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San Diego Humane Society Partners with CDC to Help Ukrainian Refugees Entering the U.S. Bring Their Pets

First dog receiving care and quarantining at SDHS to help ease cross-border burden for Ukrainian families.

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Humane Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have partnered to make it possible for Ukrainian refugees crossing the U.S.-Mexico border to bring their pets with them. San Diego Humane Society has transported the first dog from Ukraine across the border at the San Ysidro Point of Entry, and Humane Officers are on-call to transfer more dogs as needed.

The dog was taken to San Diego Humane Society late on Saturday, April 30. The next day, San Diego Humane Society’s veterinary team performed an exam on the dog, administered vaccines and flea medication. Overall, the dog is in good health. She will now be cared for at San Diego Humane Society’s Behavior Center for enrichment and socialization, while on a 28 day rabies quarantine, before she can be reunited with her family.



“Pets are family, and families should never be forced apart,” said San Diego Humane Society president and CEO Gary Weitzman, DVM. “As soon as the war broke out in Ukraine, we began looking for ways to support people with pets and the animals left behind by this tragedy. When we heard that Ukrainian pets were getting stopped at the border – right in our own backyard – we immediately wanted to help. Our goal is to get these animals safely across the border and back to their families as quickly as possible. We’ll do whatever we can to help the animals and people impacted by this tragic crisis.”

This effort to support Ukrainian refugees entering the U.S. comes a month after San Diego Humane Society President Gary Weitzman, DVM, deployed with [Greater Good Charities](#) to Poland [on a mission to provide veterinary care](#) and help the [International Fund for Animal Welfare](#) set up a border crossing veterinary clinic to support pets impacted by the war in Ukraine. San Diego Humane Society will continue to work with the CDC and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to transport and quarantine Ukrainian pets as needed. To learn more, visit sdhumane.org/uadogs.

Photos for media use can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3v6Mm63>

Suggested Tweet: @sdhumane and @CDCgov have partnered so Ukrainian refugees crossing the U.S.-Mexico border can bring their pets. The first dog is receiving care and quarantining at San Diego Humane Society until she can be safely reunited with her owners. sdhumane.org/uadogs.

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.