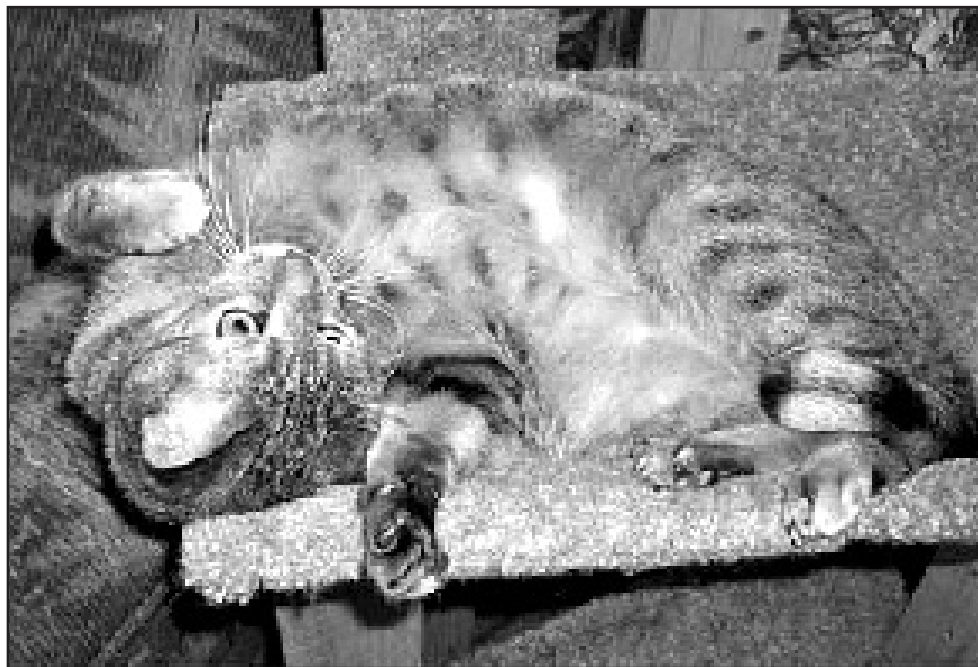


Perhaps a Kitten Instead



Emmy

Kitties of all colors are waiting to share their love with you...

Emmy is a stunning, golden brown tabby with a ticked coat like an Abyssinian. She was plucked out of an alleyway when she was a tiny kitten with her brother Mr. Mackie. She can be a little shy with people at first until she is comfortable with them, but once she is, she is very affectionate. She is talkative and will call to you to give her some attention. Emmy loves to climb into bed with you or drape over you and cuddle when you sit on the couch. Despite her petite size and shy demeanor, Emmy has a very strong personality. She is not intimidated by other cats—even big strong alpha males—and she is quite playful. Her favorite toys are anything with catnip in it or a laser pointer.

Sweet Pea and her brother Sullivan were left in a box outside a store. The poor kittens were dirty, cold and starving. **Sweet Pea** is a beautiful little Tortie girl. She's super adorable. When you hold her, she sometimes flops over because she is so relaxed. Sweet Pea loves to be petted and cuddled - and she's a total purrball. **Sully** (short for Sullivan) is a handsome, orange tabby boy. He's a little lover - likes to be petted and purrs and purrs. They both love to play! Sweet Pea and Sully are quite bonded. Their foster mom would like them to be adopted as a pair.

Coby and his sister were severely neglected as very young kittens. Now they just love life in their foster home as they are receiving proper human love and attention. Coby is a very handsome and loving fellow who is super easygoing, gentle and affectionate. There is nothing better than exchanging affection and love with this sweet and darling boy. He wants to be around his humans all of the time and seeks reassurance that he is valuable and loved. Coby would like to be adopted into a home where his parents are around a lot and can give him lots of attention and affection. He would also like to have a gentle and loving feline friend in his forever home.

These kittens/cats are available for adoption through Kitten rescue, one of



Coby

the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, de-wormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see our other kitties, please check our website at www.kittenrescue.org. You can also email us at mail@kittenrescue.org to find out more about this week's featured pets and to contact us about adoption.

Are you unable to adopt, but would love to have a kitty in your home? With "kitten season" in full bloom, we have an urgent need for foster parents. Whether you care for one or many, once or frequently, we would love for you to become a foster parent. We offer training, guidance, medical care (if needed) and lots of moral support. Fostering brings you the rich reward of knowing you personally saved this kitty's life in providing a safe, loving home while waiting for adoption. Interested? Please email us at eskittycare@yahoo.com for more information.

We have several weekly adoption events in the Westside. On Saturday/Sunday we are at a venue located in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. On Saturday only, we are in West Los Angeles at 11055 West Pico Boulevard at Pico and

Sepulveda; and on Sunday, we are in Santa Monica at 2910 Wilshire Boulevard at Yale Street. Adoption hours at these venues are noon to 3:30 p.m. We also have our fourth Saturday of the month venue in Manhattan Beach located at 1816 North Sepulveda Boulevard, with adoption hours from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. • Sweetpea and Sullivan



Finance

STIMULUS PLAN PROVIDES ENERGY EFFICIENCY TAX CREDITS

By Jason Alderman

One way the government hopes its 2009 economic stimulus plan will help jumpstart the economy is by investing billions of dollars in industries that support energy efficiency - everything from electric car battery technology to wind turbines to modernizing the country's power grid.

Corporations aren't the only ones receiving incentives, however: Individual taxpayers can reap considerable tax benefits by improving their home's energy efficiency - not to mention the long-term savings they'll incur from reducing their utility and fuel bills.

Here are a few highlights:

The total tax credit you can claim for many energy-efficiency home improvements made during 2009 and 2010 has increased from \$500 to \$1,500. That's a cumulative total of \$1,500, so you can break it up between the two years however you choose. You may now claim a tax credit for 30 percent of the purchase price for a variety of home improvements, up to the \$1,500 limit. Credit for installation costs is also allowed in certain cases, such as for HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems, biomass stoves, water heaters, solar panels, geothermal heat pumps, wind energy systems and fuel cells. Tax credits for many energy-efficiency home improvements that were previously allowed in 2006 and 2007 but then disallowed in 2008 are once again eligible during 2009 and 2010. Some common covered expenses include:

Home shell improvements designed to prevent heating and cooling leaks, including insulation, metal and asphalt roofs, exterior and storm windows, doors (including patio and sliding glass), skylights and weather stripping.

HVAC systems, including central air conditioning, air-source and geothermal heat pumps,

and natural gas, propane and oil furnaces.

Gas, oil, propane, solar and electric heat pump water heaters.

Biomass (plant matter) stoves.

Other renewable energy technology including small wind generators and photovoltaic systems.

Hybrid, diesel, battery electric, alternative fuel, fuel cell and plug-in electric cars.

Note that there are specific requirements and restrictions for each of these products, so be sure to do your research before purchasing them. For example, with vehicles, there are only a finite number of credits available per manufacturer, so verify with the dealer. A good resource for rules is the government's Energy Star website, which has detailed information on the various tax credits available (www.energystar.gov/taxcredits). A few additional tips:

Experts agree that before making major investments like HVAC systems or solar panels, you should first improve your home's insulation. Proper insulation can reduce your heating and cooling bills by 20 percent or more.

Save all receipts and ask contractors to separate labor and materials costs in case you are ever audited. Also keep copies of manufacturer certification statements for your records.

Even though they aren't covered under the federal tax credit program, many other Energy Star appliances like refrigerators, washing machines and dishwashers may qualify for certain state and local rebate programs. These energy-efficient appliances consume up to 50 percent less electricity and water than standard models. Ask for details where you buy the appliance.

Feel good about the impact you can have on the environment - and on your wallet - by taking advantage of these energy-efficiency tax credits. •

Curbside



2009 DODGE NITRO RT

By Anthony Barthel

It seems like forever ago that I scheduled the Dodge Nitro for a review. Since that day, the whole auto industry has changed dramatically and, today, more and more "big things" are happening. For example, the Dodge Nitro itself is a victim of changing times and isn't in Chrysler Corporation's long-term plans. But you can still get one today.

What's Hot

The Nitro is a sister product to the Jeep Liberty, one of the most popular vehicles in the mid-size SUV category. The Nitro takes the truck-based platform and wraps it in a much more "urban" package making it appeal to a young, "hip" audience. Is hip even an acceptable word when writing about youth?

No matter, judging by the reaction of people on the curbside Dodge has certainly hit its target with the Nitro's styling. As I drove around, there were people on the sidewalk staring at this vehicle and I don't think it was the driver's stunning good looks.

Equipped as it was, the tested Nitro was a top-of-the-line R/T model sporting very obvious orange paint and sparkling 20" chromed aluminum wheels. While the tested model sported four-wheel drive the tires and wheels were more urban than back woods. Seemed like a mismatch, actually.

To look at the Nitro, it reminded me of the kind of child that would result if a Hummer H3 and the original Scion Xb got together

in some back alley. The Nitro had the boxy look and the aggressive, typical Dodge grille.

While the outside was that Sunburst Orange paint, the interior sported a two-tone look of orange upholstery and black as well. My wife's first reaction to the upholstery was, "wow, that's orange!" Yes, it was.

Speaking of the interior, Dodge has done a good job of improving the materials it uses on the inside. While they've earned some rightful criticism for some of the interior materials of the past, I liked the improvement to most of the surfaces.

Dodge has also been keeping their instruments illuminated day and night, which is a minor detail that makes a huge difference to me. For example, if you're traveling through a tunnel you can still monitor your vehicle without having to turn on the headlights. There are a lot of little things like this that make the Nitro a good driving experience.

Speaking of good interiors, one of the highlights of this one was the Load N' Go slide-out package floor. This minor detail made loading the cargo area of the Nitro very convenient, as did the easily folded rear seats. I used the Nitro to load a bunch of sound equipment for a community event and found it was a good partner in this endeavor. Heck, you could even fold the passenger-side front seat forward and bring the whole surf team's boards along for the ride.

If your team happens to want to plug in something to a 110 volt AC outlet while on the road, the Nitro is happy to oblige. Keep your notebook computer charged so you can write a Curbside article right from inside the Nitro. I'm sure that California's laws about texting while driving will soon be changed to ban writing articles about cars while in them. Stupid legislature.

Base Price: \$25,920

Engine: 4.0 Liter V6

Transmission: Five-Speed Automatic

Days on the Curbside: April 13-20

Model Year: 2009 •