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**PAWS TO READ, PAWS TO GIVE
CALIFORNIA LIBRARIES HOST DRIVE
TO BENEFIT ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS**

San Mateo, CA, June 10, 2014 – Public libraries across the state are partnering this summer with animal shelters, humane societies, and local SPCA's to collect much-needed supplies and promote pet adoption, community service with animals, and spay/neuter awareness.

The statewide summer reading theme is animals and the slogan is Paws to Read. The statewide drive encourages community members who take part in libraries' popular summer reading programs to help animals and the organizations that care for them. Paws to Give is California's second annual statewide drive. In 2013, libraries collected over 40,000 pounds of food for hungry families as part of the Acquire a Taste for Giving food drive program.

CLA President Deborah Doyle noted, "Paws to Read gives libraries yet another opportunity to strengthen relationships with other well-loved community partners. What could paws-ibly be better?"

Summer reading programs help prevent summer learning loss. Summer reading programs help children and teens retain and enhance their reading skills over the summer and they create communities of readers and library users.

California's statewide summer reading program is coordinated by the California Library Association (CLA). Each year, CLA provides California's public libraries with pre-packaged, theme-based summer reading materials and training, to enable them to provide high-quality summer reading programs at the lowest cost possible. CLA's summer reading materials are provided in partnership with the Illinois Library Association's iREAD program. More information is available at www.cla-net.org.

The California Library Association provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and librarianship.

The California Summer Reading Program is a project of the California Library Association, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

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