 **Media Alert: Update**

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**Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) Postpones the July MEGA Adoption Event at the Will Rogers Memorial Center While Awaiting Distemper Test Results**

**HSNT Is Isolating Any Dogs in Its Shelter that May Have Been Exposed to Distemper**

**­Media Alert:** Fort Worth, Texas, July 9, 2021 – The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) is postponing the MEGA Adoption Event originally scheduled for July 24th & 25th, 2021 at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in conjunction with the Fort Worth Animal Shelter. The MEGA Adoption Event will be rescheduled in the future.

HSNT is currently isolating more than 350 dogs in its shelter or in foster care that may have been exposed to dogs testing positive for distemper, which is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous system of puppies and dogs. HSNT is still waiting on the complete results of tests to understand the scope of the issue and is treating all dogs and puppies currently showing signs of illness. Approximately 20-25 dogs at HSNT that were fully vaccinated prior to any dog subsequently testing positive for distemper are being transferred to the Keller Regional Adoption Center where they will be available for adoption. HSNT has closed intake of all animals until further notice.

**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 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 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](https://hsnt.org/donate/) or [Facebook.](https://www.facebook.com/HumaneSocietyofNorthTexas/) To learn more about HSNT, [visit hsnt.org](https://www.hsnt.org/), [Facebook,](https://www.facebook.com/HumaneSocietyofNorthTexas/) [Twitter](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csguli%5CDownloads%5Ctwitter.com%5Chsnt1), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/humanesocietyofnorthtexas/?hl=en), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/humane-society-of-north-texas) and [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/%40humanesocietyntx?lang=en).

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