

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION
111 EAST FIRST STREET
MA 4-5211, EXT. 1771

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 31, 1969

JIM MC NAMARA

The lives of ten handicapped children from a March of Dimes Birth Defects Treatment Center at Orthopedic Hospital were brightened today (Thursday, July 31) during a visit to the Ann Street Animal Shelter.

Through the cooperation of the Department of Animal Regulation, each of the out-clinic patients was allowed to select a pet of their own and take it home for keeps.

Puppies and kittens were unanimous choices.

The happy day was called "Operation Second Chance". The code phrase was coined by District Attorney Evelle J. Younger, County Campaign Chairman of the March of Dimes.

"Most of these youngsters were born with catastrophic-type defects at birth," Younger said. "Many of them, like thousands of others in the nation, were believed to be early terminal cases, but because of medical science, they were given a second chance. The pets, they claimed today, also have been given a second chance."

The pets were purchased for the children by the Department of Animal Regulation. Councilman Gilbert W. Lindsay, in whose Ninth District the Shelter is located, presented the pets to the wide-eyed recipients.

Robert I. Rush, General Manager of the Department of Animal Regulation, credited volunteer contributors for making the furry gifts possible.

"We have an open fund in the department for occasions such as this one," Rush said. "The animals presented today, complete with licenses,

(more)

were in reality purchased by the department from our donor's fund."

"And," he added, "needless to say, the money involved in this instance is more than well spent."

Rush reminded parents of the new owners that when their puppies reach the age of four months, they must be inoculated against rabies. Los Angeles rabies clinics will be set up at twenty-three playgrounds and parks during the month of August in a low cost public service anti-rabies program for dogs.

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