

For Immediate Release
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LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER SAVES SLICED OPEN KITTEN

A 9-week-old kitten is recovering after being brought to the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County with a sliced open abdomen.

TACOMA, WA – On March 15, a 9-week-old kitten arrived at the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County with a sliced open abdomen and exposed internal organs.



Patches with open and infected wound.

The kitten, named Patches, arrived weak and in pain with severe infection covering his internal organs. The shelter's veterinary team provided emergency surgery to clean and close the wound. Antibiotics were administered to stop the spread of the infection.

A pelvic radiograph revealed fractures to both of Patches' hips that may require surgery to repair.

The cause of the physical trauma is unknown.

Patches is currently recovering in a foster home and is being monitored. Additional procedures may be needed from the shelter's veterinary team, such as surgery to address his hip pain.

In 2022, the shelter cared for over 2,600 homeless kittens and more kittens are expected to arrive this year. In fact, the number of kittens brought to the shelter in need of care increased by 17% from 2021 to 2022.

As spring marks the start of kitten season, the shelter expects to spend over \$62,000 in the next several months on caring for kittens and pregnant mother cats. To prepare, the shelter is hosting its Annual Virtual Kitten Shower until March 31, 2023. The community can participate by donating funds and supplies to care for kittens, just like Patches, through the shelter's Amazon Wishlist Kitten Registry found on the shelter's website at: www.thehumanesociety.org/kitten-shower.

Donations can also be made year-round to help pets in need on the shelter's website at: www.thehumanesociety.org/donate.

About the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County

One of the oldest animal welfare organizations in the nation, the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County, cares for around 10,000 animals every year and maintains multiple humane programs. Dedicated to "Making Happy Happen," the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County works tirelessly

to protect animals, support pet owners, and enhance relationships between animals and people. Learn more at www.thehumanesociety.org.

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