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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 24, 2025**

San Diego Humane Society Leads Legislative Efforts to Expand Veterinary Access and End the Puppy Mill Pipeline in California

Interviews available in advance and on April 29, 2025, from Sacramento

SAN DIEGO, CA — San Diego Humane Society (SDHS), in partnership with leading national animal welfare organizations, is proud to sponsor five key bills aimed at improving animal welfare in California. On April 29, 2025, SDHS leadership will travel to Sacramento for **Animal Advocacy Day** to urge lawmakers to support these critical measures. If enacted, these laws will expand access to veterinary care and shut down harmful puppy mill pipelines, both of which significantly impact shelter capacity and animal well-being.



Animal Advocacy Day, co-hosted by [San Diego Humane Society](#), [San Francisco SPCA](#), [Valley Humane Society](#), [CalAnimals](#), [ASPCA](#), [Best Friends Animal Society](#), [Humane World for Animals](#), and [Michelson Center for Public Policy](#), serves as a platform to ensure legislators hear the collective voice of animal welfare advocates.

Expanding Access to Veterinary Care

With a critical shortage of veterinary professionals in California, SDHS is championing legislation in partnership with San Francisco SPCA and the California Veterinary Medical Association, that will enhance access to essential medical care for pets across the state. These bills will empower veterinary staff and increase available services for pet owners in need.

Veterinary Staff Duties (AB 516)

Authored by Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose)

[AB 516](#) clarifies that **Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs) and veterinary assistants** can perform any medical task that is not explicitly prohibited by law. By maximizing the skill set of veterinary staff, AB 516 enables veterinarians to operate more efficiently, allowing more animals to receive care.

Improving the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (SB 602)

Authored by State Senator Dave Cortese (D-Silicon Valley)

[SB 602](#) allows **RVTs in designated animal shelters to conduct essential veterinary appointments**—such as vaccinations and parasite control—without requiring a supervising veterinarian to be on-site. This measure will help bridge the care gap for vulnerable animals in shelters and underserved communities.

"AB 516 and SB 602 represent a transformative leap forward in ensuring that every animal in California receives the veterinary care they deserve," said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. "By empowering veterinary professionals to provide critical medical services, these bills will reduce suffering, strengthen public health, and expand lifesaving care for the pets and families who need it most."

Shutting Down the Puppy Mill Pipeline

In response to a [Los Angeles Times investigation](#) exposing widespread fraud and abuse in California's puppy market, SDHS is supporting legislation in partnership with the ASPCA to increase transparency and consumer protections while stopping unethical breeding practices.

Puppy Importation Transparency Act (SB 312)

Authored by Senator Tom Umberg (D-Santa Ana)

[SB 312](#) mandates that **dog importers electronically submit health certificates** to the **California Department of Food & Agriculture** within 10 days of shipment. These certificates will be made publicly available, ensuring that consumers and law enforcement agencies have access to crucial health and sourcing information.

Protecting Pets from Predatory Practices (AB 506)

Authored by Assemblymember Steve Bennett (D-Oxnard)

[AB 506](#) **voids deceptive contracts** between consumers and online pet brokers that require **nonrefundable deposits** or fail to disclose the animal's original source before purchase. The bill also mandates that sellers **return buyers' money within 30 days** if a contract is deemed void.

Closing the "Pet Broker" Loophole (AB 519)

Authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Palo Alto)

[AB 519](#) **bans pet brokering** in California by defining brokers as any entity that profits from selling animals bred by another party. AB 519 ensures that third-party sellers can no longer exploit loopholes to profit off inhumane breeding operations.

"Consumers deserve transparency about the flood of puppies entering our state—this is not just about protecting people from unhealthy pets but about ending the cruel pipeline from puppy mills," said Dr. Weitzman. "These bills will close dangerous loopholes in California's pet sales laws and help prevent animals from being exploited for profit."

****MEDIA INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE****

Interviews with San Diego Humane Society staff are available before and during Animal Advocacy Day on April 29, 2025, in Sacramento. To schedule an interview, please contact Nina Thompson at nthompson@sdhumane.org or call/text 619-372-0916.

For more information, visit sdhumane.org/AdvocacyDay2025.

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.