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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **San Diego Humane Society Celebrates 15 Years of Saving Kittens** *First-of-its-kind nursery has saved more than 27,000 kittens since 2009*

**SAN DIEGO** — San Diego Humane Society is celebrating a major anniversary in the organization’s long history of lifesaving: the Jim Lester Kitten Nursery & Foster Center is now open for its 15<sup>th</sup> season. The nursery has saved more than 27,000 kittens since opening in 2009.

The Lester Kitten Nursery at the organization’s San Diego Campus was once the first of its kind in the nation. It was created to meet the unique needs of neonate kittens, or kittens under eight weeks of age. Young kittens are one of the most at-risk populations to enter shelters because of the time and resources needed to keep them alive. But San Diego Humane Society is dedicated to finding solutions for the most challenging issues in animal welfare, and this nursery was the innovative answer the organization needed to address the annual influx of kittens.



Since launching in 2009, San Diego Humane Society now has nurseries at their San Diego, Escondido and Oceanside campuses. And today, an extensive network of specially trained foster volunteers plays a key role in this lifesaving work. These dedicated fosters raise kittens in their homes and provide around-the-clock care until the babies are big enough for adoption.

To commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nursery, two of its earliest arrivals of the season have been named Rose and Ruby, pictured here, after the traditional symbols associated with the milestone: the flower and gemstone. These tiny kittens were just days old when they arrived, and extremely vulnerable. They are now receiving around-the-clock care in a foster home until they’re big enough for adoption.

San Diego Humane Society will welcome thousands of kittens like Rose and Ruby this year alone. “Our Lester Kitten Nursery is critical to helping us stay at zero euthanasia of healthy or treatable shelter animals,” said Jackie Noble, Sr. Director of Behavior, Nursery and Foster at San Diego Humane Society. “In other communities, baby kittens often have nowhere to turn. But here in San Diego, we are committed to giving every kitten who needs us a second chance.”

This year, San Diego Humane Society expects to admit more than 10,000 kittens into their care. To learn more about how you can support their work by donating or becoming a foster volunteer, visit [sdhumane.org](https://sdhumane.org).

**B-roll and photos for media use are available here:**

<https://spaces.hightail.com/space/8BiR1USJ91>

**Photo/video credit: San Diego Humane Society**

### **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](https://sdhumane.org).