



Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

1001 Rodriguez Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062 580

580 Airport Boulevard, Watsonville, CA 95076

www.scanimalshelter.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC REGISTRATION OPEN

200 Pets to be “Fixed, Vax’d and Chipped” During 3-day Event

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) is excited to once again partner with Animal Balance to provide Santa Cruz County dog and cat owners with affordable spay/neuter surgery, core vaccines, and a microchip **May 16-18, 2025**. Registration is now open at www.scanimalshelter.org.

A team of fully-licensed Vets and Technicians from Animal Balance will perform sterilization surgeries, with clinic support and assistance provided by dedicated local volunteers. **Surgeries are \$150 for cats and \$300 for dogs.** Santa Cruz County residents on public assistance such as CalFresh or MediCal can provide proof of that assistance to qualify for lower fees: \$75 for a cat and \$150 for a dog. The clinic will take place just around the corner from the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter at **2260 7th Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.**

To sign up for an appointment, visit: <https://bit.ly/SpayNeuterMay2025>

“There’s really no such thing as ‘low-cost’ spay/neuter,” said Dr. Maris Brenn-White, Shelter Veterinarian. “There is only SUBSIDIZED spay/neuter, and we rely on donations to our Planned Pethood fund to bring the Animal Balance team to Santa Cruz County to provide this very important service to the community, along with all the other subsidized spay/neuter services we provide to pet owners in need throughout each year. Community support is critical to ensure these preventive services can continue.”

To be eligible for surgery, pets must be healthy, between 8 weeks and 8 years old, and weigh between 2 and 80 pounds. Dogs and cats with very short noses (such as pugs, bulldogs, Persian cats), senior pets, and those with known health problems are **not** eligible for this clinic.

Pets will be dropped off at the Shelter’s Education Center, 2260 7th Ave., Santa Cruz, in the morning of the scheduled day, and picked up late afternoon of the same day. Owners will be called when their pet is ready for pick up, or before 5:30 p.m. Pre- and post-operative instructions are sent to the email address the owner provides on the registration form. Fees are due at the time of registration, and fees are the same even if not all services are needed. 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.

After the surgery, dog owners will be able to head next door to the main Shelter to license their dog, which is required by local ordinance, for just \$29. Through licensing, dogs are provided

with a “smart” license tag with its own QR code. This helps pets get back to their families quickly if they ever get lost, without having to come to the shelter, which is stressful for the pet and involves fees. Cats can also be licensed, on a voluntary basis.

If you’d like to provide financial or in-kind support for subsidized spay/neuter in Santa Cruz County (or support other Shelter services), visit www.scanimalshelterfoundation.org .

Volunteer support is also critical for these events. If you’re interested in volunteering and for more information about Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter, visit www.scanimashelter.org or call 831-454-7200. The main shelter is open daily from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. at 1001 Rodriguez St. in Santa Cruz, and the Watsonville location (580 Airport Blvd) is open Tues – Sat, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed noon-1 p.m.).

About Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS)

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter is an open admission, animal control shelter that provides humane law enforcement and welcomes animals 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 or adopt new animal companions. Community support is crucial to sustaining and expanding our services. Learn more at www.scanimalshelter.org.