



## **Friends of Upland Animal Shelter Asks Residents to Save Friends, Save Lives**

April 23, 2019, Upland, Ca – After supporting Upland Animal Shelter since opening in 2010, then successfully operating the shelter for the last three years at zero cost to the City, Friends of Upland Animal Shelter's (FRIENDS) contract may end in July. Since May 2016, FRIENDS has saved 5,653 animals so far, maintained low cost adoptions, increased volunteerism, and saved the City 40% on the animal services budget. In March, the Upland City Council decided to seek proposals from any organization, including Friends, to operate the shelter going forward.

FRIENDS President, Andy Peterson said, "We're asking the community to speak out and help us continue to save lives. FRIENDS currently runs Upland's open in-take municipal shelter, which means no Upland stray is turned away. Donations from private individuals and organizations as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Thrift Shop's net revenue make it possible to offer free animal care and adoption services to the community. We understand City officials want to be open and transparent, and based on our financial strength and successful, long history at the shelter, it makes sense for Friends to continue operating the shelter. Over the past three years, we've improved and expanded Upland's shelter operations. We can continue saving lives with the community's support so we're asking everyone to sign the petition at <https://petition.friendsofuplandanimalshelter.org>."

Since FRIENDS took over the shelter, the number of active volunteers increased 112%. FRIENDS volunteer, Jennifer Ashley, makes it clear why she volunteers, "Friends volunteers are like a small town with people of all ages coming together to support our organization's no-kill policy, offering food, blankets, toys and medicine to all animals. The friendly, supportive work environment gives volunteers a shared vision, builds strong relationships, provides leadership opportunities, and brings the community together to save shelter pets."

### **About FRIENDS**

FRIENDS is a local Upland nonprofit that was formed solely to support the Upland Animal Shelter. The only non-profit animal welfare organization in San Bernardino County that operates an open-intake municipal shelter, FRIENDS pays 12 shelter staff members and has over 150 active volunteers. FRIENDS was named nonprofit of the year by the Upland Chamber of Commerce, and partners with ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society and others.

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