderful strays  
Henri E. Kenyatta – in memory of Sian  
Linda Krulac – in memory of Cleo  
Dona Kuryanowicz – in memory of Mr. Beans  
Andrew Lee – in memory of Slinky  
Monica Lynch – in memory of Bootsy McEwen  
Rosemary Mallard – in memory of Cassie Webster  
Robin Martin – in memory of Bear  
Craig Mason & Dan Morisak – in memory of MK  
Natalie Massey – in memory of Heinz Naef  
Marcia & Vincent Mayeda – in memory of Heinz Naef

Anita McCullough – in memory of Heinz Naef  
Nancy Moomau – in memory of Nilla Wafer  
Nancy Moomau – in memory of Bobo Martucci  
Teresa Mullens – in memory of Waffles  
Janette Murayama – in memory of Mickey  
Jonathan Ng – in memory of Mr. Gray  
Mark Nullman – in memory of Ellie  
Giselle Ogaz – in memory of Yoshi  
Denise Parker-Leland – in memory of Ann L. Parker  
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Nilla Wafer  
Sharon Pecorelli – in memory of Bobo Martucci  
Eddie & Diane Ponce – in memory of Jake & Max  
Debbie Porter – in memory of Teresa Butlin  
Harvey Price – in memory of Petey  
David Reaves – in memory of George & Sheba  
Rohmi Reid – in memory of Milo  
Sandra Reuben & Kenneth Marks – in memory of Tootsie Runyeon  
Nancy Reyna – in memory of Puppy  
Polux & Carmen Rojas, Jr. – in memory of Blue  
Gina Rothermel – in memory of Bear & Petey  
Gayle Senger – in memory of Anna Elliott  
Hui-Yin Shaw – in memory of Harry & Cougar  
Richard & Lesley Short – in memory of Spike  
Leah Snell – in memory of Lily Bean  
Mary Stromberg – in memory of Gabrielle  
Tabellario Family – in memory of Heinz Naef  
Chinami Tayama – in memory of Heinz Naef  
Cristina Tello – in memory of Barney  
Suzanne Uhlig – in memory of Sammy  
Richard & Lesley Watkins – in memory of Fred Berkendorff  
W. Paul Weber – in memory of Berta  
Hilda Weintraub – in memory of Nova & Dipper Quan  
Bitner & Carol Winckler – in memory of Little Bear  
Suzanne Zimmer – in memory of Happy  
Employees of Gourmet Foods, Inc. – in memory of Heinz Naef

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following gifts made in honor of special people and animals.

## HONORARIUM GIFTS

Gregory Alessandra – in honor of Ruby & Donna Freeman  
Amy Anais – in honor of Minnie Moppet  
Cassandra Becker – in honor of Alice Villanueva  
April Beuder – in honor of Megan S  
William Campbell – in honor of Bandit  
Daria Castellanos – in honor of Hazel  
Josa Chao – in honor of Lucky Lee  
Cherie Clair – in honor of Pax  
Roberta Collins – in honor of Wuppy  
Kimberly Dunham – in honor of Elois Corpening  
Jeff & Rosena Emanuelli – in honor of Zelda  
Silvia Figueroa – in honor of Yogi  
Gary Fleming – in honor of Bobo Flannery  
Gaetanos Restaurant – in honor of Amy's Volunteer Hours  
Sunhi Garber – in honor of John Bondon  
Tom & Joan Getz – in honor of Carol Rosenberg's Birthday  
Shahra Gooneratne & Matt Schroeder – in honor of Jane Bos

Marlene Gosser – in honor of Shiba, Warrior Princess  
Jeff Jordan – in honor of Grommet  
Alvin Larsen – in honor of Buster Boy  
Josh Larsen – in honor of Judy Shieh  
Vanessa Loftus-Brewer – in honor of Sophia, the cat  
Alix Madigan – in honor of Kylie & Prissy Yorkin  
Gabriel Markley – in honor of Zuzu  
Matthew Mei – in honor of Sonic  
Janice Miya – in honor of Miss Kitty  
Daniel Montenegro – in honor of Baxter & Max  
Gloria & Charles Moronez – in honor of Ruby  
Roger Pasarow – in honor of Luke & Judy  
Melinda Peters – in honor of Jim & Martha Blackburn  
Theresa Ramos – in honor of Wyndy & Gypsy  
David Reaves – in honor of George & Shelba  
Lorena Reyes – in honor of Debbie Bailey  
Geoffrey Schorz – in honor of Colleen Moulay



Robert T. Sherman – in honor of Wolf  
Amy & Doug Simons – in honor of Harley  
Susan Suhr – in honor of Snuffy, Pepe, Misha, Giselle & Gelsey  
Kathleen Swaydan – in honor of Priscilla Benson  
Misako & Akemi Takemoto – in honor of Wiggles  
Roman Tishaninov – in honor of Shelby  
Anna Marie Torelli – in honor of Mischa

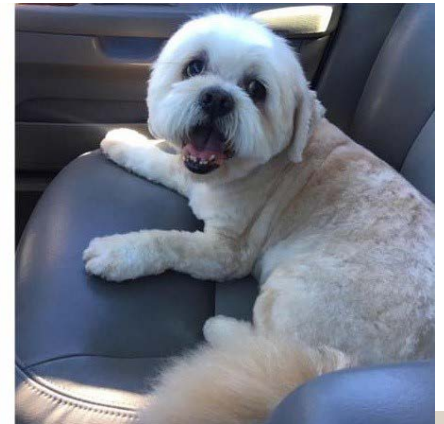
Alexandra Travaglio – in honor of Cynthia Travaglio  
Nathanael Uhlig – in honor of Mike & Teddy  
Kristine Whitacre – in honor of Terry Smith  
Elizabeth Wiener – in honor of Chauncey  
Charles Witkowski – in honor of Ben & Ashley Hempel  
Crystal Yagoobian – in honor of Vincent Von Schnauzer  
Arlene & Herbert Zimmer – in honor of Alfie

## GROOMING GIVES HOPE

The Foundation is pleased to provide programs that have a direct impact on the animals that come through the Los Angeles County animal care centers. The Foundation not only wants to help contribute to the comfort of the animals, but it also seeks to increase adoptions through innovative programs such as Grooming Gives Hope.

The Grooming Gives Hope program provides funding to help dogs that require professional grooming get the attention that they need. Not only does it increase the comfort of animals, but the grooming makes the dog more visually appealing, therefore increasing its adoptability.

You can almost feel it yourself! Imagine how much better they feel after the grooming treatment they go through. Not only does it increase their comfort, but also relieves the pain of severe matting and neglect. You can see on their faces just how much it has improved their lives.

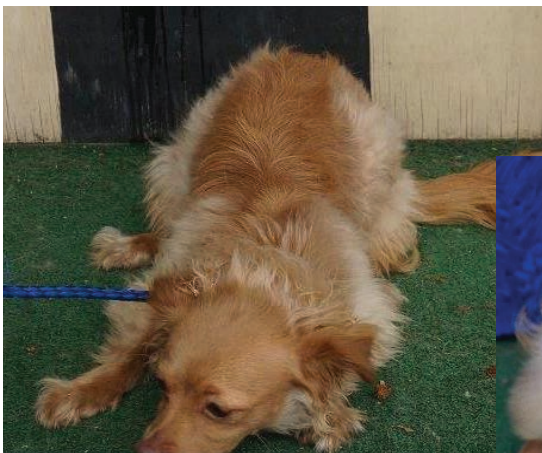


*Gogo has come a long way since he was found, on the left, matted and abandoned. His current photo is on the right. What a difference!*

Sue Benavidez, one of the Downey Animal Care Center's volunteers, sent us this photo and update on Gogo, a former DACC resident, on his forever home:

"I wanted to share with you all a picture that was posted on Facebook. This is a dog that was groomed through the Grooming Gives Hope Program last fall. His shelter picture is on the left, and his current picture is on the right. Hard to believe! This is why we do what we do..."

Thanks to Sue for her dedication and for sharing this amazing update with us. Doesn't Gogo look great?



Before



After

Say "Hello" to Sandy! Sandy is another rescue dog that was chosen for the Grooming Gives Hope program. When she arrived at the animal care center, she wasn't very happy. She had been neglected; her fur was dirty and matted. Now, after a bath, a toenail trim and a haircut, she can't stop smiling!

Your donations help the Foundation provide this wonderful service and we thank you for your continued support!



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!

## ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, NANCY HODGES

Nancy Hodges comes to Baldwin Park Animal Care Center almost every day and helps out wherever she is needed. She is aware when the center is short staffed and always makes herself available to help. Nancy often takes care of dogs with special medical needs, she readily cleans cages to make their environment pleasant and walks the many dogs that need socialization and regular exercise. Nancy knows where help is needed and has no problem being there to assist the staff, animals and the public. Nancy is well-liked by staff and volunteers, and she is an amazing person who really cares about the animals. Nancy began service in March 2016 and has over 1,200 service hours. Congratulations, Nancy and Thank you!



## YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, MORGAN PAUL

Morgan Paul has been a youth volunteer with the Agoura Care Center since February 21, 2015. During his tenure, he has managed to be a full-time high school student and a volunteer. Morgan is also a foster volunteer, eventually adopting a shelter favorite. He has stayed on unlike many other youths who have had short commitments, and he continues to take on even more, responsibility. During the "Old Fire" in Calabasas, Morgan volunteered to assist with the intake of evacuated animals and help with the overall readiness of the Animal Care Center. He is considered by his peers and trainer as an asset and a role model for the Agoura Animal Care Center. Thank you, Morgan and Congratulations!

## RABBIT ADOPTION MONTH

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control celebrated 'Adopt a Rescued Rabbit Month' in February. All seven animal care centers offered rabbit adoptions as a special promotion. The reduced fee of \$15 included the adoption fee, spay/neuter services, and vaccinations. A total of 22 rabbits found their forever homes!

All seven of the animal care centers offer Rabbits and other animals for adoption. Check our website at <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov> to see what animals are currently available.

