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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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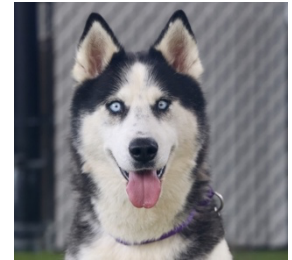
## **San Diego Humane Society Urges Adoption During Overcrowding Crisis** *Empty the Shelters: adult dog & cat adoption fees just \$50*

**SAN DIEGO** — San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) is calling on the community to step up for animals in urgent need of homes. To make adoption easier, the organization is participating in **Bissell Pet Foundation's [Empty the Shelters national adoption event](#)**, offering **\$50 adoption fees for adult dogs and cats, Oct. 1-15, 2025.**

Right now, SDHS is caring for 770 dogs (642 adults + 128 puppies) and 897 cats (235 adults + 662 kittens) across its campuses. With only 405 dog kennels, dogs are having to stay in half kennels, or with multiple dogs in one kennel.

**The strain is being felt across all SDHS campuses:**

- El Cajon Campus: 248% capacity
- Escondido Campus: 159% capacity
- Oceanside Campus: 192% capacity
- San Diego Campus: 182% capacity



**September has set a record with 726 dogs in care each day**, the highest for the month of September in SDHS history. This level of overcrowding impacts both staff and animals, reducing individualized care and putting pets at risk of medical or behavioral decline due to the stress of shelter life.

“By opening your home to a shelter pet, you’re not only saving that animal’s life, but you are also making room for the next one who needs us,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO, San Diego Humane Society. “Right now, every adoption truly matters — it’s the only way we can make space and give these animals the care they deserve.”

### **Why Adoption Matters**

1. **Save Lives:** Every adoption opens space for another animal in need.
2. **Stay Active:** Walks and playtime keep both people and pets healthy.
3. **Reduce Stress:** Interactions with animals lower stress and boost mood.
4. **Heart Health:** Dog and cat owners often enjoy lower blood pressure and cholesterol.
5. **Build Connections:** Pets ease loneliness and help create new human friendships.

### **Adoption Information:**

SDHS is open for walk-in adoptions **Tuesday through Sunday** at campuses in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego.

- **Tuesday–Friday:** 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
- **Saturday–Sunday:** 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

To view adoptable pets, visit [sdhumane.org/adopt](https://sdhumane.org/adopt).

**[Photos/b-roll of dogs at SDHS for media use can be downloaded here:](https://spaces.hightail.com/space/GkCXzPfJ0J)**

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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](https://sdhumane.org).

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