

# News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS AND THEIR PETS**

*Groundbreaking Project Set To Open August 4th*

(Hollywood/Los Angeles) On Monday, August 4, 2008, Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti and other dignitaries will be on hand to officially open PETCO PLACE — a groundbreaking project that will offer shelter to pet-owning homeless individuals. This unique “shelter-within-a-shelter”, sponsored in large part by The PetCo Foundation, is a joint effort between PAWS/LA and People Assisting The Homeless (PATH).

**When: Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00am**

**Where: PATH Hollywood (5627 Fernwood Ave, Hollywood, CA 90028)**

An estimated 5-10% of homeless people have pets. Homeless individuals will usually turn down housing when forced to choose between their pet or a roof over their head. “For many homeless people, a pet is their only companion.” says Joel John Roberts, CEO of PATH. “Asking them to give up their dog or cat for housing is like asking them to abandon their partner or best friend.” PETCO PLACE will remove those barriers by accommodating several dogs and cats in a safe, enclosed facility at the PATH Hollywood housing program.

The Petco Foundation has been a supporter of PAWS/LA and its work since the Foundation’s inception in 1999. PAWS/LA Executive Director Pamela Magette noted: “The generosity of the PetCo Foundation has allowed us to break new ground in helping animal companions remain with their guardians. We hope this project will be the first of many creative solutions to address this important need, and allow more people to maintain the vital support their animals can provide.”

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