



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 6, 2026

### **California Adopt-A-Pet Day**

California has long been a leader in animal welfare, and we continue to set the standard by finding innovative, compassionate solutions to reduce overpopulation of animals in shelters across our state and place animals in loving homes.

To meet California's ambitious long-term goal that no healthy or treatable dog or cat is euthanized in an animal shelter, the state made a historic \$50 million investment to support our shelters' lifesaving efforts, including the essential services of spay, neuter, and adoptions. We have taken on the puppy mill pipeline that exploits and abuses animals while contributing to the overpopulation of pets.

In 2024, to steer away from potential puppy mills and to encourage critically needed adoptions from shelters, California launched the first statewide Adopt-A-Pet Day, that is held annually on the first Saturday of June. This is a collaborative effort among the California Animal Welfare Association, the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, bringing together shelters across the state in a shared mission to promote adoption and reduce overpopulation. This inaugural Adopt-A-Pet Day found homes for over 3,000 animals across the state, exceeding its goal of 2,024 adoptions. Last year, Adopt-A-Pet Day effectively met its goal of 5,000 adoptions statewide.

The mission to connect shelter animals in need of homes with caring families is ongoing. Together, we can continue to help tackle the pet overpopulation issue, with the result being thousands of loving relationships formed between Californians and their new family members, former shelter animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom