



Pet Project

■ Rec. and Parks holds Pet Fair in Venice.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor,
Photos by Daniel Wang, Club Intern

REC AND PARKS — Connecting pet owners with lots of information that can help make them better caretakers was the reason for Rec and Parks' first Pet Fair, held Aug. 6 in Penmar Park in Venice.

The event, which the organizers hope will be the first of many, was sponsored by Centinela Feed and Pet Supplies. Animal adoption groups were on hand to showcase some of the pets who needed to find their "forever home." Admission was free, and there were plenty of free samples. Prizes were given away, and food and drinks were supplied for both two- and four-legged attendees. There were approximately 15 booths offering anything from holistic/natural pet foods to pet products. Many adoption booths were also on hand.

Representatives from Sanitation's Storm Water program was on hand, providing information on curbing pollution by picking up after pets. Sanitation even provided handy dispensers that can be attached to the dog's leash. This container, filled with disposable bags to be used to pick up after dogs, was a hit.

It was a fun filled and exciting day for all.



Fina sitting next to the sign informing everyone that dogs and cats could be adopted at the Pet Fair through Pet Orphans of Southern California. Fina is the pet of Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor.



Representatives of Centinela Feed and Pet Supplies, which sponsored the event, from left: Greg Lewis, Manager; Chris Nakagawa, General Manager; Centinela Dog; and Christina Kulkowsky, General Manager of Redondo Beach Store.



Exhausted from all the excitement!



Some of the many booths on hand.



From left: Mo English, Management Analyst, Sanitation's Stormwater Program, 14.5 years, Club Member, supplies a container to Gene and Tina, with their three-year-old pug, Max.



Doreen Mallyon, Sr. Clerk Typist, 5 years, Watershed Protection, Sanitation, staffed a very popular booth.

¡Zoo Olé!

■ Zoo celebrates Latino Heritage Month.

ZOO — The L.A. Zoo will be celebrating Latino Heritage Month with various festivities including traditional Latin music and dances, fun crafts for kids, delicious food, handcrafted artwork, keeper talks and a self-guided tour of the animals and plants native to Latin America.

The special events for Latino Heritage Month will take place Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18.

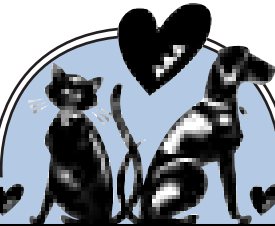
The Zoo is in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2 to 12. Latino Heritage activities are free with paid admission to the Zoo.

For more information, visit the Zoo Website at www.lazoo.org, or call (323) 644-4200.



A ballet folklorico group celebrates Latino Heritage Month at the Los Angeles Zoo. Traditional Latino entertainment and animals native to Latin America will be highlighted Sept. 17 and 18.

The Pet Club



LA Bans Dog Tethering



The City Council passed a vote that bans tethering in the City of Los Angeles. LA Animal Services has made this a top priority and worked on presenting this to Council for more than two years. Animal Services has seen an accumulation of complaints on dogs that have been tethered inhumanely, and a dog that is tethered is three times more likely to bite than a dog that is not.

"These were unacceptable conditions and bad odds," states General Manager Guerdon Stuckey. "So LA Animal Services set out to pass an ordinance that would ban tethering, and we did."

Such complaints that the Department received for tethering were entanglement; dogs hanging themselves; no access to food, water or shelter; and dogs that had the collars imbedded in their necks that were in need of medical treatment. That's why the Department sought the ban.

The municipal code that was passed clearly defines that a dog must not be tethered. It does have caging requirements if needed. The law also has a provision that you can tether your dog if you are completing a temporary task, like repairing your fence, having a party, giving security for the gardener, etc.

But also is very clear on how to tether your dog. For example, the length of the tether

must be three times the length of the dog and it must be with a body harness, free from entanglement with access to food, water and shelter at all times.

"This is a great accomplishment for LA Animal Services," said Commander David Diliberto.

Penalties for noncompliance:

A violation of this law may be punishable as either an infraction or a misdemeanor at the sole discretion of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. The maximum penalty for a conviction of this tethering law as an infraction is a fine of \$250. The maximum penalty for a conviction of this law as a misdemeanor is a fine of \$1,000, imprisonment in the County Jail for a period not more than six months, or by both a fine and imprisonment.

Send Questions

Karen Knipscheer,
Public Information Officer,
Animal Services



Karen Knipscheer has worked for Animal Services for 16 years; she worked in the field as an officer, then lieutenant, then captain. She was a district manager and a hearing examiner before recently becoming the public information officer. Feel free to welcome her; write to her at: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Call It Okapi

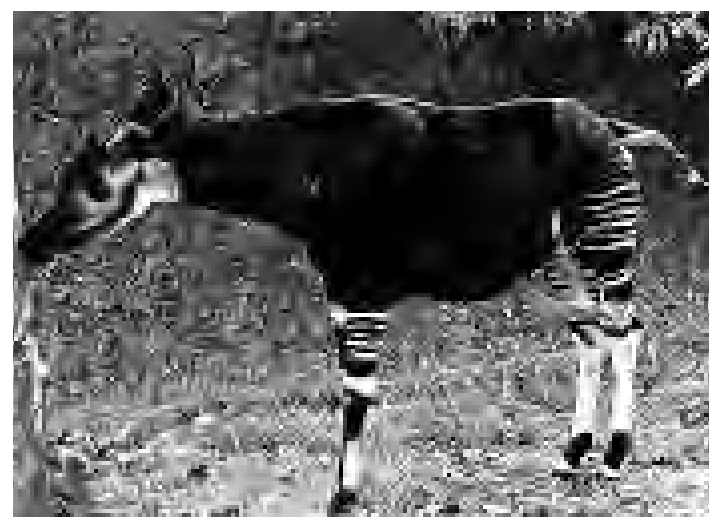
■ The zoo hosts the okapi, the only existing relative of the giraffe, for the first time in the zoo's history.

ZOO — A 10-year-old male okapi is the newest inhabitant of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. An elusive and solitary animal, the okapi was one of the last of the large mammals to be discovered. Native exclusively to the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa where it was discovered in 1901, the okapi is the only living relative of the giraffe.

With legs striped like a zebra, horns and hooves of a giraffe, a unique velvety reddish-brown coat, big ears, and a prehensile tongue long enough to lick its own eyes, the L.A. Zoo's okapi is a treasured acquisition that took decades. "We've been trying to get an okapi for over 20 years," said Robin Noll, Senior Animal Keeper. "It's very exciting to finally have one in our collection."

The okapi was transferred from Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Fla., to the L.A. Zoo June 3, and underwent a 30-day quarantine. During that time, renovations to the new okapi habitat were made to facilitate management and husbandry. The Los Angeles Zoo's new okapi made his public debut July 25.

Hidden throughout the deepest forests of the Congo, okapi are respected as a symbol of conservation for the country and are legally protected. Although they are not endangered, they are vulnerable to deforestation of their habitat and poachers who hunt them illegally for their valuable skins. In 1992, the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Ituri Forest was created to protect the okapi and its natural habitat.



A 10-year-old okapi, the only living relative of the giraffe, is the newest inhabitant of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Photo by Tad Motoyama/LA Zoo.