



## **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter**

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*Melanie Sobel, General Manager*

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**Melanie Sobel, 831-454-7203**

### **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Assists with Fires**

In an effort to assist the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Solano and Mendocino with ongoing fires, the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) will be accepting animals from displaced residents and animal shelters affected by the disaster.

Tens of thousands of residents have been displaced, with many unable to locate their pets before fleeing. This places a huge burden on local animal shelters, many of which were already near capacity, to care for lost pets until they are reunited with their families.

SCCAS has placed an emergency call to foster volunteers to ask that they take in what pets they are able in order to make more space available at our shelter to house animals arriving this week. To free up additional space, SCCAS has also dropped adoption fees to \$50 through October 31<sup>st</sup>, to encourage adoptions to make more space in our dog kennels and cat condos. All adopted pets are already spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped.

We also ask that residents reflect on emergency preparedness. Santa Cruz County is in an area prone to fire, earthquake, and flooding, and the 2016-17 winter storms were a reminder that we must all be ready to either shelter-in-place or evacuate, sometimes with little or no warning.

Families should have emergency plans in place that include household pets. This includes pre-packing and having ready access to Grab-and-Go packs that have a minimum of three days of food and water for all family members, sturdy shoes, personal identification medical documents (spare collar, tags, vaccination record for pets), up-to-date contact information for hotels and pet boarding facilities), required medications, and comfort items for children and pets. Your pet's Grab-and-Go pack should also include sanitation items such as litter boxes and litter for cats and plastic bags for waste clean-up. Visit our webpage for further information:

<http://www.scanimalshelter.org/disaster>.

Most importantly, if your family has to evacuate, always take your pets with you! When families are relocated due to emergencies, it is often unclear when they will be able to return. Please consider the safety of your whole family, pets and people alike.