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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of El Cajon Awards Animal Services Contract to San Diego Humane Society *Residents will benefit from extended hours and increased staffing levels.*

San Diego — Today members of the El Cajon City Council voted unanimously to approve a contract with San Diego Humane Society to become the city’s new animal services provider. The transition is anticipated to happen in early October 2020.

Under this agreement, San Diego Humane Society will take over management of the El Cajon Animal Shelter facility at 1373 N. Marshall Avenue. Approximately 22 San Diego Humane Society employees will work at the El Cajon facility, more than doubling the staffing levels at the shelter. Humane Law Enforcement will provide dispatch and field services seven days a week.



In addition to all the specialized programs San Diego Humane Society offers, such as the Kitten Nursery, Behavior Center, Pilar & Chuck Bahde Center for Shelter Medicine, Bahde Wildlife Center, Wellness Center, pet pantry services and community education, residents in El Cajon will see an added benefit with extended hours. Currently, the animal shelter is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. San Diego Humane Society will be open to the public 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday — an increase of 19 hours per week.

Under San Diego Humane Society, the El Cajon Campus will continue to provide shelter for animals from the City of La Mesa. The La Mesa Police Department provides its own animal control.

“San Diego Humane Society strives to be the County’s resource for helping animals, and we are incredibly excited to offer our services to El Cajon while also providing services for animals coming from La Mesa,” said Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. “We appreciate all the work city staff has done to pull this contract together for us to expand our high level of care into two additional communities, which will translate into more animal lives saved, which is the core of our mission.”

Last year, the El Cajon shelter took in 1,525 animals (750 dogs, 700 cats and 75 other animals) and adopted out 757 animals.

When the transition takes place, San Diego Humane Society will have four campuses: El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego. San Diego Humane Society already provides animal services in the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach and Vista.

Photos of the El Cajon Animal Shelter for download are available here: <https://bit.ly/3jDnKHj>

Suggested Tweet: The @CityofElCajon votes to award @sdhumane its animal services contract. In addition to San Diego Humane Society’s programs, residents will benefit from extended hours and increased staffing levels. Transition is anticipated to happen in early Oct. 2020. #InspireCompassion

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 Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego. For more information, please visit sdhumane.org.

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