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San Diego Humane Society Launches Foster Incentive

Record dog population leads to new approach to help alleviate pressure in shelter

SAN DIEGO — During what is typically referred to as the “slow season” for adult shelter dogs, San Diego Humane Society has a record number of dogs in care and is launching a new incentive to encourage the community to help out. San Diego Humane Society is offering a \$100 gift card to volunteers who foster a dog weighing 50 pounds or more for two weeks!

The new incentive was created to get 50 dogs into foster homes and comes after the organization set a record on March 24, 2023, with 620 dogs in care, breaking its previous record of 606 dogs on Dec. 20, 2022.

San Diego Humane Society has campuses in Escondido, El Cajon, Oceanside and San Diego. As of today, San Diego Humane Society has 547 dogs in care. 462 dogs are housed at their campuses, putting the organization at 132% capacity, and 85 dogs are in foster care. While the organization is working tirelessly to place dogs in foster homes, even more fosters are needed to care for the high number of dogs in care. Large dogs are more difficult to place in foster homes, which is why the incentive focuses on this specific population.

Any length of stay at a shelter can be stressful for pets — especially dogs. “We are piloting this new approach because we want dogs in our care to have an easier transition in foster care while they wait for their future family,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. “We’ll be there to support fosters every step of the way, through staff support, medical care, and behavior assistance. All we ask is for our community to provide the temporary home, love and care. We’ll help with the rest.”

To qualify for the \$100 gift card, foster volunteers must sign up in advance to attend one of the following trainings, pick up a dog from a pre-selected list, bring them home immediately after completing the training, and care for the dog for at least two weeks:

Tuesday, April 11, 3 – 5 p.m. at San Diego Humane Society’s El Cajon Campus.
1373 N. Marshall Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020

Wednesday, April 12, Noon – 2 p.m. at San Diego Humane Society’s Oceanside Campus.
2905 San Luis Rey Rd., Oceanside, CA 92058

Monday, April 17, Noon – 2 p.m. at San Diego Humane Society’s San Diego Campus.
5500 Gaines St., San Diego, CA 92110

Tuesday, April 18, Noon – 2 p.m. at San Diego Humane Society’s Escondido Campus.
3500 Burnet Drive, Escondido, CA 92027





There are a total of 50 gift cards available. The ideal foster for this incentive has the ability to separate the foster dog from other pets in their home. Many of the dogs San Diego Humane Society is looking to place into foster homes would prefer to be the only dog in the home. **To sign up and learn more, visit sdhumane.org/foster.**

Benefits of fostering:

- Temporarily opening your heart and home to a pet offers the one-on-one attention and loving comfort that our shelter animals need.
- Every pet in a foster home opens up space in the shelter for another animal urgently needing care.
- While in a foster home, we learn characteristics and preferences of the animal that will help find a better match for the pet when speaking to potential adopters.

Photos/b-roll of dogs in care at SDHS for media use can be downloaded here:

<https://bit.ly/3yUSo8L>

Suggested Tweet: After a record 620 dogs in care, San Diego Humane Society is launching a new incentive: foster a dog weighing 50+ pounds for 2 weeks and get a \$100 gift card. Foster candidates must attend a training. Learn more at sdhumane.org/foster

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, visit sdhumane.org. Follow the SDHS Media Relations department on [Twitter @sdhumane](https://twitter.com/sdhumane).

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