



2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families

In Los Angeles County, the 2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families Initiative will work to improve both human and animal health. The initiative recognizes that human health, animal health and the environment are intertwined. Improving the health of one can benefit the other two.

How can improving pet health impact human health or the environment?

- **Pet Obesity:** Pet obesity is skyrocketing, just like with people. What can help? Walking the dog! Studies show that walking the dog helps people get the recommended amount of exercise. By exercising together, owners and their pets can get healthy.
- **Second hand smoke:** Pets can develop cancer after being exposed to second hand smoke. They can become ill after accidentally eating cigarette butts. A recent study supported the idea that educating smokers about the risk to pets may motivate them to quit.
- **Spay-Neuter:** Pets that are spayed or neutered have a reduced risk of certain cancers, and are less likely to roam, be hit by a car or bite someone.
- **Parasite Control:** Keeping a pet free of fleas, ticks and other parasites, protects not only the pet, but the family and neighborhood, from a variety of diseases. Pet owners that pick up the poop safeguard the community from contamination.
- **Vaccine preventable diseases:** By increasing pet vaccination, we not only protect pets from these diseases, we also reduce the financial and emotional costs that these illnesses inflict on the community.

What will the initiative do? A coalition of agencies and individuals will be created to identify ways human and animal health interconnect. The group will track local animal health data and set goals for the year 2020. During the next ten years, members will create educational campaigns and other strategies to meet the goals. By working together, we can improve the health of pets and the larger community.

What Can I Do?

- Register to join our initiative by filling out the attached form, or by contacting us at 213-989-7060 or vet@ph.lacounty.gov.
- Take our on-line Pet Health & Safety quiz to help us learn more about local pets. Encourage your family, friends, co-workers and clients to take it too. It's on our website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/index.htm>





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REGISTRATION FORM

I want to be part of the new local 2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families Initiative!

My Information is:

Name: _____

Clinic/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip code: _____

Phone number: _____

e-mail address: _____

What I can do (check all that apply):

- Add me to the 2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families e-mail list, so I can hear about related meetings, events, surveys and other activities.
- I would like to join the Coalition committee and work to set our community goals.
- I am willing to be on the Steering Committee (more time commitment) and make recommendations for community interventions.
- I would like to join the Coalition journal club and receive monthly e-mails about recently published articles about improving pet and human health.
- Our Clinic/Agency can help distribute related educational materials.
- Our Clinic/Agency can help gather pet health data (from records or distribute surveys).
- I have other ideas of how I can help: _____

Fax completed form to: 213-481-2375.

