

For immediate release
June 1, 2020

For more information
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We're Welcoming Adopters With Wide Open Paws

Rancho Coastal Humane Society re-opening to adopters starting Friday, June 4th.

Encinitas, CA – **Following 14 months of limited access and Adoptions by Appointment, your Rancho Coastal Humane Society will re-open the kennels, cattery, and rabbitat to adopters beginning this Friday, June 4th. Hours will be 11 AM to 2 PM Friday through Monday for families with adoption applications. Guests must wear masks and stay “six paws apart” to observe social distancing. The number of guests at RCHS will be limited to 20 households at a time.**

RCHS spokesman John Van Zante says it's been 14 months since adopters have been allowed onto the shelter campus to meet adoptable pets face-to-furry-face. “We closed to everyone except core staff and senior volunteers at the end of March 2020. ‘Adoptions-By Appointment’ began a few weeks later on April 22nd. Our staff and volunteers have done an outstanding job. Now we can safely allow people with adoption surveys back onto the property.”

RCHS President Judi Sanzo says, other than needing an appointment to adopt a pet during the past year, RCHS has followed standard pet adoption procedure. Adopters completed surveys that remain on file for six months. Adoption interviews were conducted over the phone. If it looked like a good match between a pet and a person, they scheduled an interaction at the shelter. It worked very well and RCHS has continued to place pets in their forever homes.

As RCHS re-opens, guests will receive welcome sheets when they arrive, informing them to observe social distancing and stay with other members of their households. Guests will complete COVID-19 Waivers and Release Forms along with a Dog, Cat or Rabbit Adoption Surveys, then visit the handwashing station before entering.

Guests interested in cat adoption will go to the Cattery. Dog adopters will follow arrows to the kennels. Rabbit adopters will go to the lobby to meet with an adoption counselor. Volunteers and staff members will help guests navigate through the shelter and the adoption process.

For information about pet adoption, to become a Virtual Foster, or to learn about other RCHS programs for people and pets log on to www.SDpets.org or call 760-753-6413.