

# Announcing: A New Club Contest

## The Club Pet-Owner Look-Alike Contest

### Does your pet look like you?



Win a prize!

- Send in a photo of you and your look-alike pet. You could win a **\$100 gift certificate to Petco!**
- Deadline: October 12. Results to appear in the November issue of *Alive!*
- Send in your photo now!
- Send digital photos to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)
- Send print photos to:  
City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

**RULES:**

1. Pet clothing is acceptable but discouraged. Please respect your animal and be humane. *Alive!* will reject submissions immediately that appear inhumane.
2. Winning contestants must be Club members in good standing. Everyone is welcome to submit responses, however. (Responses without Club membership numbers will be accepted but not eligible for the winning prize.)
3. Winning responses will be determined by official Club personnel. All decisions will be final.
4. The contest is all in good fun. The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!* or for delays in the transmission of responses.

**Special Guest Judge:**



**Jackie David of Animal Services!**

by Jackie David, Public Information Director, L.A. Animal Services

# The Pet Club

## Protect Pets from Disasters

■ **When it comes to your pets and animals, it pays to be prepared.**

Remember October of last year? That was when fires raged throughout California, displacing thousands of people and pets and killing thousands of animals. That was when L.A. Animal Services, led by horse-specialist and Animal Control Officer Hugh Briefman, arm-in-arm with the Department's Air Rescue Team, the L.A. Fire Department and LAPD, led the effort to evacuate, rescue, transport and house some 450 horses from the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County and Ventura County. That was when Animal Care Technician Supervisor Sergio Rios spent three days at Pierce College to make sure all the horses and other animals were fed and cared for. (We also rescued 38 cats, 75 dogs, 7-10 barn fowl, 2 peacocks and one llama.) It was a time for L.A. Animal Services to shine with pride for the heroic efforts of its Animal Control Officers and Animal Care Technicians. It seems like a distant memory but it does hold strong.

So, while we're on the subject, have you considered what you might do with your pets and/or animals should a fire disaster or earthquake strike tomorrow? After all, it's best to prepare before a disaster strikes. Here are a few things you should know and should do:

— Keep traceable identification on your animals at all times. Licenses, microchips and identification tags will help reunite you with your pets. (We can microchip your pets at any of our six shelters for \$25 – a great price compared to the \$100 average charge at many veterinary offices. Just make sure you call for an appointment.) Each of your pets should have a collar with a license or tag with your name and telephone number. Horses also need to be microchipped and licensed. L.A. Animal Services contacts all animal owners noted on licenses, microchips or I.D. tags.

— Should you lose an animal that does not have identification, check your local shelter every two to three days. Stray animals are held from five to seven days to allow owners time to find their pets and then become available for adoption into a new home after the hold period. Stray animals may also be humanely euthanized after the hold period.

Prepare an emergency supply kit containing the following:

- **Water** – Animals under stress may need extra water. Plan generously. Emergency rations must include three days supply of water for each animal.
- **Food** – Store at least three days' supply of food for each pet. Use dry food stored in a rodent-proof container placed off the floor.
- **Medication and first-aid supplies** – Medicine is the most frequently forgotten item for both humans and pets. Include, in the kit, current vaccination records and other pertinent medical information.
- Extra collars, leashes, carriers and other important equipment.
- Important telephone numbers.

Make arrangements now for alternative shelter for your animal(s) in case you are evacuated or displaced.

If you own a horse, you should own a horse trailer and adequate tow vehicle to transport your animal. If you do not own a horse trailer, plan ahead for the transportation of your animal. Plans should include a destination for your horse in an emergency. Learn how to load your horse into a trailer before a disaster strikes.

Animal feed is combustible. Keep feed and bedding away from structures. Dispose of ruined feed immediately.

Carry personal identification with your current address at all times. If roadblocks are set up, you will have to prove that you live in the emergency zone to gain access.

Identify neighbors or individuals who can handle your animals in the event you are not at home. Provide them with a means of access if your property is locked, and a liability release. Find a safe evacuation location for you animals if your property becomes unsafe.

Prepare for an animal's reaction to disaster. Disasters are noisy, frightening, chaotic and confusing to both people and pets. An indoor pet may hide in a closet or under a bed. An outdoor pet may retreat under the house. Other animals may panic and bolt. When a horse feels threatened, its natural response is flight, fight or freeze. A horse can hurt someone or self-destruct. Know several methods of restraint and make sure you have the proper equipment to accomplish this. Practice restraint before the disaster.

Confine your pet during emergencies to prevent it from drinking contaminated water. If possible, place a blanket over your pet's temporary shelter to help your pet feel more at ease. The blanket will help muffle noise and provide a dark and comfortable "hiding" place.

Exotic pets often need special care. Develop a plan for shelter and care of any exotic pets.

In the event of a disaster, livestock may be injured or require evacuation. L.A. Animal Services can provide assistance with the rescue, transportation and sheltering of livestock. Plan for alternative shelter for your livestock.

Fires, earthquakes and other disasters may drive wild animals into populated areas. A wild animal that does not run from a human is probably ill or injured. If you find a wild animal, do not attempt to handle it.

Do not handle animals that are already dead. (Why would anyone want to do that, anyway?)

Keep copies of important telephone numbers handy:

- L.A. Animal Services – 1-888-4LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381
- Neighbor(s)
- Primary Veterinarian
- Alternative Veterinarian

Let L.A. Animal Services and/or your community know if you can volunteer your time and/or resources in the event of a disaster. A little help can go a long way!

Above all, know that in a disaster or emergency, L.A. Animal Services will provide free evacuation and temporary kenneling for animals. Know that our shelters do accept animals and provide service for emergencies 24-hours a day, seven days a week and that our shelters are located throughout the City.



### Send Questions

Jackie David, Public Information Director, L.A. Animal Services

Feel free to send questions and concerns to me, and I'll be happy to respond to them in my column. I'm excited about this, so don't hesitate! Write to me at: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



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