

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **OVER 50 DOGS & CATS CONFISCATED IN ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATION ARRIVE AT LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER**

*The Large-Scale Rescue Pushes the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County Beyond Their Limits as Dog Capacity Reaches a New High.*

TACOMA, Wash. – On Dec. 16, Pierce County Animal Control confiscated animals from a single property as part of an ongoing animal cruelty investigation. Among them, 36 dogs and 23 cats were brought to the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County for care.

The dogs and cats vary in breed and age, and their physical condition is still being assessed. As the investigation is ongoing, further details cannot be disclosed at this time.

The open-admission shelter has faced capacity challenges over the past year, including a [crisis last month](#) when the shelter, with 89 dog kennels, was caring for nearly 130 dogs, plus almost 70 more in foster homes.

Following this rescue effort, the shelter is caring for 147 dogs on-site, plus nearly 100 in foster homes, marking the highest total number of dogs the shelter has managed in the past seven years. This influx is pushing the shelter's resources to their limits as they work to provide essential care for each animal.

"We're grateful to support our animal control partners and provide care for pets from cases like these, but taking in this many dogs on top of the number already in our care places tremendous strain on our staff, resources, and outdated facility," says Leslie Dalzell, Chief Executive Officer at the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County. "With our shelter already grappling with capacity, this influx requires creative problem-solving from our staff and, most importantly, the community's support to help us manage this record-breaking number of dogs."

### **Ways to Help**

**Donate:** Donations are urgently needed to continue providing care for the nearly 60 dogs and cats rescued from this ongoing animal cruelty investigation, and the thousands of lost, injured, and neglected animals the shelter helps each year. Monetary donations can be made on the shelter's website at [www.thehumanesociety.org/59-pets](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/59-pets).

**Adopt:** With 147 dogs in the shelter's care, adopters are desperately needed to provide loving homes and create life-changing space for animals in need at the shelter. To view all animals available for adoption, visit the shelter's website at [www.thehumanesociety.org/adopt](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/adopt).

**Foster:** For those not able to adopt, the shelter is seeking volunteers who are able to foster dogs. Foster volunteers provide a temporary safe space for a dog in need, while the shelter provides all the supplies and ongoing veterinary care. Learn more about the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County's foster program by visiting the shelter's website at [www.thehumanesociety.org/get-involved/foster](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/get-involved/foster).

**Help Reunite Lost Pets With Their Owners:** Help prevent animals from entering the shelter by temporarily caring for found animals, while taking steps to assist with reuniting them with their families. If you have lost or found an animal, visit the shelter's Lost & Found Pets resources at [www.thehumanesociety.org/lostpets](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/lostpets).

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

The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County was founded by a handful of compassionate community members and has grown into one of the state's largest animal welfare agencies. Each year, we find loving homes for more than 6,000 pets, reunite over 1,100 animals with their overjoyed owners, and provide care for thousands more in our community. Additionally, we offer several comprehensive programs and resources, including Spay/Neuter & Wellness Vouchers, a monthly Vaccine & Wellness Clinic, a Pet Food & Supply Pantry, behavior advice, and private rehoming services. Learn more at [www.thehumanesociety.org](http://www.thehumanesociety.org).

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