



### **MEDIA ALERT**

#### **BISSELL Pet Foundation's Empty the Shelters® 10th Anniversary Event**

*Rancho Coastal Humane Society participating in nationwide animal adoption effort.*

**WHAT:** BISSELL Pet Foundation's *Empty the Shelters®* – the nation's largest funded adoption event – returns **May 1-17, 2026**, marking the 10th anniversary of the Foundation's signature program.

This milestone event celebrates a decade of lifesaving second chances for shelter pets. Hosted in partnership with 335+ participating organizations in 39 states, the initiative helps make adoption more affordable by sponsoring reduced adoption fees. All pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped—ready to go from kennel to couch.

As shelters face increased intake during the spring months and adoptions struggle to keep pace, this event provides critical relief by helping thousands of pets find loving homes. Since launching in 2016, Empty the Shelters has helped nearly 400,000 pets find homes through partnerships with 909 organizations across 49 states and Canada.

**WHEN:** **May 1 through 15, 2026, Every Day but Tuesdays, 11am to 3:30pm**

**WHERE:** Rancho Coastal Humane Society, 389 Requeza Street Encinitas, CA 92024  
**All adult dogs and cats are available for adoption at a reduced fee of \$65.00**

**VISUALS:** Media are invited to attend during open hours to capture photos and video of adoptable pets meeting their future families. Visuals include adoptable pets, shelter staff, volunteers, and community members.

**INTERVIEWS:** Interview requests should be directed to Rancho Coastal Humane Society. To schedule, please contact: John Van Zante at [Johnv@sdpets.org](mailto:Johnv@sdpets.org)

**QUOTE:** “Ten years ago, Empty the Shelters® began with a simple goal—to bring awareness to the incredible pets in shelters,” said Cathy Bissell, Founder of BISSELL Pet Foundation. “Today, it has grown into a national effort that has helped nearly 400,000 pets find families. Those adoptions have opened space for other pets to enter shelters, provided relief for shelter teams, and created the heartwarming joy that only adoption can bring. This impact has all been possible thanks to the commitment of shelters, adopters, donors and supporters across the country. As we celebrate 10 years, we encourage everyone to consider adoption and help more pets find the homes they deserve. It's never too late to make a difference.”



Rancho Coastal Humane Society President and CEO Judi Sanzo says, “We are honored to partner with Bissell Pet Foundation in celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Empty the Shelters Event. This event highlights the companion animals in our care and offers a financial incentive to consider adoption from a local shelter. At Rancho Coastal, we match the needs of the pet with the desires of the family for a customized adoption process. We are ready to help you find your forever companion.”

#### **DETAILS:**

- Empty the Shelters is the nation’s largest funded adoption event and has helped nearly 400,000 pets find homes across the country and in Canada since its inception in 2016.
- Each shelter has its own process – contact them directly for applications, adoptable pets, and event hours.
- BISSELL Pet Foundation does not operate a shelter or offer individual pet grants.
- Follow @bissellpets on social media for updates and announcements.
- Adoption saves two lives – the pet going home and the one who takes their place.

#### **About BISSELL Pet Foundation:**

BISSELL Pet Foundation is a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to help reduce the number of animals in shelters through pet adoption, spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchipping and emergency support. Founded in 2011 by Cathy Bissell, BPF is an extension of her long-standing love for animals and commitment to their welfare. BPF has since partnered with more than 6,025 shelters and rescues across the U.S. and Canada to help pets find loving homes. The foundation is supported by generous donors and BISSELL Inc. where every purchase saves pets. To learn more, visit [www.bissellpetfoundation.org](http://www.bissellpetfoundation.org).

#### **About Rancho Coastal Humane Society**

Rancho Coastal Humane Society is dedicated to saving lives of abandoned companion animals, promoting adoption into loving homes and offering education programs and support services that inspire and strengthen the human-animal bond. A member of the San Diego Animal Welfare Coalition, RCHS abides by the pledge that NO healthy, treatable animal will ever be euthanized for time or space. Visit [SDPets.org](http://SDPets.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [YouTube](#).

#### **Media Contact:**

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