

2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families Coalition Update



September 2017

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

-Andrew Carnegie

On August 29th, 2017 the Healthy Pets Healthy Families (HPHF) Coalition met for their 23rd meeting with over 20 people in attendance!

The meeting started with the announcement of Dr. Lamielle no longer working with the Department. He was a *superb* asset to not only the Veterinary Public Health Program, but to the HPHF Coalition as well. He will be deeply missed, but we are all sure he is enjoying his new adventures!

After the announcement, HPHF members continued the meeting by reviewing HPHF Mission, Vision and strategic plan to promote healthy communities in Los Angeles (LA) County, as well as the “MAP-IT” strategy. The coalition is currently in the *Implement* stage, where we are continuing to carry out strategies and action steps identified in the White Paper Project. The topic of the paper is “Pet-related guidance for multi-unit housing in LA County,” with the goal of creating local change in human/animal health by collectively developing relevant strategies and recommendations for policy and decision-makers.

HPHF members identified the following issues that will be addressed in the paper: disease concerns (i.e. the spread of zoonotic diseases, allergies, and interaction with wildlife); property destruction and damage to the unit; noise concerns (e.g. excessive barking); safety concerns, and limited access to available housing due to pets. During the meeting, members identified gaps related to pets in multi-unit housing that weren’t addressed during the previous meeting. Members also reviewed the list of stakeholders and resources that could be used during the project to increase knowledge and expertise on the topic.

Lastly, there was a facilitated activity in which Coalition members brainstormed recommendations for both renters and landlords. This will be discussed on page 2.



Tamerin Scott from Veterinary Public Health discussing the facilitated activity of the day.

Don’t hesitate, participate!

Get involved with making a difference in your community.

The next HPHF Coalition meeting is **Tuesday October 31st** from 9:30—12:00 pm at 5555 Ferguson Dr., Commerce, CA 90022 (in the auditorium).

For any questions/comments, please contact us at: vet@ph.lacounty.gov

Facilitated activity— Developing Recommendations for Landlords

- Activity: In groups, discuss recommendations related to the major concerns landlords may face if allowing pets in their rental property/complex. Input from the group included:

Restriction in policy about feeding wildlife

Require proof of vaccinations

Keep record of pet's vaccines

Standardize pet deposits

Proper signage of responsibilities for pet owners on the property



Pet resume

Ensure trash cans have lids and picked up weekly to ensure limited interaction with wildlife

Keeping building up to code/ safety for tenants and pets

Common area restrictions

Descriptive policy that includes pets being on a leash except for in designated areas

Designate pet specific areas on property

Facilitated activity— Developing Recommendations for Renters (with pets)

- Activity: In groups, discuss recommendations related to the major concerns pet owners may face living in multi-unit housing

Keep pet's on leash when outside of unit

Ensure pet's microchip and ID information is up-to-date

Provide records of vaccines to landlord

Abide with quiet hours (if applicable)

Increase knowledge of being responsible pet owners



Regular grooming to ensure minimize shedding and associate allergens

Seek professional help if needed (excessive barking, biting, aggression, etc.)

Prompt clean-up of pet waste in common areas

Inform neighbor/landlord of pet's behavior (if applicable)

Final Thought:

- If you would like to assist in developing the white paper, please send your name, what you would like help with and your time commitment to vet@ph.lacounty.gov
- If you know anyone who would be interested in attending the next HPHF Coalition meeting as a stakeholder for the white paper topic, please let us know and invite them to attend on Tuesday October 31st!