

DRAFT

Standard Heading

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Immediate Release

An appeal to Los Angeles dog and cat owners to exercise pet ownership responsibility is the keynote of Be Kind to Animals Week, nationally observed May 2-8.

Robert I. Rush, general manager of the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation, lauded the 62nd annual observance which is dedicated to the humane treatment of animals as a time for pet owners to consider realistic kindness toward their animal charges.

"The household pet sometimes is accepted as an adjunct to the family circle without regard for its total well being," says Rush. "In too many cases, the animal is merely fed and sheltered, and that's the extent of its care. ~~But~~ But," adds Rush, "there's more to pet ownership responsibility."

In fulfilling the obligation incumbent on pet owners, Rush suggests participation in the public low cost Spay and Neuter Clinic program; licensing of the dog or tagging the cat with identification; protecting the dog through compliance with the leash law; and safeguarding the cat through close supervision.

These programs, according to Rush, all contribute to kindness to animals. Spaying and neutering make pets better domesticated pets, and eliminate the heartbreak of unwanted puppies and kittens, he says. Dog licensing and cat ID tags provide identity for the animal<sup>s</sup> and serve to reunite them with their owners in event the pets are lost; ~~the~~ the leash law protects the dog from traffic hazards, and negates its potential as an unwanted neighborhood nuisance.

Persons wishing to adopt pets for companionship and household

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protection are reminded that Los Angeles city animal shelters hold "open house" daily, Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. An excellent variety of dogs and cats, puppies and kittenz ~~are~~<sup>is</sup> available during Be Kind to Animals Week.

The 1976 chairman of Be Kind to Animals Week is Michael Landon, star of TV's "House On The Prairie."