![San Diego Humane Society logo]

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San Diego Humane Society Is the New Animal Services Provider in El Cajon
Residents will benefit from extended hours and increased staffing levels.

El Cajon — San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) is officially the new animal services provider in the city of El Cajon! SDHS staff transitioned to the former El Cajon Animal Shelter on Sunday, Oct. 4. With our shelters closed to the public on Mondays, we are looking forward to our first day open to the public on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Approximately 20 San Diego Humane Society employees will work at the El Cajon Campus at 1373 N. Marshall Ave., more than doubling previous staffing levels at the shelter. Residents in El Cajon will also see extended hours of operation with an increase of 19 hours per week. The El Cajon Campus will have the same public hours as San Diego Humane Society's campuses in Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Humane Law Enforcement will provide dispatch and field services seven days a week.

The move follows a unanimous vote by members of the El Cajon City Council on Sept. 8 to approve a contract with San Diego Humane Society to become the city's new animal services provider. In addition to added hours and increased staffing, residents in El Cajon will benefit from all the specialized programs San Diego Humane Society offers, such as the Kitten Nursery, Behavior Center, Pilar & Chuck Bahde Center for Shelter Medicine, Bahde Wildlife Center, Wellness Center, Community Pet Pantry services and community education.

Under San Diego Humane Society, the El Cajon Campus will continue to provide shelter for animals from the City of La Mesa. The La Mesa Police Department provides its own animal control.

"It is an honor for San Diego Humane Society to have the opportunity to provide animal services in El Cajon to help residents, their pets and wildlife in East County," said Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society. "We look forward to increasing both staff and volunteer resources to provide extraordinary service to the people and animals of East County."

Last year, the El Cajon shelter took in 1,525 animals (750 dogs, 700 cats and 75 other animals) and adopted out 757 animals.

With this transition, San Diego Humane Society now has five campuses: El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona and San Diego. At this fifth campus, SDHS will shelter and care for animals in El Cajon, La Mesa and Santee. San Diego Humane Society now provides animal services for the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach and Vista.

The public can call 619-299-7012 for general information or to reach our Humane Law Enforcement (press 1). For more information, visit sdhumane.org.

Soundbites from SDHS President and CEO Dr. Gary Weitzman and photos of the El Cajon Animal Shelter are available for download here: https://bit.ly/3jDnKHj

Suggested Tweet: It's official! @sdhumane is now the animal services provider for @CityofElCajon. In addition to San Diego Humane Society's programs, residents will benefit from extended hours and increased staffing levels. Go to sdhumane.org for more info. #InspireCompassion