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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego Humane Society Reduces Adoption Fees May 1-17 for “Empty the Shelters”

Extended hours and reduced fees aim to find homes for pets amid overcrowding

SAN DIEGO — Today, April 30, 2026, is National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, the perfect opportunity to announce that **San Diego Humane Society is reducing adoption fees for adult dogs and cats (7 months and older) to \$50 from May 1 through 17, 2026.** It’s all part of Bissell Pet Foundation’s national “Empty the Shelters” initiative.

The organization is currently caring for 20% more animals than this time last year, with both dogs and cats staying longer in the shelter (up 30%) due to a slowdown in adoptions. Mullet, pictured here, has been waiting for her forever family for 505 days. Anyone interested in meeting her, can visit the San Diego Campus! Mullet’s adoption fee has been sponsored by a wonderful volunteer.

Right now, there are 1,585 animals in care, including 668 dogs and 777 cats. Dog capacity levels have reached staggering highs: 152% at the El Cajon Campus, 155% in Oceanside, 129% in Escondido and 150% at the San Diego Campus.

San Diego Humane Society is urging the community to consider adopting, if they are thinking of adding a pet to their family. To provide more opportunities for the community to visit, San Diego Humane Society recently extended its adoption hours. **All campuses in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego are now open for walk-in adoptions Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

To view pets currently available for adoption, visit sdhumane.org/adopt.

WHY ADOPT FROM SAN DIEGO HUMANE SOCIETY?

- You help create space for other animals in urgent need.
- You bring home a pet who has been carefully assessed and cared for.
- Your pet comes microchipped, spayed/neutered and vaccinated.
- You gain access to an adoption guarantee, training advice and lifelong support.

[Photos/b-roll of cats and dogs available for adoption + stats for media use here:](https://spaces.hightail.com/space/dO0N1HD7V)

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Photo/video credit: San Diego Humane Society

About San Diego Humane Society:

San Diego Humane Society goes beyond adopting animals, offering 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 in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona, and San Diego. For more information, please visit sdhumane.org.



Mullet – Animal ID: 559081