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Severely Abused Dog Is Receiving Medical Care Today At San Diego Humane Society Thanks To Report By A Concerned Citizen

SDHS Humane Law Enforcement To Pursue Felony Charges For Animal Cruelty

SAN DIEGO — Medical staff at San Diego Humane Society have rallied around a severely abused dog and are helping him fight for his life today. Bruce, a 9-year old Miniature Pincher, was rescued by San Diego Humane Society humane officers Sunday after receiving a call from a concerned citizen. Investigating officers learned that a veterinarian diagnosed Bruce with diabetes one year ago which has gone untreated ever since. Although his outcome is still uncertain, the veterinary medical team is determined to stand by him during this ordeal and make sure he has every opportunity to recover. They are cautiously optimistic and have given him a guarded prognosis. This lack of essential medical treatment and care constitutes animal cruelty in the state of California and criminal charges will be pursued.



“Ongoing lack of care and failure to treat Bruce’s condition has resulted in severe emaciation,” says Steve MacKinnon, chief of humane law enforcement for San Diego Humane Society. “So far, he’s responding to treatment and we’re hoping he can make a full recovery. Denying an animal veterinary treatment and care constitutes cruelty, and our officers will be pursuing felony charges on this case.

“In this instance, Bruce’s owner chose to let Bruce suffer for over a year rather than seeking help for the dog. There’s no excuse for this and that’s why we’re pursuing criminal charges.”

On average, our humane officers respond to 2,000 reports of animal cruelty and neglect annually. When an animal is a victim of abuse, they’re unable to speak for themselves, so we rely on information from the community to report suspected cruelty and neglect.



Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society says, “The neglect Bruce has endured is horrific and there’s no reason an animal ever needs to suffer. There are many resources available in San Diego



to help provide care and veterinary support for animals in need. Pet owners can turn to us for help as well; we'll always ensure animals have the care they need. We just have to know about them, and that's why it's so important for the community to be advocates for animals."

Suspected animal cruelty or neglect can be reported to San Diego Humane Society by calling (619) 243-3466.

When reporting animal cruelty/neglect, gather the following information:

- A concise, written, factual statement of what you observed—giving dates and approximate times whenever possible.
- Photographs of the location, animals in question and the surrounding area without trespassing.
- If you can, provide the names and contact information of other people who have firsthand information about the situation.
- It's possible to file an anonymous report, but consider providing your information.

While it remains unknown if Bruce will respond favorably to treatment, officials at San Diego Humane Society are hopeful he will pull through this ordeal so a new home can be found for him. "Someone out there will be willing to open their home and heart to this little guy," said MacKinnon. "He's suffered so much, but thanks to a concerned citizen who cared enough to call us, Bruce has a chance."

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

PHOTOS AVAILABLE HERE:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j7gy5io99cdklnl/AACMyXnrMV7laxDre5ehqGFia?dl=0>

B-ROLL

OPPORTUNITIES: Bruce being examined by San Diego Humane Society veterinarians
Humane Law Enforcement officers with Bruce
Bruce in recovery at San Diego Humane Society

INTERVIEW

OPPORTUNITIES: Dr. Gary Weitzman, CEO, San Diego Humane Society
Steve MacKinnon, Chief of Humane Law Enforcement, San Diego Humane
Dr. Cyndi Mitchell, Medical Director, San Diego Humane Society

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 select Petco stores throughout San Diego County. San Diego Humane Society is supported solely through contributions, grants, bequests, municipal contracts, investments and small fees for services. For more information or to view our current animals available for adoption; please visit sdhumane.org.



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