

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION
111 EAST FIRST STREET

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim McNameara - Susan Bryant
Department of Animal Regulation
Telephone: 485-5771

The 57th anniversary of Be Kind To Animals Week is scheduled May 2-8.

The week, annually dedicated to the cause of humanitarian rapport with the animal kingdom, serves as a reminder that man has an obligation to the animals in his society.

Robert I. Rush, General Manager of the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation, believes the week, sponsored nationally by the American Humane Association, has a purpose.

"Really, it has a two-fold purpose," he says. "It reminds us to take stock of our relationship with the animals who rely on us for humane treatment and care; and it should remind us of the Good Neighbor policy in the realm of animal ownership."

Rush says the week also could be titled "Be Kind To Your Neighbor Week." He noted that every urban center in the country is populated with two types of people--those who have pets, and those who don't.

"The rights of both segments must be recognized," he says, "and neighborhood harmony relative to pet ownership is entirely feasible with the exercise of a little judgment and courtesy."

He called on pet owners to exercise control of their animals by complying with the leash and licensing laws in the case of dogs; "curbing" their pets to avoid lawn and sidewalk nuisances; and taking advantage of the City's public low cost anti-rabies clinics and the public low cost Spay and Neuter Clinic.

The barking dog problem, he says, could be drastically reduced if owners of offending dogs would take the time to analyze the basic cause for excessive barking, and take steps to eliminate the cause.

"Dogs tied outside with no companionship, or confined inside a dwelling for days on end, are bound to protest this type of treatment. Most dogs, given a break in routine, can be taught reasonably good behavior if the owner will devote a little time, patience and judgment in resolving the problem."

"Be Kind To Your Neighbor Week could be observed right along with Be Kind To Animals Week," says Rush.

In the realm of wildlife, the City Department of Animal Regulation continues to observe Be Kind To Animals Week, every week, through its Animal Airlift (by helicopter) wherein small wild animals, humanely trapped in the City are relocated to a natural habitat in Angeles National Forest. The Department has relocated 813 wild animals to safe areas since the inception of the wildlife conservation program in September, 1969.