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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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San Diego Humane Society Puppy Undergoes Rare, Lifesaving Heart Surgery And Is Now Ready For Adoption

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Humane Society is now accepting adoption applications for a puppy who survived a lifesaving procedure rarely treated in animal shelters across America. Princess, a three-month-old American Eskimo, was born with a life-threatening birth defect called a “patent ductus arteriosus” – a connection between the major heart vessels, which interfered with her heart’s ability to pump blood. This defect caused significant damage to Princess’ heart muscle; so much so that without surgery, she would not survive. On Thursday, Sept. 15, she underwent the corrective heart surgery needed to save her life and is now recovering. Few animal shelters in the nation are able to provide this level of sophisticated surgery to homeless animals thereby making San Diego Humane Society grateful for this unique opportunity.



“This type of lifesaving procedure is extraordinary in animal sheltering. Without this surgery, Princess would have died. It was critical that she receive this specialized surgery as quickly as possible, so we reached out to Dr. Sharon Huston, resident cardiologist at VCA Animal Hospital to get Princess the care she desperately needed,” says Dr. Cynthia Mitchell, medical director for San Diego Humane Society. “This type of heart surgery is costly and extremely rare for an animal shelter. It’s only through support from the community that Princess received this second chance at life.”

Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO for San Diego Humane Society, says, “In July 2015, San Diego reached a milestone: no more euthanasia of treatable animals in area shelters thanks to the collaboration and community support required to save the 45,000 animals entering San Diego shelters. Princess’ heart surgery is an example of the lengths to which San Diego Humane Society is willing to go to maintain zero euthanasia.”

Last year alone, San Diego Humane Society transferred in 3,300 animals in from other local shelters for lifesaving medical treatment or behavior modification. Of the country's 10 largest cities, San Diego stands alone in achieving this goal of reaching zero euthanasia of treatable animals. San Diego Humane Society achieved a 94% live release rate for the past year and has not euthanized a healthy or treatable animal since 2001. Princess' story is just one of the thousands of lives saved in San Diego.

Princess is currently recovering at San Diego Humane Society where she will remain in the care of the organization's medical team until her new adopter is selected. Her veterinarians and surgeon believe Princess will continue growing into a beautiful dog and should have no problem living an active and healthy, normal life.

Anyone interested in adopting Princess can complete her special adoption application online at www.sdhumane.org/princess before 11:59 p.m. on October 2, 2016.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

- San Diego Humane Society veterinarians examining Princess
- Photos and B-roll are available upon request

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Dr. Gary Weitzman, President/CEO, San Diego Humane Society
- Dr. Cynthia Mitchell, medical director, San Diego Humane Society

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Kelli Schry at (619) 250-6801 or kschry@sdhumane.org.

About San Diego Humane Society

Serving San Diego County since 1880, San Diego Humane Society's scope of social responsibility goes beyond adopting animals. San Diego Humane Society offers San Diegans a wide range of programs and services that strengthen the human-animal bond, prevent cruelty/neglect, provide medical care, educate the community on the humane treatment of animals and provide safety net services for all pet families needing assistance with keeping their pets.

As San Diego's oldest nonprofit organization, San Diego Humane Society has campuses located in Escondido, Oceanside, and San Diego as well as adoption centers inside Petco stores throughout San Diego County. San Diego Humane Society is supported solely through contributions, grants, bequests, investments, proceeds from the Muttique retail store and small fees for services. For more information or to view our current animals available for adoption; please visit www.sdhumane.org.

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