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## **Vista Eviction Rescue: 11 Dogs, 2 Cats Safe at San Diego Humane Society** *Mass intake comes while organization is already facing crisis-level number of dogs*

**VISTA, CA** — Eleven dogs and two cats are safe, after San Diego Humane Society’s Humane Law Enforcement carried out a 4-day rescue effort at an abandoned apartment in Vista. The landlord reached out for help after not seeing their tenant for several weeks. With the support of the Sheriff’s Department, officers entered the unit on Oct. 1 and found dogs living in hoarding-like conditions.

According to Humane Officers on scene, the rescue was extremely challenging due to the amount of trash and debris filling the two-bedroom apartment. The dogs had created tunnels to move around inside the unit, which was stacked floor to ceiling with household items. Many of the dogs were found hiding under beds and furniture, making the rescue a multi-day effort requiring additional staff, large dumpsters and deep cleaning.

The small dogs, including Pomeranians and Chihuahuas, were frightened and in poor condition, with fleas, skin issues and overgrown nails. They are now receiving medical care at San Diego Humane Society’s Oceanside Campus. They have been placed under Emergency Boarding status, as our Humane Officers continue to investigate this case. The team will also continue to utilize traps and cameras to ensure all animals have been rescued from the property.

“This is a heartbreaking case, but we are grateful these animals are finally safe,” said San Diego Humane Society Chief of Humane Law Enforcement Jace Huggins. “Sadly, situations like this happen when pet owners become overwhelmed or face personal challenges. If you or someone you know is struggling to care for pets, please reach out for help before it gets out of control.”

**This mass intake comes at a time when San Diego Humane Society is already at record levels of dog capacity.** With the addition of the Vista dogs, **the organization is now caring for 792 dogs.** The public’s support is urgently needed to [adopt](#), [foster](#) or [donate](#) to help make space and provide care for the animals in need.

To help San Diego Humane Society’s deserving animals find homes, adoption fees for adult dogs and cats are just \$50 through Oct. 15, during BISSELL Pet Foundation’s Empty the Shelters event. Visit [sdhumane.org/adopt](https://sdhumane.org/adopt) or San Diego Humane Society’s campuses in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside or San Diego, Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**[B-Roll and photos for media use can be downloaded here:](https://spaces.hightail.com/space/1FEvGM4GMO)**

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### **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).