



## **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter**

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### **Animal Shelter is Getting a Barn Owl Nest Box! Environmentally Friendly and Cost-Effective Pest Control**

If you're looking for environmentally friendly and cost-effective forms of pest control, the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter encourages residents to learn more about neighborhood barn owls and owl nest boxes.

Barn owls are an excellent form of natural pest control. On October 17, 2019 at 2 p.m., the Animal Shelter invites the public to join us for an Owl Box Raising at the Shelter, 1001 Rodriguez St., Santa Cruz.

A properly placed nest box will attract barn owls, with a barn owl family capable of consuming 4,000 rodents annually. The owl nest box and installation is being donated by Humane Wildlife Control, Inc., which will host a brief talk and Q & A about barn owls and poison-free rodent control before installing the box.

Environmentally friendly owl boxes replace the need for harmful chemicals like rodenticides, which have been linked to the deaths of bobcats, foxes, coyotes, hawks and more. Because rodents impacted by rodenticides often die slowly and become disoriented, they become easy prey and pass poison up the food chain.

Barn owls do not build their own nests and nest boxes are relatively easy to construct. Instructions can be found here: <http://humanecontrol.com/barn-owl-boxes/>

#### **About Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS)**

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter is an open admission shelter which welcomes EVERY animal in need. Our goal is to be a humane resource for the community by providing a safety net and second chance for local animals. There are two locations where owners can find and recover lost pets, adopt new animal companions, or sign up for PLANNED PetHood, our low cost spay/neuter program available for all resident pets. Our success is achieved through a variety of life-saving services and programs which are described in detail on our website, [www.scanimalshelter.org](http://www.scanimalshelter.org). The support of our community is crucial to sustaining and expanding these services.