

For Immediate Release
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Adopt a "Recycled" Pet this Earth Day

Encinitas, CA -- **Adopt a "recycled" dog, cat, or rabbit this Earth Day, April 22nd, and lessen your family's carbon "pawprint." Rancho Coastal Humane Society in Encinitas is joining paws with one billion people worldwide to support environmental programs. Start by saving the life of a shelter pet.**

"Earth Day is about clean air, recycling plastic, and chemicals in our water," says RCHS spokesman John Van Zante. "It also includes adopting a 'recycled' pet from a shelter or rescue rather than supporting mass production puppy mills or backyard breeders that harm the environment and flood the market with unwanted animals."

FOOD: Van Zante says there are lots of ways pet owners can do to help lessen their pets' carbon pawprints. "Start with what you feed your pet. Most vets are happy to help you design a diet that provides the vitamins and minerals your pet needs. Studies also show that chicken based-kibbles have less impact on the environment than beef."

POO: Pick up after your pets! "When you don't, it can end up in the ocean or our drinking water. Pick it up. For extra impact, use biodegradable poop bags."

PET CARE PRODUCTS: This includes environmentally friendly pet shampoo as well as dog toys and beds made from natural products including cotton or recycled materials.

SPAYING AND NEUTERING: A pet can have as much impact on the environment as an SUV. Allowing your pet to create unwanted litters of kittens or puppies multiplies the issue. Altering your pets stops this problem 100%.

FLEA AND TICK TREATMENTS: Some flea control products can pose a cancer risk to children. Ask your vet about safer options to control fleas and ticks. There are a number of environmentally friendly treatments that you can make at home.

Van Zante says, "San Diego is one of the most pet-friendly cities in America. This Earth Day we have an opportunity to not only make a difference locally, but set an example globally. Adopt a 'recycled' pet this Earth Day."

To meet pets available for adoption at Rancho Coastal Humane Society in Encinitas, or to become a Virtual Foster by sponsoring a pet, call 760-753-6413, or log on to www.sdpets.org.

You can also recycle used items or buy used items and support animals at the RCHS Thrift Shop at 120 Aberdeen Drive in Cardiff by the Sea.