



(Pets Are Wonderful Support/Los Angeles)

WHAT IS PAWS/LA's MISSION?

- * PAWS/LA's is simple: To keep people and their pets together! Our programs are designed to make sure that people who are most in need never have to be without their beloved pets because of a physical or financial hardship.

PAWS/LA was founded in 1989 in response to the extreme need for animal care assistance by people financially and physically debilitated by HIV/AIDS. Since that time, the agency has expanded its scope to serve low-income elderly.

HOW DOES PAW/LA WORK?

- * PAWS/LA is a non-profit in Los Angeles. The agency provides a range of free basic pet care services to low-income individuals, including veterans with PTSD, the elderly and those who are debilitated by HIV/AIDS.
- * PAWS/LA provides basic but essential services, many of which are handled by a network of more than 200 amazing volunteers:
 - Veterinary care
 - Pet food and supplies
 - Grooming
 - Temporary foster care – for example if the pet's owner needs to be in the hospital
 - Services for homebound clients: dog walking, pet transport, pet food delivery

WHY IS PAW/LA SO IMPORTANT?

- * PAWS/LA provides services that are vitally important to the community. Studies have shown that animals play an important role in our lives. Anyone who has ever had a pet knows that feeling of joy and unconditional love. Pets give us a sense of well-being, they promote nurturing and socialization, they help improve trust, cognition, memory, self-esteem, problem-solving and concentration as well as love and diversion, and for many, a reason to get up in the morning.
- * For those facing extreme financial or physical challenges, the added responsibility of caring for a pet sometimes becomes a choice between caring for the pet and caring for themselves, particularly in emergency situations. Devoted pet owners have sacrificed their own comfort and wellbeing, including medicine and food. When they run out of options, people are sometimes left with no choice but to part with their pet. It's an unbearable choice that no one should have to make. PAWS/LA exists to make sure this doesn't happen.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE?

- * The best way to find out more about PAWS/LA, how to donate money or become a volunteer is by going to the website: pawsla.org. Of course you can follow PAWS/LA on Facebook and Twitter as well.

FAQs:

- * **Q: Does PAWS/LA rescue or provide pet adoption services?**
A: No, PAWS/LA is not a rescue or a pet adoption center. PAWS/LA works with pet owners to help those who already have pets keep and care for their animal companions.

* **Q: Can anyone utilize PAWS/LA's services?**

A: PAWS/LA's services are for those pet owners who meet specific eligibility requirements:

They must qualify as low income and be either a senior over the age of 65 or have a chronic or life--threatening illness. Anyone wanting to find out more about specific requirements can find that information on the website: www.pawsla.org.

* **Q: Does PAWS/LA provide its services from a central location?**

A: No. Only the main food bank is located at the PAWS/LA office. PAWS/LA volunteers deliver pet food and supplies to those clients who are homebound. For grooming and veterinary services, PAWS/LA works with a number of partners, who either donate their time or work with PAWS/LA to offer discounts.

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