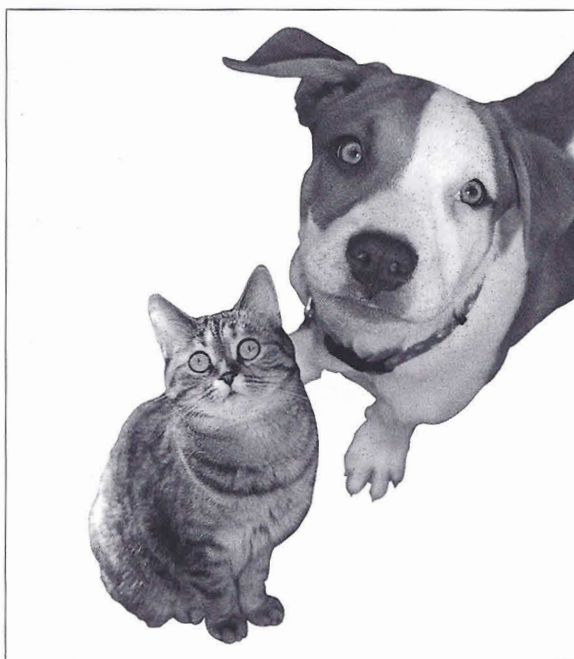


THE AWARDS



The Grass Roots Grant

Sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society

The philosophy of Best Friends has always been to support local animal programs because we know it is at this grass roots level that public opinion is influenced. It is from here that innovative changes are made affecting large institutions and government agencies alike. In short, the rescue community is the best friend of shelter animals and the shelter system. This is where the rubber meets the road. In 1997, Best Friends awarded the first Grass Roots Grant to the combined efforts of Actors and Others for Animals and Pet Assistance Foundation to support spay/neuter services. This year, we are pleased to award the \$5,000 Grass Roots Grant to Karma Rescue.

Karma Rescue

Grass roots animal rescue is not something that anyone does for fun. It is a matter of conscience and a work of the heart. Once an animal lover becomes aware of the plight of homeless pets, of the suffering, injustice and needless killing that is a fact of life all over America, it is simply not possible to pretend the problem doesn't exist. Some people donate time, others money and others dedicate their lives to the compassionate work of rescue.

For mayors and city councils, animals are a budget item competing for funding with schools, police, roads and every other government service. Without ever saying as much they have to ask the question, "How much is the life of a homeless pet worth compared to a cop on the beat or a seat in a classroom?"

Rescuers operate according to different criteria. A life is worth whatever it takes to save. Personal inconvenience and financial sacrifice isn't an issue. The cost is never counted.

That very much describes Rande Stern and the volunteers of Karma Rescue.

Beginning as a volunteer for other organizations, Rande became more and more committed and involved and went on to start Karma Rescue. In the few years since its inception, the organization has established itself as a prime resource in the Los Angeles rescue community. Their tireless work on behalf of homeless dogs has saved hundreds of lives including many with behavioral and medical problems.

Best Friends is pleased to acknowledge and support the life-saving work of Rande Stern and Karma Rescue.

For more information about Karma Rescue and the work they do, visit them online at www.karmarescue.org.