



June 4, 2025 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter and Santa Cruz SPCA Offer Free Adoptions

More than 150 California animal shelters offer fee-waived adoptions, with the goal to find loving homes for 5,000 pets

SANTA CRUZ, CA – June 4, 2025 — On Saturday, June 7, Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter and the Santa Cruz SPCA will join more than 150 California animal shelters in holding fee-waived adoption events as part of the second annual California Adopt-a-Pet Day. Hosted by the [California Animal Welfare Association](#) (CalAnimals), the [San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#) (SF SPCA), and the [ASPCA](#)® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®), the event is designed to encourage Californians to “Shop the Shelters FIRST” when adding a pet to the family.



“Although adopting from a shelter has become much more common than it was 25 years ago,” said Amber Rowland, General Manager of Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter, “recent research has shown that only about 30% of households with pets got their pets from a shelter – in spite of the fact that we have a great variety of pets, and adopting generally includes well over \$600 worth of vet care to set the pet up for a long and healthy life.”

WHAT: Santa Cruz animal shelters join those across California for the 2nd annual California Adopt-a-Pet Day to offer fee-waived adoptions for available animals like these:

- [Tito](#), a 24 lb, 2.5 yr old Schnoodle(?) or
- [Willoughby](#), a dapper black & white shorthaired cat at the SC SPCA, or maybe
- [Boomer](#), a 4 yr old, family-friendly German Shepherd, or
- [Oscar](#), a 10 week old orange tabby kitten now at the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

To find out more about the adoption process and animals available at each shelter, visit www.scanimalshelter.org or www.spcasc.org and follow along on social media at #officialscanimalshelter or #santacruzspca

WHEN: Saturday, June 7, 2025 – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter: 1001 Rodriguez St, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 AND

Santa Cruz SPCA: 2601 Chanticleer Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95065

NOTE: The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter’s Watsonville location (586 Airport Blvd) will be CLOSED to the public on Saturday, June 7 to fully staff this adoption event at the Santa Cruz location (1001 Rodriguez St).

WHY: Adopting a pet from your local animal shelter has many benefits, as shelters routinely vaccinate, spay/neuter, and microchip animals before they are adopted. As a result, adopting means families and individuals are getting a pet who has already received initial medical care that is appropriate for their species and age, and the staff at the shelter will help you find a pet who’s well-matched for your lifestyle.

MORE INFORMATION: The inaugural California Adopt-a-Pet Day event in 2024 was a huge success, with 3,609 animals being adopted in one day across the state—far outpacing the goal of 2,024 adoptions. Event organizers have raised the bar for 2025, with a more than doubled new goal of finding loving homes for 5,000 dogs, cats, horses, and other small animals. California Adopt-a-Pet Day is managed by [CalAnimals](#) and generously supported by the [San Francisco SPCA](#) and the [ASPCA](#). To learn more, please visit [CAAdoptAPetDay.org](#) and use #caadoptapetday on social media to see the latest updates.

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The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter is a municipal, open-intake, animal control shelter serving all cities and the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County, with shelters in Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

The Santa Cruz SPCA is private, non-profit 501c3 shelter that provides adoption, humane education, and pet food pantry services.

Both shelters have robust volunteer programs and rely on generous public support to provide vital services to the community and to the pets in their care. They work together to promote kindness, prevent cruelty, neglect, and pet overpopulation, and to save animals in need.