

**RE: Small Pet Transport to Arizona \*\*Update\*\***

Jessica Des Lauriers <jdeslauriers@sdhumane.org>

Fri 8/11/2023 10:08 AM

To:

Hi everyone,

As many of you know, bright and early this past Monday morning, we bid farewell to 318 of our small pets in the single largest transport in San Diego Humane Society history! We're thrilled to share that the transport was a success, and all of our tiny friends arrived safely at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona (HSSAZ). But what's even more exciting to share is that, as of today, more than half of these pets have already been adopted or placed with local schools.

Getting hundreds of guinea pigs, rats, hamsters and rabbits to our friends at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona (HSSAZ) was no small undertaking, and there were lots of moving pieces. But we knew that, in addition to helping to relieve crowding in our shelters, this move would give our tiniest friends the best chance of finding loving homes.

I want to take a moment to thank those of you who spent weeks, months and more caring for our long-term small pets. The care and love they received from you made a world of difference, and you helped make their second chance possible. And we're so grateful to everyone who woke up early to help prepare supplies, load trucks and get our animals off safely to their new lives.

As San Diego Humane Society continues to have more animals relying on us than ever before, it's critical that we continue to find new ways to give them the second chance they deserve. This transport was one way we were able to do that (and we're already getting ideas from our friends in Arizona about placements in local schools!).

Thank you all for your hard work and support!



**Jessica Des Lauriers, CAWA** | *Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer*  
**San Diego Humane Society** | 619-299-7012 ext. 2391 | [sdhumane.org](https://sdhumane.org)  
Pronouns: she/her/hers

## Update on our Arizona Small Animal Transport

Dr. Gary Weitzman <GWeitzman@sdhumane.org>

Fri 9/1/2023 8:49 AM

To:

Hello Everyone,

As you may have seen, our transport of 318 small animals to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona (HSSA) has been getting some attention online and in the media. While attention about the largest transport in San Diego Humane Society's history is to be expected, some members of the community have expressed questions that may be perplexing to see. We'd like to provide you with additional information about the transport and reassure you that our partners at HSSA have confirmed that all of the animals involved are safe and thriving.

On Aug. 7, we transported 318 rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and rats to our partners at HSSA. They've since shared that they immediately placed all 318 animals with a local private rescue, with which they have been partnering for more than 10 years. We've been told that the rescue requested to remain anonymous, and in the spirit of good partnership, HSSA is not releasing their information publicly. Of the 318 animals initially transported, we are told that 245 have been adopted, 72 remain available and 1 rabbit has been returned to HSSA for ongoing medical care.

We understand the desire of our staff, volunteers and community to know more detail about these animals – especially knowing that many of you spent days, weeks, months or longer caring for them. The questions being asked, and the investment in the welfare of these small pets, is a testament to the compassion of animal lovers both here in San Diego and in Arizona. We want to share as much information as we've got — and we can reassure you that HSSA, a 79-year-old animal welfare organization, has a deep and long-standing commitment to act in the best interests of animals. They generously came to our aid when we put out a call for assistance, and we're grateful for their support.

We have created a web page dedicated to information about the small pet transport, complete with pictures which will be updated as we get more in from their new homes! Please visit [sdhumane.org/transportupdate](https://sdhumane.org/transportupdate) to learn more.

Thank you all for your dedication to our animals. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to us!

Have a great holiday weekend, no matter which days it falls on for you. And, as usual, a big thanks to everyone taking care of our animals this weekend!

*Gary and Jessica*



**Gary Weitzman, DVM, MPH, CAWA** | *President and CEO*  
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