Best Pet Store: Petco

Find everything your furry friends need at Petco, from toys, treats, and comfort items to veterinary care, grooming, and animal adoptions. This pet-centered giant also offers smaller pets, including fish, reptiles, birds, and more. (www.petco.com)

Best Veterinary Clinic: The Drake Center For Veterinary Care

For more than two decades, The Drake Center for Veterinary Care in Encinitas has combined exceptional customer service with premier pet care, using cutting-edge equipment and techniques. Services include sick and emergency care, surgery, dentistry, acupuncture, diet and

nutrition education, and more. (760/753-9393, www.thedrakecenter.com)

Best Pet Adoption Organization: Helen Woodward Animal Center

Last year, HWAC worked its magic rehabilitating and caring for thousands of animals with medical care, spaying and neutering, and microchipping, and finding homes with loving owners for over 2,600 rescued and orphaned pets.

(858/756-4117, www.animalcenter.org)

Best Pet Groomer: Dog In Suds

A repeat winner, Dog In Suds in Encinitas' loyal clientele trust owner Denise Dudek and her skilled team of grooming experts, who receive rave reviews for their customer service, friendly demeanor, and expert care. (760/943-0653)

Best Doggie Daycare: Markim Pet Resort

A repeat readers' favorite, Markim Pet Resort, under the helm of new owners Salem and Luz Flores, is set on nine acres in Carmel Valley offering one-on-one play with a staff member, buddy play yards, Cutting Edge K9 Rehab swimming therapy, Leash on Fitness classes, Camp Run-A-Muck, and more. (858/481-3881, www.markimpet.com)



Best Domestic Staffing Service: Seaside Nannies

A reader's favorite for the second year in a row, Dara B. Green's nanny service specializes in determining the perfect match between family and nanny through a personal approach and individualized assessments of personality and needs. (619/384-5505, www.seasidenannies.com)

Best Retirement Community: La Costa Glen

La Costa Glen offers security, independent living, and top-notch amenities including card rooms, two billiard rooms, computer lab, short game golf, bocce ball courts, indoor and outdoor pool and spa, two fitness centers, and more, all contained securely on 55 pristine acres of natural beauty. (760/704-6000, www.lacostaglen.com)

