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## **Monthlong Adoption Drive to “Clear the Shelters”**

*San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition Participates in Nationwide Campaign.*

**San Diego** — During the month of August, most of the [San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition](#) is participating in a nationwide campaign to “Clear the Shelters” in partnership with NBC Universal and Telemundo.

To help individuals and communities continue to practice safe social distancing, this year’s Clear the Shelters looks a little different. Instead of a single-day event, this adoption drive will span an entire month to allow for virtual adoption consultations by appointment. In addition to promoting adoptions, the campaign encourages donations to participating shelters.



Since 2015, the Clear the Shelters campaign has helped more than 410,000 pets find new homes nationwide. “San Diego Humane Society is excited to be working to ‘Clear the Shelters,’” says Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. “This important nationwide campaign will give tens of thousands of animals throughout San Diego County a second chance.”

“The County of San Diego’s Department of Animal Services shelters in Bonita and Carlsbad have many wonderful animals waiting to be adopted into loving homes,” says Kelly Campbell, director of Animal Services, County of San Diego. “While the pandemic has certainly created challenges for us all, now may be the perfect time to add a new pet to the family, especially if you find yourself spending more time at home.”

“During the pandemic, we have learned how to embrace change, and that change could include an adoptable pet,” said Judi Sanzo, president of Rancho Coastal Humane Society. “Shelters around the country want to remind you that your new best friend could be waiting, tail wagging and ready to join you while you work from home. While Rancho Coastal continues to match pets with their new families, it’s important to remember that the virus may be temporary, but pets are a lifetime commitment.”

### **Benefits of Pet Adoption**

- Adoption is more affordable than purchasing a pet.
- You know you’re getting an animal who has been assessed behaviorally and medically.
- You may receive special pet-specific resources. For example, San Diego Humane Society offers training advice, pet supplies and educational information to support pet families for the lifespan of a pet.

**Photos of animals available for adoption can be downloaded here:** <https://bit.ly/2Pc8yUE>

**Suggested Tweet:** San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition partners are working to @ClearTheShelter in August, so it’s a great time to adopt and donate. #ClearTheShelters #DesocuparLosAlbergues

### **About San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition**

The San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition comprises eight local animal welfare organizations that consistently exceed standards to save more lives — making it one of the strongest animal coalitions in the nation and a leader in the humane treatment of animals. Members are Chula Vista Animal Care Facility, Coronado Animal Care Facility, El Cajon Animal Shelter, Friends of Cats, Rancho Coastal Humane Society, San Diego County Department of Animal Services, San Diego House Rabbit Society and San Diego Humane Society.