

2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families Coalition Update



On May 24th, 2016 the **Healthy Pets, Healthy Families (HPHF)** Coalition met for their 18th meeting with over 20 people in attendance!

The HPHF meeting started with Veterinary Public Health (VPH) updates, which included an announcement that more animal diseases will be analyzed and reported in the 2014-2015 Animal Disease Surveillance Report. VPH also published their 2016 Veterinary Outreach Manual which will be distributed to over 450 local vet clinics, animal shelters and organizations throughout Los Angeles County by the end of 2016. The manual can also be accessed online at : <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/>.

The Healthy Pet Expo 2016 that was held at Whittier Narrows Park on April 16th was a *wonderful* success! There were well over 2,000 human visitors, over 100 spay and neuters, over 500 animals that were vaccinated and over 100 microchips placed in pets! That's only the tip of the iceberg of just how amazing the Healthy Pets Expo turned out. VPH is more than eager to have you join and participate in the excitement for 2017 Healthy Pets Expo!

The presentations for this quarterly meeting focused on pet obesity. Kathryn Vogel from CDC's Public Health Associate Program, spoke on her experiences with beta testing HPHF's Walking Group resources. Robert Murray from The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty in Animals, Los Angeles (spcaLA) demonstrated their FitPaws program, an innovative program that prevents pet obesity and encourages pet owners to be proactive with their pet's health.

After the presentations, we continued our ongoing Focus Area tabletop discussions, revamping our 2016 goals and updates. The HPHF goals that are in place for 2016 helps VPH to enact on interventions such as dog-friendly walking groups and pet expos that will help to track trends in animal health. With these goals, we are creating programs that will improve both animal and human health by 2020.

June 2016

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”
-Henry Ford



Robert Moray from spcaLA demonstrating their FitPaws presentation at the HPHF Coalition meeting

Don't hesitate, *participate!*

Get involved with making a difference in your community.

Our next HPHF Coalition meeting is **Tuesday August 30th** from 9:30-12:00pm at 5555 Ferguson Dr. Commerce, CA 90022 (in the auditorium).

If you're interested in helping VPH reach our goals for 2016, please contact us at vet@ph.lacounty.gov

Focus Area Updates

The mission of Healthy Pets, Healthy Families is “to use the connections between human and animal health in order to promote a healthy community.” While every group works independently and has their own set of objectives and goals, below are a few highlights of the great progress each focus area group has made thus far.

Bite Prevention:

- Continuing educational outreach to Watts Learning Center, a local charter elementary school, to promote bite prevention and pet safety. The focus area group will also participate with other key stakeholders in the community with developing an after school program for the students that will be implemented in the fall of 2016.

Disaster Preparedness:

- One goal of the focus area group is to increase the number of pet owners in Los Angeles County that have an evacuation plan that includes their pets. The focus area group identified local animal shelters and pet adoption sites that will distribute disaster preparedness materials to their clients by September 2016.

Obesity Prevention:

- Continuing the goal of preventing pet obesity and increasing physical activity, the focus area group is developing a 2017 activity calendar for both humans and pets. The calendar will be designed for children ages 5-10 and will include educational tips, exercise goals and activities. The focus area group finalized the decision that the 2017 calendar will be accessible online only.

Secondhand Smoke:

- The focus area group is in the process of developing an online survey for Los Angeles County veterinarians that will assess cigarette butt toxicity in their clients. This survey will be internally approved with VPH prior to electronic distribution for Los Angeles County veterinarians, with the goal of having the online survey completed by September 2016

Spay & Neuter:

- To reduce the number of cats and dogs entering shelters in Los Angeles area, the focus area group secured a location site for a spay and neuter event in Compton in October 2016. The work group is currently looking for other organizations to collaborate and assist in the spay/neuter event.

Vaccine-Preventable Disease:

- To promote pet owner-veterinarian relationships, the focus area group is collaborating with LA County Department of Animal Care and Control to manually distribute educational material regarding Parvo, pet vaccinations and a list of low-cost vaccine clinics to residents in the Antelope Valley by June 2016.

Zoonoses & Parasite Prevention:

- The focus area group developed strategies that will help protect Los Angeles County residents from diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. The focus area group will prepare five social media messages related to mosquito-borne diseases by World Mosquito Day (August 20, 2016)

Pet Health Reminders:

- July is **National Lost Pet Prevention Month**
- July 10 thru July 16 is **National Farmers Week**
- July 15th is **Pet Fire Safety Day**

- August is **National Immunization Awareness Month**
- August 15th is **National Check the Chip Day**
- August 20th is **World Mosquito Day**
- August 22nd is **National Take Your Cat to the Vet Day**