

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County
Shelter Has Reopened for Cat Adoptions After Beating Virus!**

TACOMA, WA – The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County has reopened cat adoptions after being declared clear of Feline Panleukopenia.

In early February, the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County took the precaution of stopping cat adoptions after four cats brought into the shelter were tested positive for Feline Panleukopenia (FP). FP can be fatal for cats, but the Humane Society vaccinates each pet upon entry and vaccination is a critical tool for preventing FP. The vaccine starts working immediately and can provide immunity within hours to days.

‘The great news is that despite having 96 cats in the shelter when the first cats tested positive for FP no other animals have shown symptoms, and we now have the all-clear from our Veterinary Department’ said Stuart Earley, Chief Executive Officer. ‘This demonstrates the effectiveness of a comprehensive vaccination program and shows how important it is for pet owners to ensure that their vaccinations are up to date.’

‘The worrying thing is that the cats who tested positive were already infected when they came into the shelter,’ said Earley. ‘And there are indications that Feline Panleukopenia is prevalent in our local communities and everyone needs to make sure that their pets are protected. Pet owners should begin vaccinations at eight weeks in kittens and provide boosters every 3-4 weeks until about 16 weeks of age or older. Adults should be seen annually for any booster shots that might be needed.’

‘Panleuk can be fatal for cats, but they have the best chance of survival if we all work together to help stop the spread of this deadly diseases with appropriate vaccinations for our pets,’ said Stuart Earley, Chief Executive Officer.

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About the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County

Since 1888, The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County has worked to protect animals, eliminate pet euthanasia, support pet owners, and enhance the relationships between animals and people. The Humane Society shelters nearly 10,000 animals every year and maintains more than a dozen humane programs, including a low-cost spay/neuter service, a Pet Food Pantry, and pet adoptions. The Humane Society adopts more animals than any other shelter in the state of Washington and has long been at the forefront of progressive animal welfare legislation.

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