

Humane Society Creates Designer Habitats for Cats

Fifteen cat habitats at the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA are being redesigned to create a positive atmosphere for pet adoption.

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Being in a shelter does not mean that cats need to be in an uncomfortable, stress-ridden environment, according to the San Diego Humane Society and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

More than 40 designers from the American Society of Interior Designers, San Diego Chapter, are redesigning 15 cat habitats at the facility. The theme is "Dog Digs and Cat Cribbs — Décor and More for Those on Four."

Each designer, who will volunteer their time and materials, will create a unique space that will assist in providing a positive atmosphere for pet adoption. Whether it is a cityscape or a jungle motif, these habitats will not only entertain visitors, but also provide safe, comfortable and enriching environments for adoptable pets, according to the Humane Society.

Cats at the humane society live in spacious rooms with furniture to simulate a home environment. The humane society said that this housing method helps promote pets as part of the family and it lowers the cats' stress levels. In addition, it gives staff members more information about the cats' behaviors. The redesign will enhance these benefits.

The San Diego Humane Society and SPCA will be closed Jan. 21-25 for designer renovations. A private grand opening tour will be held Jan. 26 and the facility will open to the public with a grand opening celebration Jan. 27.