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California Lawmakers, Animal Advocates Unite to Protect Pets at Animal Advocacy Day

SACRAMENTO, CA — California lawmakers and animal welfare advocates came together today for the third annual [Animal Advocacy Day](#) in Sacramento — rallying behind [new legislation](#) designed to protect the state's most vulnerable animals.

[San Diego Humane Society](#) joined forces with the [San Francisco SPCA](#), [Valley Humane Society](#), [CalAnimals](#), [ASPCA](#), [Best Friends Animal Society](#), [Humane World for Animals](#), and [Michelson Center for Public Policy](#) to push for stronger protections for pets — from expanding access to veterinary care to shutting down cruel puppy mills.

"This year's package of bills represents real hope for pet owners and the animals who need us most," said **Dr. Gary Weitzman**, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. "By increasing access to care, empowering veterinary professionals, ending the cruelty of puppy mills and promoting shelter adoptions, we are making California a safer, kinder place for every animal. Our pets deserve dignity, compassion and a future free from suffering — and these laws bring us one step closer."



Key Legislation Championed Today:

Expanding Access to Veterinary Care:

With California facing a critical shortage of veterinarians, bills like [AB 516](#) (Kalra) and [SB 602](#) (Cortese) will allow trained veterinary staff to perform more medical tasks — getting pets the care they urgently need.

Ending the Puppy Mill Pipeline:

Following a shocking [LA Times exposé](#) on puppy mill abuse, a trio of bills ([SB 312](#), [506AB](#) and [AB 519](#)) will crack down on fraudulent puppy sales, bring transparency to dog imports, and close loopholes that allow inhumane breeding operations to thrive.

Strengthening Shelter Adoptions and Fighting Cruelty:

New bills will require better tracking of shelter outcomes ([AB 631](#) – Lee) and help law enforcement prevent illegal bird fighting rings ([AB 928](#) – Rogers).



Why It Matters:

Every year, thousands of animals suffer because of outdated systems, lack of care access, or cruel exploitation. Today's efforts are about saving lives, preventing suffering and making it easier for California families to adopt healthy pets — not heartbreak.

Last year, the coalition's advocacy led to the passage of life-changing laws — including the expansion of telemedicine for pets and increased spay-neuter access statewide. This year, they are pushing to go even further.

For more information about the bills and quotes from lawmakers, visit sdhumane.org/AdvocacyDay2025.

Download photos, video and interviews from Animal Advocacy Day here:

[Click here to access media assets](#)

Photo/video credit: San Diego Humane Society

File includes soundbites with:

- **Dr. Gary Weitzman**, President & CEO, San Diego Humane Society
- **Dr. Jennifer Scarlett**, San Francisco SPCA CEO
- **Jill Tucker**, California Animal Welfare Association CEO
- **Melanie Sadek**, Valley Humane Society CEO
- **Brittany Benesi**, ASPCA Sr. Legislative Director, Western Division
- **Jenny Berg**, California State Director, Humane World for Animals
- **Nancy McKenney**, Marine Humane Society CEO

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 in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona and San Diego. For more information, visit sdhumane.org.

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