



MEDIA CONTACT:

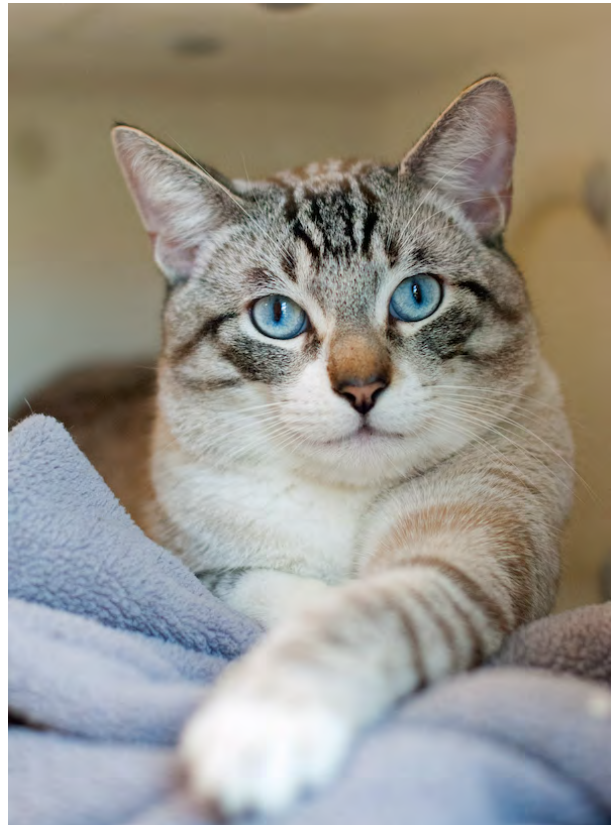
Nina Thompson
619-372-0916 cell
nthompson@sdhumane.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEB. 21, 2022**

San Diego Humane Society Encourages Community to Spay/Neuter Pets *World Spay Day 2-22-2022 celebrated to increase awareness about saving lives by altering animals.*

San Diego, CA — San Diego Humane Society is marking World Spay Day on Feb. 22, 2022 by encouraging the community to ensure their pets are spayed or neutered. Spaying/neutering is essential to reducing the number of unplanned pets who enter shelters, and the procedure can help animals live longer by offering health benefits such as protection from testicular cancer, mammary cancer, enlarged prostate glands and uterine cancer. Studies also show that altered pets often exhibit less unwanted behavior, such as urine-marking, roaming and aggression.

San Diego Humane Society cares for more than 40,000 companion animals annually. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the nonprofit organization performed 13,034 spay/neuter surgeries for pets in the shelter as well as those owned by members of the public. “We are passionate about World Spay Day, because we know spaying and neutering pets is the single most important thing we can do to prevent overpopulation,” said San Diego Humane Society Chief Medical Officer Zarah Hedge, DVM. “By spaying and neutering animals in our care, we are preventing unwanted pregnancies and ensuring that we stay at zero euthanasia of healthy and treatable shelter animals.”



Pet owners are encouraged to consult their veterinarian about spaying or neutering their pets. San Diego Humane Society offers low-cost spay and neuter services to qualified individuals in the San Diego region, including those receiving government assistance and active members of the military. To learn more, visit sdhumane.org/spay.

B-roll and photos for media use can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3p1wvQS>

Suggested Tweet: On this #WorldSpayDay, @sdhumane urges the community to spay and neuter their pets! Not only is spaying/neutering the solution to pet overpopulation, it also offers protection against reproductive cancers and other illnesses. Learn more at sdhumane.org/spay.

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, please visit sdhumane.org.

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