



## **Found Animals to Open New “Adopt & Shop” Location in ‘The Shops at Mission Viejo’ in May 2013**

*Humane, Puppy Mill-Free Retail Stores Source All Animals from Local Shelters*

**LOS ANGELES—APRIL 2, 2013**—Found Animals Foundation, the Los Angeles-based animal welfare organization, today announced the May opening of the second Found Animals’ Adopt & Shop location, this one in The Shops at Mission Viejo, an upscale mall in Mission Viejo, Calif.

Adopt & Shop is an innovative new model that focuses on responsible adoption in order to reduce euthanasia in shelters. With many cities in Los Angeles and Orange County banning sales of animals from puppy mills, Found Animals has created a solution where potential adopters can shop for a pet in an upscale retail environment all while helping to reduce the number of animals in shelters. Found Animals intends to open many more Adopt & Shop locations across the Los Angeles metro area.

All Adopt & Shop pets are sourced from local shelters, vaccinated and microchipped. The not-for-profit stores also carry a variety of pet products, from food to treats, collars to training supplies. All proceeds go to help animals in the local area.

“We are so excited to introduce Adopt & Shop to the Mission Viejo community,” said Found Animals Executive Director Aimee Gilbreath. “By showcasing amazing shelter pets in an upscale pet store setting, we hope to encourage shoppers to adopt, rather than purchase, their new furry family member.”

The Mission Viejo Adopt & Shop location replaces a pet store which had acquired their animals through puppy mills. The store was protested by volunteers for Best Friends Animal Society, which educated the public on the store’s puppy mill practices.

“This is not just a victory for Found Animals and Best Friends, it is a victory for pets everywhere,” said Best Friends National Manager of Puppy Mill Initiatives Elizabeth Oreck. “We hope to see many more Adopt & Shop locations open in the future to help find homes for all the healthy, adoptable pets in shelters.”

The first Adopt & Shop opened at Lakewood Center Mall in Lakewood, California in April 2011. Since opening, the Lakewood store found homes for over 1,500 cats and dogs. All Adopt & Shop locations are completely not-for-profit; proceeds from each sale directly support animal initiatives in local communities such as adoption promotions, spay and neuter surgeries and low cost veterinary services.

The new 2300 sq. ft. retail shop will be located on the lower level outside the Macy's South location at 555 The Shops At Mission Viejo, Mission Viejo, CA 92691-6514. Grand opening information will be available in early May.

For more information on Adopt & Shop Mission Viejo employment and volunteer opportunities, please visit <http://www.foundanimals.org/adopt-shop-mission-viejo-info>.

### **About Found Animals**

The [Found Animals Foundation](http://www.foundanimals.org) is a privately-funded nonprofit organization dedicated to animal welfare issues. Led by business and medical professionals, the Foundation works directly within the animal welfare community to reduce the use of euthanasia in shelters by supporting programs including: pet adoption, spay and neuter services, pet identification, and sterilization research. For more info, please see [www.FoundAnimals.org](http://www.FoundAnimals.org).

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