



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 3

Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) Is Treating 45 Dogs for Distemper

HSNT Staff Is Working Overtime to Isolate and Treat All Impacted Dogs

Media Alert: Fort Worth, Texas, July 15, 2021 – The Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) is currently treating 45 dogs in its shelter for distemper. HSNT will continue to remain closed for intake of all animals until further notice while staff focuses on treating all dogs and puppies with confirmed or suspected cases of distemper or other respiratory illnesses. More than 150 dogs are currently under some form of medical care in the shelter. Another 190 dogs and puppies are being isolated in the shelter or foster care to help prevent the spread of distemper, which is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks a dog's respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems.

Approximately 20 dogs that were fully vaccinated at HSNT prior to any dog testing positive for distemper are available for adoption at the Keller Regional Adoption Center. Many of these dogs have been in HSNT's care for more than three months and desperately need a loving home.

The Dallas/Fort Worth community has rallied to help HSNT with monetary and in-kind donations, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), blankets, eggs, rice, chicken and chicken broth. Staff and volunteers have cooked chicken, rice, and eggs for dogs that are struggling to eat and they are being hand-fed to help ensure they receive needed nutrition. Going forward, monetary donations will help with additional testing and treatment for impacted dogs. To make a lifesaving donation, please visit hsnt.org/donate. The Murrell Foundation, a local family foundation, made a \$5,000 grant to HSNT to help save the precious puppies and dogs.

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 or [Facebook](#). To learn more about HSNT, [visit hsnt.org](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [TikTok](#).###