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The Humane Society of North Texas Temporarily Suspends Dog Adoptions and Dog Intake Services to Prevent Possible Spread of Distemper in Its Facilities

Fort Worth, Texas, November 10th, 2022 – The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) has temporarily closed its dog adoptions and intake services at all locations until further notice due to an exposure to the distemper virus, which is a highly contagious and serious virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous system of puppies and dogs.

At this time, two dogs have tested positive for distemper and been placed in quarantine. Every dog in HSNT's facilities showing potential signs of illness is being tested for the virus. Dog adoptions and dog intakes will resume once all dogs suspected of exposure to the virus have tested negative.

All dogs entering HSNT's facilities are vaccinated on intake for the distemper virus; however, vaccines cannot protect dogs that have already contracted distemper before entering the shelter. If you recently adopted a dog from HSNT and it is showing signs of upper respiratory illness, please consult your veterinarian immediately and notify the Humane Society of North Texas at 817.332.4768.

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 Kaufman County Pet Adoption Center 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, PetSmart Lake Worth, and Petco Terrell 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 \(uwsheltermedicine.com\)](#)

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](https://hsnt.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [TikTok](#).

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