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## **Bark Avenue Foundation and ShelterMe Celebrate National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month on February 19**

### ***Community Event funded by ASPCA to Spay/Neuter and Vaccinate 100+ Animals in East Los Angeles***

**Los Angeles, CA (February 18, 2016)** – Bark Avenue Foundation (BAF) and ShelterMe are hosting “Fix’n LA” on Friday, February 19, 2016, as part of Spay/Neuter Awareness Month. The goal of this community event is to spay and neuter over 100 cats and dogs, and help raise awareness for the free and low-cost animal care services available in LA County. Funded by the ASPCA® (The American Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals®), the community event will help combat pet overpopulation in Bell and Cudahy in zip code 90201 by spaying/neutering pets free of charge. In addition to sterilizing over 100 animals, pet owners can receive low-cost vaccinations, as well as goodie bags, collars, ID Tags and nail trims for their pets.

“We are thrilled for the ASPCA’s support during Spay/Neuter Month,” says BAF President and Founder, Melanie Pozez. “Fix’n LA” also coincides with Bark Avenue Foundation’s 3,000<sup>th</sup> free sterilization in Los Angeles County, which is helping to save lives by reducing the number of puppies and kittens entering the Downey Shelter. The surgeries performed at this event will reduce accidental litters this spring,” she adds.

“Fix’n LA” will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. at Superior Grocers located at 7300 Atlantic Avenue, Cudahy, 90201. The morning will kick off with a press conference at 8 a.m. with Bell Councilman Nestor Enrique Valencia, who will have his own pets sterilized at the event; Tina Reddington, director of ASPCA’s Los Angeles Volunteer Programs; representatives from LA County Animal Services will speak, along with the Founder of Bark Avenue Foundation, Melanie Pozez, and ShelterMe, Steven Latham. These local leaders will speak to the community about the importance of spaying/neutering, their partnership with Bark Avenue Foundation, and what else is in store for animal health and safety within LA County for 2016 and beyond.

As part of the event, *Riverside County Shelter Animal Care and Control* mobile clinic will be on site to spay/neuter pets. Pet owners who sterilize their cat or dog will also receive a free goodie bag, a pet collar and ID tag. *1stCare Vets* will be also be offering onsite low cost vaccinations for pets and Kongs Pets and Grooming will be offering free nail trims.

**Bark Avenue Foundation (BAF)** is a Los Angeles nonprofit organization dedicated to animal welfare. BAF is dedicated to addressing the pet overpopulation crisis through spay/neuter, supporting pet owners in underserved communities, and airlifting at-risk animals from overcrowded Southern California shelters to no-kill partners around the country. For more information, please visit us at: [www.barkavenuefoundation.org](http://www.barkavenuefoundation.org).

**ShelterMe** is an inspiring series that celebrates shelter pets with positive and uplifting stories. The project also includes a website— ShelterMe.com— which enables anyone to create and share profiles of shelter pets to help increase adoptions. ShelterMe works closely with other animal welfare organizations to implement effective spay-neuter and humane education programs in communities and progressive initiatives at animal shelters. Follow ShelterMeTV on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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