



**For immediate release**

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### **LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER WAIVES ADOPTION FEES DUE TO OVERPOPULATION**

TACOMA, WA – In response to a surge in animal intake, the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County is waiving adoption fees for all adult dogs, adult cats, and critters from Nov. 17 – 19. Currently, the shelter is caring for over 280 animals at the shelter plus an additional 161 in foster homes.

“As one of the few open-admission animal shelters in the state, we take in animals no matter their age, breed, or medical and behavioral needs. We also often have a large number of animals in urgent need brought to us from animal control,” says Leslie Dalzell, chief executive officer at the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County. “Every empty kennel is immediately filled with another pet desperately in need of care!”

Community members can help by adopting a pet during the shelter’s adoption promotion. Every adoptable pet has had a wellness exam from shelter staff, been spayed or neutered, received their initial vaccines, and is microchipped with national registration. To view all adoptable shelter pets, please visit [www.thehumanesociety.org/adopt](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/adopt).

“When our community adopts pets from our shelter, it directly impacts our ability to care for more pets that have nowhere else to go,” says Dalzell. “Our community can also help with reuniting lost pets with their family. Most lost pets are found less than a mile from home, and many lost pets brought to shelters are never reunited with their families.”

For lost animals, the shelter has an [appointment-based intake system](#) in alignment with guidelines from veterinary experts, nationally recognized animal welfare organizations, and disease control experts. The consent-based system reduces the high volume of animals at the shelter at one time and allows the shelter to provide owner reunification support for lost pets while preventing them from entering the shelter.

To aid in creating space, the community is encouraged to take the following steps when finding a lost pet:

1. Provide the pet with a temporary home, if possible.
2. Walk the dog around the area – most dogs don’t wander far from home!
3. Have the pet scanned for a microchip at your local veterinary clinic.

4. Post online and put up signage around your community to help locate the owners.
5. Call the shelter to give our staff a description of the pet for it to be included in our found pet records.

Information on what to do when finding a lost pet and how keeping a lost pet out of a shelter environment is most ideal can be found at [www.thehumanesociety.org/lost-pets](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/lost-pets).

The community can also help by donating to support the shelter's lifesaving medical efforts and to continue caring for the many pets in need: [www.thehumanesociety.org/donate](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/donate).

### **About the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County**

As 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](http://www.thehumanesociety.org).

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