



Contact: Christy Schilling
christy@peopleandpetsbtf.org
818-726-4235

10 LOS ANGELES ORGANIZATIONS TO COLLABORATE IN NATIONAL GRANT CHALLENGE TO HELP KEEP PETS AND PEOPLE TOGETHER IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, CA for release March 31, 2023—betterTogether Forever today announced the new event, **Pet-Chella**, starting April 1 – 30 at the North Central Animal Shelter. For the entire month of April TEN organizations will be offering activities, events, and programs for the community to participate in. Organizations including HEART LA, Community Animal Medicine Project (CAMP LA), The Amanda Foundation and Pilgrim School among others, will provide landlord tenant issue guidance, a vaccination clinic, spay and neuter, reading to the animals, and much more.

Pet-Chella is part of the national Open Arms Challenge, a partnership of 23 animal well-being organizations, providing a pool of \$420,000 in grant opportunities to support inclusivity and assist those that are helping communities by keeping pets and people together.

betterTogether will be onsite to answer questions, offer resources, and help with options and solutions for families such as pet food and supplies, access to vet care, vaccines and surrender alternatives. A free pet vaccination and wellness clinic will be hosted with CAMP LA, as well as a mobile spay and neuter clinic with The Amanda Foundation. HEART LA, will be available to help tenants stay safely housed with their companion animals. There will be several reduced adoption fee events throughout the month. On April 8th and 9th, Pet Care Foundation will be sponsoring “Woofies and Meow-Meows” which will be a \$50 adoption fee reduction for all dogs and cats and Los Angeles Animal Services special adoption event days will be April 14, 15, 29, and 30th. There will be giveaways such as pet beds and treats.

The community is invited to come visit, take part in all the activities that will increase adoptions, recruit fosters and volunteers, said Christy Schilling, Executive Director, betterTogether. “We want to bring awareness and highlight the shelter’s vital services in collaboration with partners and our community. The best place for pets is with their people, keeping lifesaving space available in animal shelters. We can do this when we work as one.”

Leanna Lin’s Wonderland and Walks for Pups will be hosting a pet food and supply drive April 15 to fill up the betterTogether pet pantry to give directly to pet parents in need. Pilgrim School will be reading to pets April 23 and Shelter Me will offer a free movie screening April 29 - there is truly something for everyone!

"Coming together as a community of animal lovers and advocates can be incredibly powerful. When we work together, we can achieve so much more for our four-legged family members, and the people who love them, thereby creating, a more compassionate and supportive world for all of us," said Zoey Knittel, Executive Director, Community Animal Medicine Project (CAMP LA).

Appointments are needed for the free spay and neuter mobile clinic and to get pet food but the wellness clinic is free for the first 50 pets that arrive. Come adopt a pet at a discount and get a free bed. Donate pet food if you can or get a bag if needed. **Bring your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues, to see all there is to offer! To make an appointment and for more information please visit:**

<https://www.peopleandpetsbtf.org/nationwide-open-arms-challenge>

Special Events

April 6 & 20 - Housing Assistance

April 8 & 9 - Woofies and Meow Meows Adoption Event with giveaways

April 15, 16, 29 & 30 - Special Adoption Days with giveaways

April 15 - Pet food and supply drive

April 23 - Pilgrim School reads to pets.

April 23 - vaccination clinic

April 24 - Spay/Neuter

April 29 - Movie Screening

About betterTogether Forever

betterTogether Forever is a 501(c)3 nonprofit co-founded by Christy Schilling and Kerry Armstrong, merging two successful animal welfare organizations—Bark Avenue Foundation (founded in 2004) and Home Dog LA (founded in 2013). The combined organization, as the name states, is better together, with a broader reach and impact as they help to keep people and pets together across under-resourced communities in Los Angeles. Through direct service and building community partnerships with human service organizations, municipalities, and other nonprofits, betterTogether Forever is leading the way as a pioneer in animal welfare.

About Los Angeles Animal Services

LA Animal Services operates six animal shelters and has field staff serving the community. The shelters are award-winning facilities that have been built within the past 10-15 years. LA Animal Services is one of the largest municipal shelter systems in the U.S., serving approximately 60,000 animals annually and responding to 20,000 emergency calls each year involving animals or people in danger.

About the Community Animal Medicine Project (CAMP LA)

CAMP LA provides access to affordable veterinary services in underserved areas helping to keep pets and their people together, where they belong.

About The Amanda Foundation

Amanda is committed to solving the root causes of pet homelessness in Los Angeles. Keeping dogs and cats out of shelters by providing free and low-cost services to people who cannot afford to pay their pets' medical bills, and educating young people about how to care for animals.

About HEART LA

Since 2019, HEART LA has been protecting people, pets, and their homes. Founded on the fundamental principle that every person deserves a sustainable and inclusive place to call home, HEART LA strives to address the immediate challenges of evictions and homelessness prevention, while also addressing systemic discriminatory barriers through tenant education, trainings, learning forums, workshops, and deliberate policy advocacy.

About Pet Care Foundation

Pet Care Foundation is a 501c3, non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, care, spay/neuter, and adoption of homeless pets.

About Pilgrim School

Pilgrim School, founded in 1958, is a mastery-based, college preparatory school in Koreatown with an inclusive community serving Preschool through 12th Grade.

About Leanna Lin's Wonderland

Super cute store with many unique trinkets, books, toys, etc. Great place to discover and support new artists. They host events where proceeds go to support pets and people in the community.

About Walks for Pups

Walks For Pups was started to help people with their fur babies.

About ShelterMe.TV

Shelter Me. TV is an Emmy Award-winning PBS series that tells inspiring stories about homeless pets and the people who help them.