



## **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter**

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General Manager

**For Immediate Release**

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## **SPAY DAY 2017**

### **Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Offers 50 FREE Spay/Neuters and Microchips for Resident Chihuahuas, Pit Bulls & Cats**

In honor of World Spay Day 2017, Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) will offer 50 FREE spay or neuter surgeries and microchips for Santa Cruz County resident Chihuahuas, Pit Bulls and cats over the age of 8 weeks.

Registration and scheduling for the free surgeries and microchips will be available Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the SCCAS and FOWAS (Friends of Watsonville Animal Shelter) Planned Parenthood South clinic, 150A Pennsylvania Drive in Watsonville. Animal owners should not bring their animals to register and must bring proof of residence in Santa Cruz County. Registrations will be taken on a first come, first served basis, and there is a limit of two animals per residence.

The goals are to help reduce our homeless animal population and help residents comply with current animal ownership laws. County law requires that dogs and cats over the age of six months that reside in Santa Cruz County must be spayed or neutered.

All surgeries are performed by a licensed veterinarian with a professional focus on spay/neuter procedures. Surgeries include a preoperative exam by a veterinarian, pain medication and dissolvable sutures. To receive the free spay or neuter surgery and microchip, SCCAS provides and requires a rabies vaccination (if not current), a dog license (if not current), and a blood panel test if a dog is 7 years old or older and if a cat is 9 years old or older. SCCAS offers these services at a low cost:

Rabies vaccination (dogs and cats over three months of age)	\$10
License for altered dog	\$29
Blood Panel Test (for dogs 7 years old and over and cats 9 years old and over)	\$55

“SCCAS receives a high percentage of Chihuahuas, Pit Bulls and cats,” says Melanie Sobel, SCCAS general manager. “This targeted spay/neuter and microchip initiative will help end unwanted births, increase the number of animals returned to their owners and save taxpayers’ money at the same time.”

Also, spaying and neutering pets can be beneficial to pets and owners as well. Spaying or neutering a pet can reduce offensive behaviors like urine spraying as well as eliminate or reduce the risks of ovarian, uterine, mammary, testicular and prostate cancers.

For more information, please visit [www.scanimalshelter.org](http://www.scanimalshelter.org).

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### **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.