



## Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

1001 Rodriguez Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062

580 Airport Boulevard, Watsonville, CA 95076

[www.scanimalshelter.org](http://www.scanimalshelter.org)

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### FOR RELEASE

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### **LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN** **Grant funding makes it SUPER-affordable: \$15 for cats, \$150 for dogs!**

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) is excited to once again partner with Animal Balance, an international nonprofit veterinary organization, to provide affordable spay/neuter surgery for Santa Cruz County dogs and cats whose owners have limited resources!

The 3-day clinic on **November 6, 7 and 8, 2026** will provide 200 cats and dogs with surgery, core vaccines, and a microchip. Registration is now open via a link at [www.scanimalshelter.org](http://www.scanimalshelter.org).

A team of licensed Veterinarians and Technicians from Animal Balance, with assistance from trained local volunteers, will perform the services.

- Thanks to grant funding from UC Davis Koret School of Shelter Medicine, the cost to owners for this clinic is **just \$15 for cats and \$150 for dogs**. These services would cost between \$200 and \$2,000 at a private clinic.
- The clinic will take place around the corner from the Live Oak location of the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter at **2260 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062**.
- To sign up for an appointment, visit: [https://bit.ly/SpayNeuterSC\\_Nov2026](https://bit.ly/SpayNeuterSC_Nov2026)

“Many people have heard that shelters are struggling with over-crowding right now,” said Amber Rowland, General Manager of Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter. “Our shelter is plenty busy, but we haven’t gotten completely overwhelmed, because we’ve been focused on providing accessible spay/neuter services. Our amazing friends from Animal Balance, as well as FOWAS (Friends of Watsonville Animal Shelter) and Project Purr have been instrumental in preventing the critical over-population that too many communities are currently facing, and we’re grateful for that.”

The \$150 fee for dogs includes the cost of an annual County license (required by County ordinance), and a “smart” license tag will be mailed to owners shortly after the clinic. With its own QR code, this tag helps pets get back to their families quickly if they ever get lost, without having to come to the shelter. Licensing is required for all dogs (in conjunction with rabies vaccinations), while licensing for cats is optional, with a \$29 annual fee for spayed or neutered pets.

For the Animal Balance clinic, pets are dropped off in the morning and picked up in the afternoon on the same day. Although pets go home groggy from anesthesia, small surgical

incisions heal quickly, especially in younger pets, and experienced, licensed veterinary teams ensure pets stay safe, even in the high-volume clinic setting.

To be eligible, pets must be healthy, between 8 weeks and 8 years old, and weigh between 2 and 80 pounds. Fees are due at the time of registration. **To pay in cash, or for those without a smart phone or internet access, the staff at Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter can help pet owners register during shelter business hours.**

**Dogs and cats with very short noses** (pugs, bulldogs, Persian cats, etc), senior pets over 8 years old, and those with known health problems **are not eligible** for this clinic and will need to have surgery at a full-service clinic. Friends of Watsonville Animal Shelter (aka FOWAS, [www.fowas.org](http://www.fowas.org)) can accommodate some of those pets at reasonable prices.

“We know that spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchips are the three most important things we can do to protect pets,” said Dr. Maris Brenn-White, Shelter Veterinarian. “Thanks to donations, grant funding, and some amazing partners and volunteers, we’re happy to help owners provide these protections for their companions!”

Donations to the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Foundation’s “Planned Pethood” fund can be made at [www.scanimalshelterfoundation.org](http://www.scanimalshelterfoundation.org).

The main shelter is open daily from 11:00 – 6:00 at 1001 Rodriguez St. in Santa Cruz, and the Watsonville location, 580 Airport Blvd., is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed for lunch, 12 – 1 p.m.)

### **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS)**

We are an open admission animal control shelter providing humane law enforcement and shelter services for animals in need. Our mission is to make Santa Cruz County healthier and safer by providing humane care, prevention-focused support, and practical education to promote the well-being of animals and people. Learn more at [www.scanimalshelter.org](http://www.scanimalshelter.org).