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Media Alert: Update 5

Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) Clears First Group of Dogs Previously Testing Positive for Distemper

HSNT Will Open for Cat Intakes & Small Animals on Sunday, August 15th

Media Alert: Fort Worth, Texas, August 14th, 2021 – The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) is thrilled to report that its medical team has cleared the first group of dogs that previously tested positive for distemper. Four dogs have now received two negative tests and will soon be available for adoption. Many more distemper dogs have received a first negative test and are on the road to recovery. HSNT is currently treating over 50 dogs for distemper, which is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks a dog’s respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems.

To help save every possible pet, HSNT has incurred significant costs to test and treat the dogs with distemper over the last seven weeks, with many more weeks of care ahead. Each test costs about \$100 and approximately 650 tests have been conducted so far on HSNT’s entire population of dogs. Additionally, each positive distemper dog will receive over \$100 of medications to help save the precious pup. To make a lifesaving donation, please visit hsnt.org/donate.

HSNT remains open for adoptions at its Keller Regional, Keller Welcome Home, and Benbrook Waggin’ Tails facilities to dogs that were fully vaccinated prior to the outbreak, or have tested negative for distemper. Many of these dogs have been in HSNT’s care for several months and need to find their forever homes. To view available pets, or make an appointment to meet a pet you are interested in adopting, visit hsnt.org or call 817-332-4768 for additional information.

To help relieve stress on other local shelters that are over capacity, HSNT will open for intakes of surrendered or stray cats and small animals on Sunday, August 15th. Appointments can be made by visiting <https://www.hsnt.org/rehoming-or-surrendering-a-pet>, calling 817-332-4768 x106 or emailing animalresource@hsnt.org. *HSNT will remain closed for dog intakes until more distemper dogs are cleared.*

Additional Information: HSNT’s cat and small animal adoptions continue to be open at all locations as cats, small animals, and humans are not at risk for becoming ill due to the virus. HSNT also continues 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 vaccinates all pets on intake; however, vaccines cannot protect dogs that have already contracted distemper before entering the shelter as owner surrenders or strays. HSNT strongly encourages the public to make sure all pets in the home 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.

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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