



This is Snake Season!

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The Station's 15th Anniversary

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THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY AUG 16, 2024

TELLING THE TRUTH FOR OVER 19 YEARS!
Sunland-Tujunga's only weekly newspaper

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 62

There is no Room for Rampant Homelessness and Crime in a L.A. City and County Who Wants to be a World Leader in Either the Economy or Establishing Olympic Glory!!!

By Ken Alpern

1) Quonset homes (either as dormitories or single-family dwellings) are both durable and inexpensive to build, and ditto for inexpensive "small homes", and they can be established in the unincorporated and/or more remote regions of the gigantic county that is Los Angeles.

2) The homeless have every right to visit the beach, but they have NO right to live near it. The city and county of Los Angeles have been granted free license by the federal and state government to demand those dwelling within homeless encampments move to free or low-cost housing that



can be established away from expensive, tony areas that want to attract more businesses and sidewalk access.

3) If San Francisco can do it, so can we: Mayor Karen Bass, it's time for

you to be a "Karen" and demand that both low-cost homeless encampments be built (with accompanying medical and psychological and educational free access) to make the

most of taxpayer money...and to issue criminal penalties when needed.

4) If Mayor London Breed of San Francisco can do it, Mayor Bass, so should you...presuming you want to be re-elected. Clearing up the homeless, and as well the similar-but-different affordable housing, crises requires grit and steadfast determination that comes from recognizing the need to achieve results in order to be truly "kind".

Please see **There is no Room for Rampant Homelessness and Crime in L.A.**
on Page 2



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Treats Non-Life Threatening Illness & Injuries	✓	✓
Treats Life Threatening Illness & Injuries	✗	✓

Dial 911 immediately for any Medical Problem that appears to be Life-Threatening

When Would I Go to an Urgent Care Center?

An urgent care center offers you convenience and affordability compared to an emergency room's long wait and high cost. This is the right choice when you need a medical provider for non-life threatening illnesses and injuries but you do not have an appointment. You could also visit an urgent care facility when your regular physician is on vacation, closed on nights and weekends or unable to offer you a timely appointment to address your medical concern.

Are All Urgent Care Centers the Same?

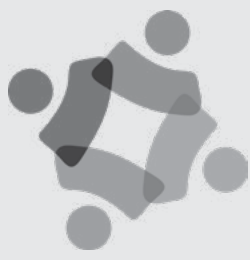
Not all urgent care facilities provide the same level of treatment. At Foothill Urgent Care, we deliver advanced medical treatments you cannot find at a regular urgent care center. Foothill Urgent Care also offers lower costs for care than a hospital-affiliated urgent care center or a trip to the ER.

Do I Need an Appointment for Urgent Care?

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Does Foothill Urgent Care Charge as an ER or Urgent Care Center?

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COMMUNITY NEWS

THIS IS SNAKE SEASON!

Rattlesnakes can cause serious injury to humans - on rare occasions even death

The warmer weather calls to outdoors enthusiasts and snakes alike, making encounters of the slithering kind inevitable. Sunland-Tujunga has a variety of snakes, most of which are harmless. The exception is California's only native venomous snake - the rattlesnake.

Rattlesnakes can cause serious injury to humans - on rare occasions even death, as was evidenced in May when a rattlesnake bite killed a Riverside County man. While generally not aggressive, rattlesnakes strike when threatened or deliberately provoked, but given room they will retreat. Most snake bites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally touched by someone walking or climbing.

Although scary, the California Poison Control Center notes that rattlesnakes account for only about 800 bites each year with about one to two deaths. The Here in Sunland-Tujunga the rattlesnake species we



This squirrel eating rattler was on my front porch!

can expect to find include the Western Diamondback, Sidewinder, Speckled rattlesnake, Red Diamond rattlesnake, Southern Pacific, Great Basin rattlesnake and the Mojave rattlesnake.

Just use common sense! The possibility of finding a rattlesnake shouldn't stop anyone from venturing outdoors, but there are several precautions that can be taken to lessen the chance of be-

ing bitten when out in snake country - which is just about anywhere in California.

Please see **This is Snake Season!** on Page 7

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**There is no Room for Rampant
Homelessness and Crime in L.A.**
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5) The homelessness and security dilemmas are being treated as cottage industries, and that is NOTHING to be proud of—and the wasting of an opportunity to grow an economy based on jobs, low crime, and low urban blight won't fly anymore as we confront the 2028 Olympics and a city/county of Los Angeles that needs to put the pandemic behind us.

6) Whether it's Yaroslavsky or Horvath or any city/county leader, we have no business re-electing them if there are others waiting in the wings to replace them. We're about ready to throw out District Attorney Gascón as Step #1 to fixing rampant crime in L.A. County, and if L.A. City Mayor Bass wants to embrace our city as a homeless magnet, then she deserves replacing, too.

7) We've been building a countywide rail system for well over a decade with the 2028 Olympics in mind, but if it's earned a well-deserved reputation for

being unsafe and a crime/homeless magnet, then that's just throwing the taxpayers' money right in their collective face (ditto for homeless taxes meant to fix, not extend, the problem).

In short, we've been giving the residents and taxpayers of L.A. City and County a raw deal for years, and forcing those we need the most to flee to other counties and venues. We treat homeowners, businesses, and commuters like dirt and to be perpetually treated like an ATM machine that just keeps on giving.

Well, no longer—to the left-wing dreamers in the L.A. City Council and L.A. County Board of Supervisors, we did things your way. And things got worse. Way worse.

The homeless need to be offered the choice of moving off public venues or go to jail.

Or be denied all funded benefits that draw them here from the rest of the nation.

Or be escorted to the county border.

To our elected: if you don't pivot, evolve, grow, and otherwise adapt to altering course from the past mistakes you've made and/or inherited, then

you deserve replacing—just as we're going to see with Attorney General Gascón in a few short months.

We need leadership, and particularly so as 2028 draws nigh...but so far all you've proven is that our electeds have too often NOT behaved like true leaders.

And if our electeds won't lead, then we need to do it for them, and replace them with those who will have the fortitude, maturity, and kindness to do what's right.

Originally published in City Watch, Aug 08, 2024

(Kenneth S. Alpern, M.D. is a dermatologist who has served in clinics in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties, and is a proud husband and father. He was active for 20 years on the Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) as a Board Member focused on Planning and Transportation, and helped lead the grassroots efforts of the Expo Line as well as connecting LAX to MetroRail. His latest project is his fictional online book entitled The Unforgotten Tales of Middle-Earth, and can be reached at Ken.Alpern@MarVista.org. The views expressed in this article are solely those of Dr. Alpern.)

I really can't remember ever being this frustrated with our local government. But then again, like rust, it just never stops. For those of you that can remember back just 6 years ago, we had a cohesive group of people working together to really help our community. And then it all changed.

Hell, I even wrote a movie treatment about it called STARS. Sunland Tujunga A Reality Show. To quote the last rodent in the woodwork, "Who is going to pay \$10 to read about people they don't know?" Even I was surprised when Amazon told me that we had sold 200 copies. I guess they call that – laughing all the way to the bank. And then the local wags started filing fake complaints with Amazon and got it pulled from its inventory. But not before people lost their jobs, were threatened with termination if they ever used school equipment to get on social media during work hours, and in general, made fools of.

Yup, I guess that was the start of the decline and fall of our little incestuous community. And no one of course, in their direst dreams could have seen the Pandemic coming. I call it the great equalizer, and it has affected everyone. Of course, some of the same people that have to race their leased cars up and down Foothill Blvd. continued to work behind the scenes to thwart the rules. It was

a symptom of a larger problem. And that only made it more easy for others to actually take over the neighborhood council without anyone noticing. It was all a distraction. But who really cares?

We no longer have any form of cohesive government here. And let's not forget the last 3 councilmembers that not only totally abandoned us, but are actively putting barriers in our way. Our latest councilmember has used the houseless problem to divide the community and at the same time, rub it in our collective faces that we aren't in Pacoima so we don't matter.

So what was the end result? Well, for a start, it did show us that the L.A. City Councilmembers are in it for themselves. A collection of rabble that are making money off us by giving contracts to their friends to build incredibly expensive "subsidized housing" - to warehouse the mentally and criminally inclined houseless. I mean, like \$800,000 per apartment for a houseless person? You've got to be kidding – but I'm not. No one is immune to the graft and corruption we're surrounded with.

I feel bad for the houseless that are dying on our streets. I feel bad for those who are injured and killed on our streets. I feel bad for those people who are willing and are now demanding, that the government

continue their Pandemic Relief Payments. It's all going to come to an end sometime and then we'll see who can pick up the pieces. Even I have to admit that some people can make more money staying at home than working at a real job. So why not take advantage of the system?

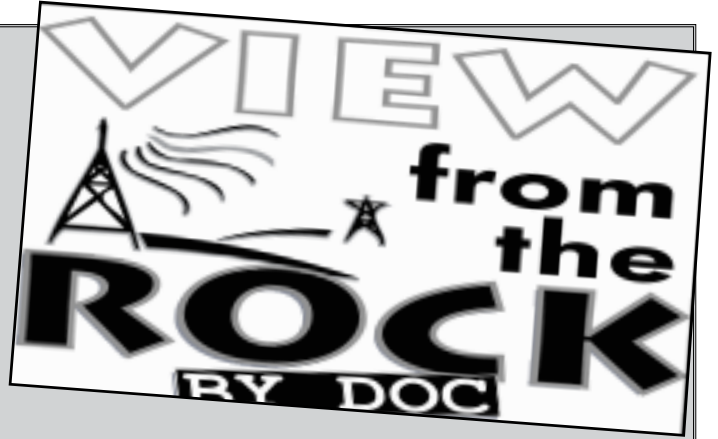
But something is not working here. The pot shops that infuse black market pot in with their taxable goods are feeling the pinch of the \$1.4 BILLION illegal grow bust that is just slowing the food chain – a bit. Or the businesses that painted their windows black and have their customers park down the block or send valets to bus them in. And these are our neighbors. Oh well, if everyone is playing the game, why not. I was covering a pot bust some time ago and the DEA/Sheriffs were chewing the weed they were gathering as they worked. If they can, why can't we?

I want to see a silver lining, but the corruption goes all the way up the food chain to the president. In all the countries that I lived and worked in, I can't even begin to fathom the apparent incompetency of our leaders. On the one hand, we are told that everyone has to get vaccinated or

wear masks to contain the spread of the virus, yet we are letting 10s of thousands of illegal immigrants cross the border that have tested positive. Can anyone tell me how we can rationalize that?

Most of you readers won't remember your history lessons about the fall of the great empires, but if you look at the fall of Rome, there is a distinct parallel between what happened to them and what is happening to us now. OH! And never forget our motto of "Everyone Lies To Us!" Do you really think that our LAPD is really reporting the real crime figures? Even our most venerable LAFD is remiss in reporting the full facts of suicides, overdoses, Covid calls and homicides. Here we have the greatest information highway ever conceived by man, and it is full of false data.

And I'm sorry to state, we're screwed, and I can't even begin to tell you where we're at. Who knows, maybe it's really The Water after all? ■



The Station Fire's 15th Anniversary

Next week, August 21, 2024, marks the 15th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Station Fire, the largest and deadliest fire recorded in the history of Angeles National Forest and the tenth largest fire in California since 1933. Many will recall the immense thundercloud that emerged over the local mountains.

The Station Fire was started by workers tending an illegal marijuana grow in the Angeles National Forest and was named for its proximity to the U.S. Forest Service Ranger station on the Angeles Crest Highway -2. The fire threatened the local communities of La Canada-Flintridge, Glendale, Acton, La Crescenta, Littlerock, Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Sunland and Tujunga.

Lasting nearly two months, the Station Fire was finally at 100% containment on October 16, 2009. The task required more than 4,847 firefighters, 13 helicopters, 11 air tankers, 399 engines, 44 hand crews, 48 bulldozers and 43 water tenders to contain the fire; the cost was \$95,300,000. The fire burned a total of 160,577 acres and destroyed 209 structures—89 of them being homes—and took the lives of two Los Angeles County Firefighters.

More bodies were found months after the fire was extinguished. California firefighters and "Hot Shot" crews from as far away as Washington were able to save the burning slopes of Mount Wilson from complete involvement as well as save the threatened television, radio, cellular telephone antennas and the Mount Wilson Observatory,



the latter which includes several historically significant telescopes and multi-million dollar astronomical facilities that are operated by UCLA, USC, UC Berkley and Georgia State University.

The fierce fire left the Angeles Crest Highway (IS 2) destroyed, left 40 miles of barely passable lanes on Route 2, melted road signs, burned guardrails off their wood moorings, scorched tree limbs, and left debris and large boulders covering the road. To date, the U.S Forest Service has re-planted more than 4,000 acres and 23,000 trees a year on the 75 acres along the major roads to recover the 11,000 acres which were burned too deep in the soil and too wide-spread for nat-

ural seed regeneration. The California Department of Transportation has spent \$16.5 million to repair the Angeles Crest Highway, which re-opened in June 2010.

More than 300 volunteers working thousands of hours succeeded in re-opening Deukmejian Wilderness Park after being closed for a little over a year. The hillsides were singed and the winter storms eroded parts of the park and filled the park with mud and debris.

Please see
The Station Fire's 15th Anniversary
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Everybody needs a haircut and the only place to go in Tujunga, is at my favorite barber.



CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
818 855 3502



The Station Fire's 15th Anniversary
continued from page 3

The fire destroyed 709 park acres. Fire fighters were able to save the historic oak tree in the lower portion of the park. Two Los Angeles County firefighters: Captain Tedmund Hall, and Specialist Arnaldo Quinones, who were searching for an escape route from prison Camp 16, which supervised inmates, were killed during the fire when their vehicle went over the side of the road near Mt. Gleason. Circumstances suggest that Hall and Quinone were repositioning their truck on a small path near the prison camp when

they plunged 800 feet over the side of the road into the canyon.

During the height of the Station Fire blaze, 6,6000 homes were under mandatory evacuation and 12,500 homes were threatened. Eighty-nine residences were destroyed in Acton, La Paloma and the Vogel Flats in Big Tujunga Canyon.

The Forest Service began implementing the training and retrofitting of helicopters to use at night to fight wildfires in Southern California, a practice that was not in affect during the 2009 Station Fire.

Please be fire safe and prepare for evacuation if need be. A really bad fire season is coming and you need to be prepared.■



Friday Night Bingo

Presented Friday, 16 August 2024 by
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12th Annual Community BINGO Night
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All Bingo games pay \$100 or more
 Food and check-in at 4:30 pm
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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

Rural living problems!

For those who want to know how to keep rodents from eating car wires, here are some tips to help you do just that:

I had an emergency run and when I tried to start the engine, all I got was the engine maintenance light lit. Opening the hood I found this mess of a rats nest and lots of chewed wires. \$1,200 worth of damage in the engine compartment.

So, along with the houseless parking in your driveway, crooks stealing your licenses plates and catalytic converters, you also have to protect against rats setting up house in your engine compartment and eating your wires.

I sat back and declared war on these rasty rodents. And I won.



BEFORE you have a problem, here's what you can do. AFTER cleaning out the mess and smell and locating what wires have been damaged (your mechanic can help you there.)

1. Set a Trap. ...
2. Use a Smell or Taste Deterrent. And no, Irish Spring Bars of soap don't work...
3. Park Your Car in a Sealed Garage. ...
4. Remove Any Food from Your Car. ...
5. Run Your Car Regularly, at least once a week. ...
6. Keep Leaves Away from Your Car. ...
7. Leave Your Car's Hood Up at

Night. ...

8. BUY A STICKY PAD for your engine compartment. I like KINGMAN GLUE TRAPS and I get them from 99 Cent stores. ■



For fun, I was sitting outside cleaning my fire and I heard a rat moving around under the hood where I had just removed the "used" glue trap. I grabbed a CO2 fire extinguisher and put out his fire. Quick, painless and efficient (But expensive).

Make Sex a Priority—Dr. Glenn Mollette

Covid-19, national tensions, unemployment and a strained lifestyle change have been tough.

One of the best things couples around the world can do right now is turn off your phones and televisions and have sex.

Couples more than ever need to re-focus on sexual intimacy. The news makes us feel bad. Politics makes us feel bad. Religious issues drain us. National tensions are draining us. Unemployment, money problems, family worries and more beat us down. You'll feel better if you have sex. Your relationship will be better if you have sex.

Before you were married, you could hardly wait to be married so you could have sex all the time. Years later some couples can't find the energy, the interest or a time on their schedule to consider sex. What happened? Why the big change?

Life and our bodies and even interests change for people. Work weeks often take a lot out of couples leaving them sometimes too tired. Aging zaps us. Sickness and medications bring unwanted changes that make intimacy sometimes difficult if not impossible. Too often people become drained, mentally and emotionally exhausted.

The intimate experience of hot, sweaty sex becomes a distant memory too often. He falls asleep on his recliner, while she dozes off on the sofa and then later to bed. Some couples are zoned out by the time they've finished Wheel of Fortune.

After twenty, thirty- or sixty-years life changes. The fire and passion that once ignited your bedroom has long subsided. Now, it probably feels like Antarctica as someone in the marriage is constantly overheating

Many years ago, I usually ran a mile under six minutes. Today nine minutes is a real push and usually ten minutes feels even better. The time will likely come when I can't jog at all.

and burning up all the time while one of the partners is freezing to death.

Lots of little issues pop up in marriages that come between couples. Often, it's work, money, kids, in-laws, her kids, his kids, church stress, moving, all the above. While both partners would like to be intimate too often all the stress, friction and resentment over previous discussions or outright arguments drive wedges between people. The

one direction that the man may want to go in life may be entirely different for the woman or vice versa. Compromising or at least reaching a point where there is peace and open communication is vital.

Find something to laugh about and make sexual intimacy a priority. This doesn't mean you are having sex every day. It does mean it's a part of your life. It may not even be close to what it used to be. It may no longer even be spontaneous. It may become

ten minutes feels even better. The time will likely come when I can't jog at all. Aging happens. However, I hope to keep moving, walking and being active in whatever way I can. Couples must do the same when it comes to sexual intimacy.

The key is don't let your intimacy die. For men today there is an arsenal of medication and help available. There is no reason for you to give up. See your doctor. Your marriage and your sexual intimacy that you enjoyed for so many years does not have to die an early death.

Make sex a priority. The kids are important, the grandkids are important, the yard is important, the news will replay a hundred times. So, turn off the tv and the phone and you and your spouse figure out some way to have sex.

Contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Learn more at www.glenmollette.com Like his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/glenmollette additional biographical, Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 12 books including Uncommon Sense. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states. ■

the Saturday morning or Friday night scheduled event that you keep your calendar cleared for. Why not? You schedule your dentist and your doctor. Couples need to make sure they have their intimate bedroom time reserved. You will feel better, sleep better, be less stressed and your overall health will be better. Plus, you'll be smiling more.

Many years ago, I usually ran a mile under six minutes. Today nine minutes is a real push and usually

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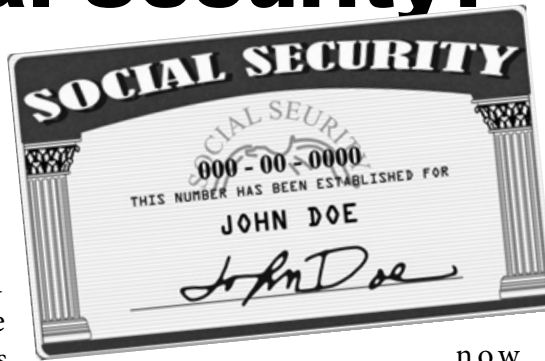
By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens.

Does Congress Pay Into Social Security?

lems come up. In addition to being untrue, it often is used to display the public's animosity toward elected officials and the feeling that Congress—and other elected officials—are above the fray, so to speak, and therefore not affected by the implications of Social Security's looming insolvency problem.

Here's the reality. Since January 1, 1984, all members of Congress, the President and Vice President, Federal judges, and most political appointees, are covered under the Social Security program. The rumor that these elected officials do not pay Social Security tax most likely is attributable to the fact that from 1920 to 1983, they were participants in the Civil Service Retirement System – CSRS – the federal retirement plan federal workers used even before the Social Security Act was passed. CSRS provided a pension for federal employees, so they were exempted from contributing to or collecting from the new Social Security program.

In 1987, then, the federal government officially changed over to FERS – the Federal Employee Retirement System – and all employees hired from that point forward are



now covered under FERS. There are multiple parts to FERS, and one of them is mandatory FICA contributions. So, all federal employees—including members of Congress—are subject to the 6.2% FICA tax, are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, and are governed by the multitude of rules and regulations associated with Social Security. But other than standard SS benefits which they may normally be entitled, no Social Security funds are used to supplement Congressional retirement. In other words, the rumor that Congress didn't pay into Social Security was actually true prior to 1984, but today it is a misstatement of fact. And the federal employee retirement plans (both the prior CSRS plan and the current FERS plan) are totally independent of Social Security and do not negatively affect program solvency.■

This is Snake Season!
continued from page 2

The Do's And Don'ts When Walking or Hiking

When hiking, stick to well-used trails and wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants. Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see, and avoid wandering around in the dark. Step ON logs and rocks, never over them, and be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood. Always avoid walking through dense brush or willow thickets.

Be careful when stepping over the doorstep as well. Snakes like to crawl along the edge of buildings where they are protected on one side.

Is It A Rattlesnake Or Isn't It?

Many a useful and non-threatening snake has suffered a quick death from a frantic human who has mistakenly identified a gopher snake, racer or other as a rattlesnake. This usually happens when a snake assumes an instinctual defensive position used to bluff adversaries. A gopher snake has the added unfortunate trait of imitating a rattlesnake by flattening its head and body, vibrating its tail, hissing and actually striking if approached too closely.■

Dear Rusty: I've been told that members of Congress do not have Social Security deducted from their pay; Additionally, that their retirement dollars come from the Social Security Administration purse even if they only serve as a member of Congress for a short number of terms. Also, if this is true, are there other individuals that enjoy these advantages?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior: I'm afraid this is one of those "urban legend" kind of rumors that just seems to keep popping up, especially when the issues surrounding Social Security's financial prob-

how hot is too hot?

Temperature	Small Dog	Medium Dog	Large Dog	Risk Level
60°	1	1	1	① No evidence of risk: Have fun outside!
65°	1	1	2	② Risk is unlikely: Have fun outside, but be careful!
70°	2	2	3	③ Unsafe potential, depending on breed. Keep an eye on your pet outdoors.
75°	3	3	3	④ Dangerous weather developing. Use caution.
80°	3	3	4	⑤ Potentially life-threatening heat. Avoid prolonged outdoor activity.
85°	4	4	5	
90°	5	5	5	+1 if obese
95°	5	5	5	+1 if brachycephalic breed

+1 if less than 6 months old or elderly
-1 if area is shaded from sun
-1 if water is available

source: adapted from The Tufts Animal Condition and Care (TACC) **Petplan** GoPetplan.com



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Treats Life Threatening Illness & Injuries	✗	✓

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