

MEDIA CONTACT:

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

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PAWS San Diego Name “Retires” to Expand Reach

Safety Net Services Will Be Integrated Throughout All San Diego Humane Society Programs.

San Diego — San Diego Humane Society is “retiring” the name of its PAWS San Diego program as of July 20, 2020. The impact of PAWS has been substantial — in the last fiscal year, PAWS distributed more than 2 million pet meals to families in need and 133,000 pounds of pet food since the beginning of COVID-19. These vital services and more will evolve and continue as part of San Diego Humane Society. Now, rather than having one program dedicated to helping people keep their pets, this goal will be reflected in all that the organization does.



PAWS San Diego merged with San Diego Humane Society in 2014. Since then, the program has provided families in our community — including those experiencing low incomes, homelessness, chronic illness and disability — with the resources, supplies and support necessary to keep their pets. In order to meet the unprecedented need of additional pet families facing financial uncertainty due to COVID-19, San Diego Humane Society is expanding the reach of our safety net services to provide more families with pet food, veterinary assistance and [other resources outlined on our website](#). This includes:

- Evolving our Pantry Service into a drive-thru pick-up at all three of our campuses from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. This allows us to provide pet food and supplies efficiently and safely. In the early stages of this service, we were helping more than 500 families each day.
- Shifting our focus away from in-home deliveries in order to grow our partnerships with other organizations. Through these partnerships, we are providing pet food distribution at multiple sites and increasing service accessibility for families throughout the county:
 - To reach those living in systemic poverty, we’re providing food and supplies to San Diego Unified School District, which has approximately 20 locations in low-income neighborhoods.
 - To reach the elderly, military veterans and individuals living with disabilities, we’re providing food to San Diego Food Bank, ElderHelp, Serving Seniors, Independent Living Services and many more.

“We’re so excited for this evolution, which will allow us to ensure as many San Diegans as possible are getting the help they need to care for their pets,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. “The change is designed to recognize the fact that the entire organization is now tasked with helping keep pets with their families, not just the PAWS team.”

Photos and video clips of SDHS pet support are available here: <https://bit.ly/3j0ZAal>

Suggested Tweet: @sdhumane is “retiring” the name PAWS San Diego. Rather than having one program dedicated to helping people keep their pets, this goal will be reflected in all they do. To meet the need that has come with #COVID19, they’re expanding their reach to help more people keep their pets.

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.