



**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## San Diego to Welcome Nearly 100 Dogs and Cats from Hurricane-Ravaged Louisiana

*Wings of Rescue flight transports pets from shelters to create space for animal victims of Hurricane Laura.*

**SAN DIEGO** — Three local animal welfare organizations are welcoming nearly 100 dogs and cats from hurricane-ravaged Louisiana. The animals are scheduled to arrive on a Wings of Rescue flight into Gillespie Field, El Cajon on Monday, Sept. 14. Once landed, they will be transported to San Diego Humane Society, Rancho Coastal Humane Society and Labradors and Friends.

The transport from Louisiana is to create space in shelters for pets directly displaced by Hurricane Laura. The pets were already available for adoption before coming to San Diego. “None of them will have families hoping to reclaim them,” said Wings of Rescue President and CEO Ric Browde. “They are being transferred from a group of animal shelters to create space for the direct animal victims of Laura. Wings of Rescue thanks the participating shelters and the Louisiana shelter workers. Many of them were in great personal danger for themselves, their families and their homes. Yet they continued to work to save these pets.”

“Rancho Coastal Humane Society is proud that our Animal Welfare Coalition partners at San Diego Humane Society invited us to be part of this joint effort,” said President of Rancho Coastal Humane Society Judi Sanzo. “It’s a perfect example of how we all come together to respond to the needs of animals, whether they’re in our own community or from a disaster area across the country. Rancho Coastal Humane Society will be taking 29 dogs and puppies and 18 cats and kittens who might not survive without this Wings of Rescue flight.”

Six of the 49 dogs arriving at San Diego Humane Society have been in a shelter in Vermillion Parish for more than a year. “After Hurricane Laura hit southwestern Louisiana, we asked how we could help. Wings of Rescue answered that call and offered to fly animals already in shelters now overtaxed with victims of the hurricane. Partnering with Rancho Coastal Humane Society and Labradors and Friends, we’re able to help these animals with medical care and the new homes they need” said San Diego Humane Society President and CEO Dr. Gary Weitzman. “We are grateful to Wings of Rescue for heroically flying these animals to San Diego where medical care and their new homes await.”

Many of the dogs are heartworm positive and will need treatment by the medical teams at San Diego Humane Society and Rancho Coastal Humane Society. Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially deadly disease. It is caused by foot-long worms that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. The good news is that most infected dogs can be successfully treated.

This rescue flight is a joint effort by Wings of Rescue, Miranda Lambert’s Muttnation, Greatergood.org and FreeKibble.com.

### Media Opportunities:

**What:**

- Gather images/video of dogs arriving at Gillespie Field, El Cajon.
- Gather images/video of San Diego Humane Society/Rancho Coastal Humane Society staff welcoming and triaging animals.
- Interviews with SDHS/RCH staff at the airport and at the shelters.

**When:** Monday, Sept. 14.

- Flight is expected to arrive at Gillespie Field around 12:30 p.m. Media is invited to track the flight on Flightaware.com. Tail number is BYA210.
- First transports to San Diego Humane Society and Rancho Coastal Humane Society expected an hour+ after touchdown.

<b>Where:</b> Gillespie Field	San Diego Humane Society	Rancho Coastal Humane Society
1960 Joe Crosson Dr.	5500 Gaines Street	389 Requeza Street
El Cajon, CA 92020	San Diego, CA 92110	Encinitas, CA 92024

**Suggested Tweet:** @sdhumane, @RCHumaneSociety and @LabsAndFriends will welcome 100+ dogs and cats from hurricane-ravaged Louisiana. The animals are being flown by @WingsOfRescue to San Diego to create space for animals in Louisiana who are displaced by #HurricaneLaura.

**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 Escondido, Oceanside, San Diego and Ramona. For more information, please visit [sdhumane.org](http://sdhumane.org).

**About Rancho Coastal Humane Society**

Dedicated to the San Diego community since 1960, [Rancho Coastal Humane Society](http://Rancho Coastal Humane Society) (RCHS) is well-known for its personalized pet adoption process and humane education programs. RCHS is also recognized for services that strengthen the human-animal bond, including the Animal Safehouse Program, the Community Pet Food Bank, Pet-Assisted and Pet Loss Therapy programs, and community outreach that provides a “helping paw” to people in crisis. RCHS RCHS abides by the pledge that NO healthy, treatable animal will ever be euthanized due to a lack of time or space. At Rancho Coastal Humane Society, we believe that Every Animal Deserves a Tomorrow®. To learn more, please visit our website at [www.sdpets.org](http://www.sdpets.org).