



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: Update 4

Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) Is Cautiously Optimistic After No New Distemper Cases in Ten Days

HSNT Staff Are Providing Individualized Care for 48 Dogs with Distemper

Media Alert: Fort Worth, Texas, July 26, 2021 – The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) is cautiously optimistic that the tide has turned on the number of distemper cases at its shelter. HSNT has not had a new positive case in more than 10 days after testing approximately 300 dogs in its care. HSNT is currently treating 48 dogs that have tested positive for distemper, which is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks a dog's respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. HSNT will continue to remain closed for intake of all animals until further notice while staff focuses on treating the impacted dogs.

HSNT's staff are doing whatever it takes to ensure the dogs and puppies with distemper receive the nutrition and medicine they need to build up their strength to fight off the disease. Many dogs need to be hand-fed eggs, chicken and rice lovingly prepared by staff and volunteers. HSNT's medical team is administering antibiotics and other medicines to nurse these precious pets back to health. All positive dogs will be periodically retested to gauge how they are shedding the virus over the next two to four months – so these dogs and puppies still have a very long road to recovery ahead of them. Every dog with distemper will need to receive two negative tests, at least one week apart, before it will be available for adoption.

The extensive care for the dogs with distemper is extremely costly to maintain over an extended period of time. Each test costs approximately \$100, plus the expense of daily medicines needed to treat the dogs and puppies. To make a lifesaving donation, please visit hsnt.org/donate.

HSNT has opened adoptions at its Keller Regional, Keller Welcome Home, and Benbrook Waggin' Tails facilities to 45 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.

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's Saxe-Forte (Fort Worth), Benbrook Waggin' Tails, Keller Regional, and Keller Welcome Home locations have cats, kittens, and small animals available for adoption. 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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