

L.A. Shelters Support 'Underdog' Pets

New program encourages adoptions of senior dogs or pets who may be difficult to place.

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To pay tribute to shelter animals, a Los Angeles-based animal welfare group encourages people to consider opening their homes to cats and dogs who might be more difficult to place, such as senior pets.

The Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles wants to give "underdogs" a chance through its new Underdog Rewards program, launched to celebrate the importance of adopting a shelter pet. The program is intended to reward pet adopters who are making a difference in the life of special-needs pet, according to the group.

While caring for an "underdog" pet may require extra time and effort, the spcaLA champions the qualities that make them unique. The Underdog Rewards program was created to benefit senior pets or those who have been guests of the spcaLA for more than three months.

To make sure these pets get a fair shot at adoption, dog dens and catteries are decorated with slogans like, "Pause," "Do Not Pass," and in the spirit of the election season, a Beagle dressed as Uncle Sam declaring "spcaLA Wants YOU To Adopt a Senior Pet."

In addition, the program provides current vaccinations, spay or neuter surgery, a microchip, a certificate for a free health exam, and a coupon for 15 percent off at the spcaLA Marketplace.