County of San Diego
Department of Animal Services

Rescue Partner Information and Application

Thank you for your interest in partnering with the Department of Animal Services. Your efforts to join with us in support of the animals of the region are greatly appreciated! By becoming a Rescue Partner, we will save lives together!

Our Mission: To protect the health, safety, and welfare of people and animals.

We value: Integrity, compassion, teamwork, innovation, and operational excellence.

Our vision: Is to become an animal services organization known for its transparency, and effectively promoting the humane and responsible care of companion animals, reducing the euthanasia of sheltered animals, and responding to the needs of the community.

Our Service Areas: We provide service to all unincorporated communities of San Diego County.

What We Do: The County of San Diego Department of Animal Services (DAS) protects the public from dangerous animals, protects animals from abuse and neglect, and saves the lives of thousands of unwanted, abandoned, or lost pets each year; and provides animal-related law enforcement, sheltering, medical, and pet adoption services. Over 10,500 animals enter the department's two shelters annually.

Our Services: We provide a variety of community services, including:

- Law Enforcement (Animal Protection, and Public Protection)
- Low-Cost Vaccinations and Microchipping
- Sheltering and Veterinary Medical Services
- Lost and Found and Dog Licensing
- Pet Adoptions
- Pet Altering Referrals (Spaying/Neutering)
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Public Education
- Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response

Euthanasia Reduction Policy

Background: The word "Euthanasia" means the intentional causing of a painless and merciful death. Animal sheltering agencies have a mandate to provide a humane death for those animals whose lives must be ended. These include animals that are fractious to people or animals, or animals that are suffering from or afflicted with a medical condition that cannot be rehabilitated with reasonable efforts, and animals whose owners request euthanasia.

The Department is committed to using its best efforts to avoid euthanasia of healthy and reasonably well-adjusted animals, as well as those animals where reasonable medical treatment or behavior modification will enable them to become healthy and socialized pets.

Policy: It is the policy of the State based on the current Asilomar Accords, that no adoptable or treatable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home.

Our commitment to responsible sheltering practices requires that we use and document reasonable efforts to place adoptable, treatable, or manageable animals in an adoptive home or with an animal sheltering agency or animal rescue organization.

All applicable Department staff members involved in the euthanasia process are expected to perform this responsibility in a humane and respectful manner with compassion toward the animals.

About the Rescue Partner Program

The Department of Animal Services partners with only those organizations that have a 501c3 status.

Transfer Fees

Adoption related fees shall be waived for the transfer of any animal that is not receiving surgery through the Department. This includes previously altered animals and underage animals. If the Department alters an animal at the Rescue Partner's request, the current adoption fee or promotional fee will apply, whichever is less. All pregnant animals will be spayed prior to transfer unless deemed unsafe by the Department's medical team.

All applicable animals eight-weeks of age and older must be spayed or neutered prior to adoption in the state of California. However, the Department may exit the animal unaltered to a Rescue Partner at no cost as the rescue is bound by the same law to alter the animal prior to permanent placement. This cost to spay or neuter the owner with a personal veterinarian is at the Rescue Partner's expense. The animal shall be altered within 30 days unless underage. Once altered, the spay or neuter certificate must be provided to the Department at dasplacement@sdcounty.ca.gov to update the animal's record. Failure to do so may result in termination of partnership with the Department.

If no previous hold is in place, a Rescue Partner may request transfer of a highly desirable animal that is currently available for adoption. If the animal has been available to the public for less than 30 days, the current adoption fee will apply. If the animal has been available to the public for 30 days or more, the adoption fee shall be waived.

We will continue to provide vaccinations to eligible animals, and microchip identification without additional costs to you. If an adoption fee is received for a dog, the Department will issue a one-year license at no charge if the animal is to remain within the Department's jurisdiction.

Release Authorization

Our Supervising Animal Care Attendants will contact you when an animal is need of exiting. An authorized representative of your organization may also contact our animal care staff if they would like to exit. *Note: If exiting equines, the Department will need to know the address of where the horse(s) are going prior to exit.*

How to Become a Partner

1. Complete the attached **Rescue Partner Agreement Application**. Must be reviewed and signed by the organization's authorized representative (e.g., Director/President/Board Member) before moving forward;

2. Provide copy of 501c3 status;

3. Review and approval can take up to 30 business days. You will receive status notification via email.

4. If interested, approved organization's contact information will be posted on our **Rescue Partner Breed List** via our website for public access at:

https://www.sddac.com/content/dam/sdc/das/pdf/rescue_partners/Rescue%20Partners%209.12.2023.pdf

Again, thank you for your interest and participation in this worthwhile program and for helping us help them!

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail us at DAS_Placement@sdcounty.ca.gov

Rescue Partner Agreement Application

1) Please tell us about your organization:

Does your organization have a 501c(3)? ☐ Yes, a copy is attached.

IMPORTANT: Your organization's Name, Website, and Business Phone number, will be made available on the **Rescue Partner Breed Listing** for public access via our website at www.sddac.com. Please let us know how you would like your contact information listed:

☐ Share Business Phone Number ☐ Share Rescue Website ☐ Please Do Not List Our Rescue on Your Website

Please return entire form along with Agreement, and copy of 501c (3) to:
Email:
DAS_placement@sdcounty.ca.gov

Organization Name

Street Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) | City | State | Zip

Mailing Address (if different from above) | City | State | Zip

Business Phone | Primary Contact Name | Website

How long has your organization been in operation? | If utilizing a kennel, please list the address.

How are your animals housed? | If you have a kennel permit, please list the number and expiration.

List your primary vet including name, phone number, and address.

2) Species and Parameters

Please select all that apply:

☐ Dog ☐ Bird ☐ Exotics ☐ Fish
☐ Cat ☐ Farm / Livestock ☐ Small Pets ☐ Other:
☐ Rabbit ☐ Equines ☐ Reptiles

The Department of Animal Services works closely with our approved rescue partners so that together we may reduce the number of unwanted animals that are euthanized. To help our staff work more expeditiously with you, we ask that you identify for us any particular parameters you may have when it comes to acceptance of an animal into your program. As an example: Many of you will accept any animal; some accept only a specific breed and may accept clear crosses of that breed. Others may have specific requirements (less than three years old; weigh not more than XX pounds; no injuries; etc.).

Another issue of concern might be the observed (or known historical) behaviors of the dogs. We will let you know what we see in the shelter, but sometimes, those behaviors are not necessarily reflected in a home environment. On the other hand many of you want to be called regardless of what we see because how the dog behaves here may or may not be an indicator of future behavior. For those of you who don't want to be called for some of the behaviors we are documenting, we would like to have that in writing to avoid any misunderstandings. We prefer you visit the dog and make your own decision but we also understand if that is too time consuming. This way, we will not bother you with a call/e-mail for animals that fall outside those guidelines. You may, at your pleasure, modify these parameters at any time. **Please indicate in the space below any parameters you may have:** *(attach additional page if needed)*

Please contact me regarding:

Please do not contact me regarding:

3) Exit Authorization

By completing this form, you are authorizing the individuals named below to exit animals from our two shelter locations on your organization's behalf under the Rescue Partner Agreement. This information will be entered into the Department's database for reference. We will ensure that only those individuals you authorize will be able to exit animals under your organization's name. All information is confidential and is for departmental use only. Please select the shelter preference below.

Please use the space below to add persons to your exit list:

Primary Contact	**Authorized Exit**	**Transporter Only**
The organization's representative or designee (Director, President, or Board Member) authorized to make changes to the organization's contact information and Authorized Exit list.	May complete electronic Rescue Release Authorization Form about the animal they would like released. In other cases, we will contact the Primary regarding an animal available for release.	Picks up animals from our two shelter locations to transport to designated location. Arrangements are coordinated by the Primary Contact.

1.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

2.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

3.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

4.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

Authorized Signature Print Name Date

Additional page (Exit Authorization)

5.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

6.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

7.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

8.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

9.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

10.

☐ Primary Contact ☐ Authorized Exit ☐ Transporter Only

Shelter Preference: ☐ Both ☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee

Name (First and Last)

Residential Address (P.O. Box not acceptable) City State Zip

Home Cell Work E-mail

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES AND

FOR THE RELEASE AND ADOPTION OF ANIMALS

This agreement is entered into on _____ between the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services (hereinafter referred to as "Department") and _____ (hereinafter referred to as "Adoption Organization") for the purpose of placing shelter animals with Adoption Organization.

WHEREAS, in operating public animal shelters, the Department cares for stray and relinquished animals, and has a substantial interest in the adoption of suitable animals not redeemed by their owners;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the County of San Diego that no healthy or treatable shelter animal should be euthanized if the animal can be adopted into a suitable home;

WHEREAS, the Department wishes to release shelter animals that might otherwise be euthanized to animal rescue or adoption organizations for the purpose of finding suitable adoptive homes; and

WHEREAS, Adoption Organization is an animal rescue or adoption organization and wishes to obtain Department animals for the purpose of finding suitable adoptive homes.

The Department and Adoption Organization mutually agree as follows:

1. The Adoption Organization may submit a request in writing, or other manner approved by the Department, for the release of a shelter animal. In making animals available for adoption under this agreement, the Department may specify which animals it believes are suitable for adoption. Notwithstanding the above, Adoption Organization acknowledges that it is their responsibility to determine where animals obtained from the Department are suitable for adoption. Adoption Organization also acknowledges that the Department and the County of San Diego do not warrant in any way the adoption suitability of any animal released by the Department.

2. Adoption Organization shall provide animals obtained from Department with a healthy, clean, and safe environment and shall provide the animals with necessary and prompt veterinary care, nutrition, and shelter at the Adoption Organization's expense.

3. In receiving animals from the Department, Adoption Organization and its members shall comply with any and all animal-related laws and regulations, including all applicable zoning laws and permit requirements. Violation of the above requirements may result in forfeiture of such animals to Department and/or may result in Department's refusal to provide more animals to Adoption Organization until the Department is satisfied that the Adoption Organization can properly care for such animals. Adoption Organization shall not transfer the custody or ownership of any animal obtained from Department to any individual or organization where the keeping of such animal by such individual or organization will violate any animal-related laws or regulations, zoning provisions, or permit requirements. Violation of the above requirement may result in the Department's refusal to provide additional animals to Adoption Organization.

4. Adoption Organization shall comply with all dog-licensing requirements by ensuring each dog possessed or maintained by any Organization member is properly licensed after it reaches four (4) months of age and before it reaches five (5) months of age. Adoption Organization shall ensure that a valid dog license is maintained for such animal until it has been transferred to a new owner.

5. The Department will need to know the location where the animal(s) is going prior to exit.

6. Adoption Organization shall keep accurate records of each animal obtained from the Department. Such records shall include information regarding veterinary care and the name, address, and telephone number of the new animal owners. Department shall have the right to inspect such records. A copy of any records provided by the Department to Adoption Organization shall be provided by Adoption Organization to any new animal owner or person, group or organization that takes custody or ownership of the animal from Adoption Organization including bite disclosures for dogs pursuant to California Food and Agriculture Code § 30526.

7. If Adoption Organization exits a dog or cat and discovers she is pregnant, the organization is to notify the Supervising Animal Care Attendant where the dog or cat was exited immediately. The organization shall ensure that any unaltered animal obtained from the Department, including any pregnant dog or cat, will be surgically sterilized by a licensed veterinarian at Adoption Organization's expense prior to parturition (birthing), transferring ownership of the animal to any person, or within thirty (30) days from the date the animal is obtained, whichever comes first, unless the animal is under eight (8) weeks of age when obtained. In such case, the altering shall be performed within thirty (30) days from the date the animal reaches eight (8) weeks of age. This requirement shall not apply in any case where a licensed veterinarian provides written certification stating that, due to health considerations, the animal should not be altered, or that, in the professional judgment of the veterinarian, the animal has been previously altered.
If Adoption Organization cannot obtain such services for the pregnant dog or cat, she shall be returned immediately to the Department for such surgery.

8. Adoption Organization shall pay any and all applicable Department fees unless waived by the Department Director.

9. The County of San Diego, its officers, agents, and employees shall not be liable for, and Adoption Organization shall defend, indemnify, and hold County harmless from, any and all claims, demands, liability, judgments, awards, fines, liens, losses, damages, expenses, charges, or costs of any kind or character, including attorneys' fees and court costs (hereinafter referred to as "Claims"), arising out of, or in any manner either directly or indirectly connected with, any act, error, omission, or negligence of Adoption Organization or its contractors, licensees, agents, servants, or employees, including, without limitation, Claims caused by the concurrent negligent act, error, or omission, whether active or passive, of the County of San Diego, its officers, agents, or employees. Adoption Organization shall have no obligation to defend or indemnify County from a Claim if it is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that such Claim was caused by the sole active negligence or willful misconduct of the County of San Diego, its officers, agents, or employees.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES:

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Department and Adoption Organization has approved the execution of this contract by its designated representative, and the Department, by its Assistant Director.

_____
DAS Director/ Deputy Director

_____
Date

RESCUE PARTNER:

_____
Signature

_____
Print Name

_____
Title

_____
Date