



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2018

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PARTNERS WITH CITY OF MORGAN HILL FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING SERVICES

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.— The County of Santa Clara and the City of Morgan Hill have partnered together to provide animal sheltering for dogs, cats and other domestic pets, including horses and other large animals, for Morgan Hill residents.

The County's Animal Shelter traditionally serves unincorporated areas of the county. However, this new agreement ensures all Morgan Hill residents can deliver lost, domestic animals found in the city limits of Morgan Hill to the San Martin based facility. The agreement will ensure that found animals receive sheltering, enrichment and veterinary care, including vaccinations, spay and neuter services, and microchipping. The county reached a similar agreement with the City of Gilroy earlier in 2018.

"This agreement will provide wonderful benefits to the residents and stray animals in Morgan Hill," said Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman. "The partnership allows the police to focus on public safety matters, while professionals in the animal industry care for our four-legged friends in need of help."

Historically, the Morgan Hill Police Department has been responsible for sheltering dogs within Morgan Hill. Additionally, the Morgan Hill Police Department was not positioned to accept cats or other domesticated pets. With the new shelter agreement, Morgan Hill residents can deliver stray animals to the County of Santa Clara Animal Shelter and be assured the animals will receive high-quality care and veterinary services.

"We don't have an animal shelter in Morgan Hill and I'm very grateful, with the help from city staff, that we have this contract in place with the county for all the residents of Morgan Hill," said Morgan Hill Councilmember Rene Spring.

The County of Santa Clara Animal Shelter takes in approximately 3,000 dogs and cats annually in addition to small animals and barnyard pets. The shelter is the only one in the county with the capability to house horses and large livestock. It accepts stray animals of all conditions and is proud of its "no-kill" live release rate of almost 93% in 2017, one of the best rates in the Bay Area. Caring staff and volunteers provide veterinary services, enrichment and affection to shelter pets while they wait to find families. The shelter is a member of the WeCARE coalition that promotes life-saving and animal welfare in the community.

The County of Santa Clara Animal Services department is located at 12370 Murphy Avenue in San Martin, CA, and can be reached at (408) 686-3900 or scc.animalshelter@cep.sccgov.org.

ABOUT THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

The County of Santa Clara government serves a diverse, multi-cultural population of 1.9 million residents in Santa Clara County, the fifth largest county in California. With a \$7 billion budget, more than 70 agencies/departments and 20,000 employees, the County of Santa Clara plans for the needs of a dynamic community, offers quality services, and promotes a healthy, safe and prosperous community for all. The County provides essential services including public health and environmental protection, medical services through Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC), child and adult protection services, homelessness prevention and solutions, roads, parks, libraries,

emergency response to disasters, protection of minority communities and those under threat, access to a fair criminal justice system, and scores of other services, particularly for those members of our community in the greatest need.

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