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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Wellness Centers Supports Law Promoting Humane Treatment of Cats

Animal Wellness Centers' Chief Medical Officer Supports Santa Monica Ordinance to Ban Amputation of Cats Toes at City Council Meeting

SANTA MONICA – The following is the statement by Dr. Annie Harvilicz, Chief Medical Officer of Animal Wellness Centers:

“Honorable Mayor Genser, Mayor Pro Tem O'Connor , esteemed councilmembers, fellow veterinarians and members of the public.

Hello. My name is Annie Harvilicz, I am a Santa Monica resident, and I'm a veterinarian licensed in California, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. I'm also a member of the AVMA, CVMA, and SCVMA.

Last year I founded Animal Wellness Centers and am proud to join the Santa Monica business community. As the Chief Medical Officer, I am also proud of my company's commitment to true animal wellness. Companion animals give us a unique form of unconditional love, and the least we can do in return is protect them from inhumane treatment.

The process of declawing involves a separate amputation of each of the last bones in cats' toes. Routine nail trims, appropriate scratching posts, vinyl sheaths that fit over the nail, and double sided sticky tape are all viable, more humane treatments which I always suggest to clients.

I refuse to perform these procedures and in fact have never performed a de-claw in my career.

Please give us all even more reason to be proud to live and work in Santa Monica. Please support more humane treatment of our companion animals and vote to pass the proposed ordinance. Thank you very much.”

ABOUT ANIMAL WELLNESS CENTERS

Animal Wellness Centers LLC is a fast-growing companion-animal healthcare firm headquartered in Santa Monica, California. Its core business is veterinary services with a focus on comprehensive animal wellness designed to strengthen the human-animal bond. It is the exclusive retailer of Dr. Annie's™ brand products. Its flagship Center in Santa Monica's Ocean Park neighborhood is the world's first non-anthropomorphic companion-animal center offering full array of pet products, an education center, preventative care clinics and a social networking arena.

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