



## **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter**

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**For Immediate Release  
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**Contact 831-454-7200**

### **Home for the Holidays Adoption Special at SCCAS Donation based adoptions continue for all Shelter pets**

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) has hundreds of adoptable animals looking for their forever home. Now through December 23, 2022, all Shelter pets will be available for a 'Pay it Forward' adoption donation of adopters' choice. The suggested donation is between \$50-\$200 and adopters can select a fund for their donation to go to: Planned Pethood Fund (low cost/free spay/neuter) or Extra Mile Fund (specialty lifesaving procedures for homeless animals).

The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip (including registration), age-appropriate vaccinations, routine treatment for fleas/worms, and a free pet wellness exam with a local participating veterinarian. The cost of care for Shelter animals always exceeds the adoption fee but helping the neediest animals in our community is at the heart of the Shelter's mission.

According to the ASPCA the average annual cost of having a pet is approximately \$1300. However, they report that the average cost of having a pet during the first year is approximately \$3,000. Pets are a lifelong commitment, and the Shelter wants new pet owners to understand the financial responsibility they are taking on when bringing a new pet into their family. When the community chooses to adopt a pet that is spayed/neutered OR get their own animals altered, they are joining the solution! According to PETA spaying and neutering makes a big difference: Just one unaltered female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in only six years. In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can produce an incredible 370,000 kittens!

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

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter is an open admission shelter which welcomes EVERY animal in need. Our goal is to be a humane resource for the community by providing a safety net and second chance for local animals. There are two locations where owners can find and recover lost pets, adopt new animal companions, or sign up for PLANNED PetHood, our low cost spay/neuter program available for all resident pets. Our success is achieved through a variety of life-saving services and programs which are described in detail on our website, [www.scanimalshelter.org](http://www.scanimalshelter.org). The support of our community is crucial to sustaining and expanding these services.

