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San Diego Humane Society Raises Alarm Over Proposed Budget Cuts In City of San Diego Mayor’s Draft Budget

SAN DIEGO, CA — San Diego Humane Society is voicing deep concern over San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria’s proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget, which includes a 20% — or \$3.5 million — cut to the organization’s contract for providing animal services. The nonprofit warns that this level of funding reduction could significantly impact public safety and put animals and people at risk throughout the city.

San Diego Humane Society has held multiple meetings with City officials since January, when the possibility of budget cuts was first raised. During these discussions, the nonprofit outlined its contractual and legal responsibilities and emphasized that it cannot absorb a cut of this magnitude without eliminating essential services.

While the proposed budget describes the cuts as a “reduction in patrols,” San Diego Humane Society clarifies that the consequences may be far more severe — a cut of this size would equate to eliminating San Diego Humane Society’s Humane Law Enforcement services within San Diego city limits. This includes:

- The inability to respond to animal cruelty or neglect cases
- No enforcement of animal laws in communities
- No patrols in parks to address off-leash or aggressive animals
- No enforcement of rabies control and other public health protections
- No investigations of bites or potentially dangerous dogs

“These are not simply operational reductions — they represent a direct threat to public safety,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, President and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. “A cut of this size would effectively eliminate our entire Humane Law Enforcement operation for the City, as well as significantly threaten the welfare of the more than 20,000 San Diego animals we care for. To say this would be a devastating blow to our mission and our service to the community would be a tremendous understatement.”

To support the City’s need for budget savings, the organization proposed suspending park patrols, halting city-funded spay/neuter vouchers and exploring modest fee adjustments — measures that could save approximately \$500,000. Despite presenting these cost-saving alternatives, the City has not responded to the proposals.

Although the Mayor has stated that there will be “no cuts to public safety,” San Diego Humane Society strongly disagrees, asserting that Humane Law Enforcement is an integral part of public safety — for both animals and humans.





If the proposed cuts are approved, the City may need to secure a new provider for animal control and sheltering services — a complex task that must comply with state rabies mandates, health codes and animal welfare laws. San Diego Humane Society maintains that it cannot separate field services, such as Humane Law Enforcement, from sheltering, as they are inherently interconnected in the delivery of effective and compassionate care.

San Diego Humane Society is urging the public to speak out against the proposed cuts. Community support will be critical to ensuring that the City remains committed to protecting animals and maintaining essential public health and safety services.

[B-roll/photos of San Diego Humane Society's services for media use can be downloaded here:](https://spaces.hightail.com/space/sn5Pu0jAIV)

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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.

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