



MEDIA CONTACT:

Nina Thompson
619-372-0916 cell
nthompson@sdhumane.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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San Diego Humane Society Extends Adoption Hours *Shelter population surges 22% in 2026*

SAN DIEGO — To address a significant increase in the number of animals awaiting homes, San Diego Humane Society is extending adoption hours starting April 17, 2026, and through Sept. 13, 2026. Adoption centers at the organization’s El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego campuses will now remain open until 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, to provide more opportunities to adopt.

The organization entered 2026 with a 22% increase in animals compared to the start of 2025. As of early April, that trend has continued, with 1,470 animals now in care. The biggest increase is with dogs, up nearly 25%.

Beyond the sheer number of animals, pets are also staying in the shelter longer. The average length-of-stay for dogs has jumped 22%, to 67 days since last year. Adoption rates are down nearly 10%.



“We are working harder than ever to make adoption the best option for anyone looking to add a pet to their family,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO, San Diego Humane Society. “By extending our hours, we hope to make it more convenient for the community to visit our campuses and meet the more than 700 wonderful animals who are ready for their new families.”

EXTENDED ADOPTION HOURS (Effective April 17, 2026 – Sept. 13, 2026)

- Tuesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Monday: Closed

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.

All pets available for adoption can be viewed at sdhumane.org/adopt.

Photos/b-roll of adoptions at SDHS for media use can be downloaded here:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/gQ2DXFPjbB>

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.

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