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Celebrating International Cat Day with a Super Mom

San Diego Humane Society is caring for a cat and her rare litter of 11 kittens

SAN DIEGO —San Diego Humane Society’s Kitten Nursery is caring for a cat who gave birth to 11 kittens. This is rare, as the average litter size for cats is three to five kittens. Even more unusual, the cat has 11 nipples – one for each kitten. On average, cats have six to eight nipples and they almost always have an even number.

“A healthy litter this size is incredibly uncommon and certainly not something we see every day in the nursery,” said Jackie Noble, kitten nursery manager.

The mother and her kittens were discovered by a good Samaritan inside a dumpster in downtown San Diego. The finder said it did not look like someone had dumped the animals there, but rather the mother thought it was a safe place to hide and take care of her babies. The cat and kittens are all in good health. They are receiving care at SDHS’s Kitten Nursery, where they will stay until the kittens are ready for adoption and the mother can be spayed.



As cute as the kittens are, a litter this large highlights the importance of spaying and neutering. It is critical for the community to work together to spay and neuter community cats. Cats can get pregnant about every three months, so it’s possible for a single cat to have more than 200 kittens in her lifetime. Community cats can be altered through trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs. Community cats are trapped, spayed/neutered, vaccinated and ear-tipped for identification. After recovering, they are returned outdoors to live their lives without having any more kittens. SDHS offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations and ear-tipping for community cats at each of our three campuses. Learn more about community cats and TNR [here](#).

B-roll and photos are available here: <http://bit.ly/2KlgyRC>.

Suggested Tweet: @sdhumane is caring for a cat who gave birth to 11 kittens! The average litter size for cats is three to five kittens, so this is an unusual case for SDHS, and a good reminder to spay and neuter your pets.

About San Diego Humane Society

San Diego Humane Society’s scope of social responsibility goes beyond adopting animals. We offer programs that strengthen the human-animal bond, prevent cruelty and neglect, provide medical care, educate the community and serve as a safety net for all pet families. Serving San Diego County since 1880, San Diego Humane Society has campuses located in Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego. For more information; please visit sdhumane.org.

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