



Cassie Davidson
Director of Communications,
Humane Society of North Texas
1840 East Lancaster Ave. Fort Worth, Texas 76103
Cell: 817-909-0667 Email: cdavidson@hsnt.org

Media Alert

The Humane Society of North Texas Is Taking Precautions to Prevent Possible Spread of Distemper In Its Shelter

Media Alert: Fort Worth, Texas, July 1st, 2021 – The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) has become aware that dogs recently housed in its shelter have tested positive for distemper. At this time, there are not any confirmed cases in the shelter; but, out of an abundance of caution, HSNT will be closing all of its locations for intake of all animals, adoptions of dogs at *all* locations, and transport of dogs for the next two weeks in order to medically supervise and take care of the hundreds of dogs currently in its care. HSNT will be testing all dogs showing signs of upper respiratory illness for distemper.

Additional Information: HSNT's cat and small animal adoptions will be open at all locations as cats, small animals and humans are not at risk for becoming ill due to the virus. HSNT's Saxe-Forte (Fort Worth), Benbrook Waggin' Tails, Keller Regional, and Keller Welcome Home locations will have cats, kittens and small animals available for adoption. HSNT will also continue to adopt cats at the PetSmart Ridgmar, PetSmart Montgomery Plaza, PetSmart Bryant Irvin, and PetSmart Lake Worth locations. Scheduled offsite adoption events at local PetSmart and Petco stores will continue with cat, kitten and small animal adoptions only. Additionally, HSNT's Clinic will remain open to the public as it is located in a separate building with separate staff, and has no interaction with HSNT's shelter dogs.

HSNT strongly encourages the public to make sure all pets are current on required vaccinations. Vaccines are VERY effective and important to protect your pet from distemper. It is especially important to ensure new pets are initially separated from existing pets in the household for approximately seven to ten days. Puppies should be vaccinated at 6-8 weeks and then every 2-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age. In the shelter, HSNT begins vaccinations at 4 weeks due to it being a higher risk environment. Please contact HSNT at 817-332-4768 or your local veterinarian if you have any questions concerning this message.

Resources:

[Distemper in Dogs - Veterinary Partner - VIN](#)
[Canine Distemper \(CDV\) - University of Wisconsin Madison Shelter Medicine Program \(\[uwsheltermedicine.com\]\(http://uwsheltermedicine.com\)\)](#)

About the Humane Society of North Texas

Since 1905, the Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) has worked to eliminate animal cruelty, promote humane values and end animal homelessness in North Texas. As an independent nonprofit organization, HSNT relies on the generosity of the public to help ensure there is a safe place for abused, injured, and homeless animals in the community. To make a lifesaving donation, please visit hsnt.org/donate or [Facebook](#). To learn more about HSNT, [visit hsnt.org](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [TikTok](#).