

For Immediate Release
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For more information
John Van Zante
johnv@sdpets.org

Daylight Saving Time Can Really Mess With Our Pets

Encinitas, CA -- **It only happens twice a year, but the switch to Daylight Saving Time in the Spring and back to Standard Time in the Fall can be really confusing for pets. Your Rancho Coastal Humane Society (RCHS) reminds animal lovers that a little patience goes a long way in helping pets make the adjustment.**

“The time change can be really hard for some pets.” RCHS spokesman John Van Zante says, “Animal shelters, veterinarians, and behaviorists get calls from people saying their dogs and cats don’t want to eat. Some pets seem to sleep all the time. Others are awake and doing ‘Zoomies’ at 3:00 in the morning.”

Pets usually adjust to the schedules of their owners. They get up when we get up and go to sleep when we go to bed. Pets love having a routine. They like being fed at about the same time every day. They understand when it gets light and dark and adjust their lives accordingly.

Van Zante says, “Just like humans, animals have internal clocks that tell them when to eat, sleep and wake up. But it might be different for pets because they rely on natural sunlight while humans are more likely to use artificial lighting.”

Animals that live with humans develop routines related to human activity. This might be dogs who are walked at the same time or cats who get fed at the same time every day.

“When humans switch to DST or back to Standard time, we adjust our routines. Pets have no idea what’s happening. To us, it seems like the animals are behaving oddly. It’s actually us who are behaving oddly. And we can’t explain it to them.”

When you “Spring Forward” and set your clock ahead an hour this weekend, remember that your pets need a little paw-holding during the time change. If you can make a gradual change, that’s great. But, since that’s not possible for everyone, be patient and give your pets lots of reassurance that everything is okay.

Rancho Coastal Humane Society at 389 Requeza Street in Encinitas offers Adoptions by Appointment and other year-round programs for people and pets. For more information call 760-753-6413 or log on to www.sdpets.org.