

About the Spay Los Angeles Initiative



Understanding the Problem

Every day, about 500 dogs and cats enter shelters in the Los Angeles community. More than half must be put down. Sadly, there are simply too many dogs and cats, but not enough responsible adopters for all of them. And tragically, euthanasia continues to be the primary means for managing the community's homeless-pet overpopulation crisis.

L.A. is among the top 20 metropolitan areas in the United States for euthanasia. During 2008 alone, shelter workers had to put down 96,897 dogs and cats – more than 53% of the 181,234 who were surrendered or impounded. Despite the best efforts of the community's shelters, rescue agencies and other animal-welfare groups, precious lives continue to be lost. And the steady flow of homeless and unwanted pets entering the already-overburdened shelters shows no sign of slowing down. In fact, L.A. shelters collectively experienced an animal-intake increase of approximately 10% during 2008. With a slow economy, high unemployment and record home foreclosures, more people are surrendering or abandoning the pets they no longer can afford.

That's why now more than ever the PetSmart Charities® Spay Los Angeles Initiative is so important!



Being Part of the Solution

The Spay Los Angeles Initiative goal is to save the lives of pets in the city and county of Los Angeles by reducing the number of homeless and unwanted dogs and cats who are born only to be euthanized in a shelter or struggle to survive as strays. The key? Ensuring that low-cost, high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter services for dogs and cats are readily available where they are needed the most.

"The long-term solution to this epidemic is to stop the cycle of reproduction," explains Susana Della Maddalena, executive director of PetSmart Charities, Inc. "By dramatically reducing the numbers of homeless and unwanted pets who are born, we can not only slow the stream of pets into the community's shelters, but also reduce the stray-pet population. The result is fewer and fewer pets being euthanized."

Already, PetSmart Charities® has invested \$7 million in the LA community, working with clinics that are on target to sterilize more than a quarter of a million pets by 2012. Our Spay Los Angeles partners include four non-profit agencies that specialize in low-cost, high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter services: Clinico, Inc., FixNation, Inc., spcaLA Specialty Spay/Neuter Center and The AngelDogs Foundation.

To sustain their efforts for years to come – and continue saving precious lives – community support is crucial. The fundraising goal of the Spay Los Angeles Initiative is \$4 million by 2013. This will enable us to support, expand and sustain the low-cost, high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter clinics that are the key to this lifesaving effort.

To speak to someone at PetSmart Charities about the Spay Los Angeles effort, please call 1-800-745-9460.

To learn more or to donate, please visit www.petsmartcharities.org/spay-LA/index.php.