Santa Cruz Animal Shelters Join Second Annual

"California Adopt-a-Pet Day" with Free Adoptions

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SANTA CRUZ — After the overwhelming success of last year's inaugural event, the Santa Cruz SPCA and Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter are once again joining over 150 shelters across California for the second annual Adopt-a-Pet Day on Saturday, June 7th. This powerful statewide initiative aims to find loving homes for at least 5,000 animals in a single day.

Both local shelters will offer fee-waived adoptions for animals who are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. The event comes as shelters across the state continue to navigate a sustained overcrowding crisis. "Last year's event was incredibly inspiring—our community really showed up," said **Amber Rowland**, General Manager of the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter. "But the challenges remain. We're still seeing more animals coming in than going out, and this day is an opportunity to turn that tide – hopefully for thousands of wonderful, deserving pets."

A variety of factors continue to drive the influx of animals into shelters, including a shortage of veterinary professionals, inflation, and a lack of access to affordable spay/neuter services. Additionally, pet-friendly housing remains a significant barrier for many families.

"The Santa Cruz SPCA and County Shelter play essential roles in addressing this crisis," said **Mandi Hart**, Shelter Manager at the Santa Cruz SPCA. "We're thrilled to take part again this year and hope our community will help us match—or beat—last year's numbers by adopting, sharing, and spreading the word."

With shelters full of unique and lovable animals of all shapes, sizes, and personalities, staff are hopeful that June 7th will be another day of joyful goodbyes—and new beginnings.

"Adopting a shelter pet doesn't just change one life—it changes MANY," said Hart. "When you open your home to an animal, it changes your life, their life, AND you make room for another pet in need. We hope to see Santa Cruz show up strong again this year."

Adoption fees on June 7th will be **covered by the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)** as part of their continued commitment to addressing the pet homelessness crisis in California and beyond.

For more information or comments, please contact:

Mandi Hart, Shelter Manager, Santa Cruz SPCA, 831-566-4132 (mobile) or mandi@spcasc.org or

Amber Rowland, General Manager, Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter, 831-359-2807 (mobile) or amber.rowland@santacruzcountyca.gov

Notes:

- The Santa Cruz SPCA is at 2601 Chanticleer Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95065, and will be open from 11am-6pm on June 7th as it is every Tuesday through Sunday, except major holidays.
- The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter at 1001 Rodriguez St., Santa Cruz 95062 and will also be open from 11am-6pm on June 7th as it is every day, except County holidays.
- California Adopt-a-Pet Day is coordinated by CalAnimals, an organization that focuses on the success of California animal welfare and sheltering organizations in meeting the needs of animals and people in their communities. The initiative is also supported by the San Francisco SPCA and the ASPCA, with the ASPCA providing funds to cover the cost of free adoptions at participating shelters.

Public Service Announcement/ Quick Pitch:

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter and Santa Cruz SPCA will have FREE pet adoptions on Saturday, June 7th! California Adopt-A-Pet Day will run from 11 to 6:00 to try to find loving, prepared homes for as many homeless pets as possible. Adopters must be 21 years of age, and a simple application and counseling process will be required. That's Saturday, June 7th from 11 to 6 at both the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter on Rodriguez Street and the Santa Cruz SPCA on Chanticleer – Hope to see you there!