



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Animal Care Receives \$100K “Kitten Grant” from Best Friends Animal Society

Kittens. They're cute, they're cuddly, and when they're under 8 weeks old, kittens are the highest risk population at shelters in Southern California and across the country.

To help save more kittens at Orange County Animal Care, Best Friends Animal Society presented the organization with a \$100,000 “Save Them All” kitten grant on Saturday, Sept. 15. In attendance as guest speakers were Chairman Andrew Do, Orange County Board of Supervisors 1st District and Todd Spitzer, Supervisor 3rd District.

“We have had a lot of improvements and good results in the last five years and were able to increase the save rate for adult cats from 40 percent to 70 percent. With this \$100,000 grant for kittens and our new shelter Director Mike Kaviani, I believe we will be able to take the good work we do to a whole other level,” said Chairman Andrew Do.

The grant will decrease kitten euthanasia by 15% in its first year by expanding foster programs, especially for “bottle baby” kittens under 4 weeks old, and providing resources for supplies, medical care, spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchips for kittens in the foster program. Through collaboration with the non-profit organization OC Shelter Partners and founder Liz Hueg, community events such as a “kitten shower” were held to teach interested volunteers about the care and feeding of bottle feeders. OC Shelter Partners is one of the most active organizations in the community that has begun the process to increase kitten lives saved in the community. “We want responsible people to foster and adopt pets. So whether you're here to adopt a dog or cat, you're giving another life opportunity to these animals who need you in their lives,” said Supervisor Todd Spitzer.

“Best Friends has a mission to make the country no-kill by 2025 and programs like this are key to making that happen,” said Jose Ocano, Pacific Region Director for Best Friends Animal Society. “We are very excited to partner with Orange County Animal Care and help increase positive outcomes at their center. It's a true example of how by working together, we can save them all.”

To learn more about becoming a kitten foster with Orange County Animal Care, visit <http://www.ocpetinfo.com/involve/foster>.

About Orange County Animal Care

Orange County Animal Care takes in more than 19,000 dogs, cats, bunnies and other pets in Orange County each year. In addition to the daily feed, shelter and medical care provided to each pet at our shelter, OC Animal Care strives to be proactive in placing pets by offering monthly adoption events, working with hundreds of nonprofit rescue groups and encouraging our community members to become volunteers and foster caretakers. OC Animal Care promotes responsible pet ownership; health and safety of people and animals and spay/neuter programs OC Animal Care houses and provides medical care for impounded dogs, cats and exotic animals. The Care Center provides pet licensing and patrol services to 14 contract cities and all the unincorporated areas of the County.

About Best Friends Animal Society®

Best Friends Animal Society is the only national animal welfare organization focused exclusively on ending the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters. A leader in the no-kill movement, Best Friends runs the nation's largest no-kill sanctuary for companion animals, as well as lifesaving programs in collaboration with its

nationwide network of members and partners working to Save Them All®. In Los Angeles, Best Friends leads the No-Kill Los Angeles (NKLA) initiative, which is focused on ending the killing of dogs and cats in city shelters by 2017, and operates two centers, the NKLA Pet Adoption Center in West L.A. and the Best Friends Pet Adoption and Spay/Neuter Center in Mission Hills. Since its founding in 1984, Best Friends has helped reduce the number of animals killed in American shelters from 17 million per year to an estimated 4 million.