

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **THE HUMANE SOCIETY FOR TACOMA & PIERCE COUNTY WAIVES DOG ADOPTION FEES TO ADDRESS RECORD-BREAKING CAPACITY CRISIS**

TACOMA, Wash. – The Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County is waiving adoption fees for dogs one year and older as it faces a [record-breaking dog capacity crisis](#), with 264 dogs under its care—the highest number in seven years.

Following a large-scale intake from a Pierce County Animal Control cruelty investigation on Dec. 16, dog kennels are overcapacity, with office spaces repurposed to house multiple dogs. To create life-changing space, the shelter is waiving adoption fees for all dogs one year and older from Thursday, Jan. 2, through Sunday, Jan. 5. Licensing fees may still apply.

“Our facility is not equipped to meet the increasing needs of the animals of our community,” says Lauren Green, Director of Marketing and Communications at the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County.

The largest open-admission shelter in the state, the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County hasn’t been renovated since the 1990s.

Members of the public are encouraged to adopt a dog during the four-day adoption promotion to help ease the strain and make room for new arrivals.

“As a rare open-admission shelter, we cannot predict the timing or the number of animals arriving each day in need of a lifeline,” adds Green. “Ensuring we have the space and the resources to provide the care they need is crucial. We’re turning to our community to help us create space while giving a dog a new lease on life heading into the new year.”

Every adoptable dog has received a wellness exam from shelter staff, initial vaccinations, is microchipped with national registration, and will be spayed or neutered before adoption. For dogs awaiting spay or neuter surgery, the shelter offers a foster-to-adopt option, allowing families to take the dog home the same day and return for surgery, at no additional cost, within a designated period.

Currently, there are more than 60 dogs available for adoption. To view all available dogs, visit the shelter’s website: [www.thehumanesociety.org/adoptable-pet-category/dogs](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/adoptable-pet-category/dogs).

### **Additional Ways to Support**

**Foster:** For those unable to adopt, the shelter is seeking foster volunteers who are able to provide a temporary safe space for a dog in need, while the shelter provides all supplies and ongoing veterinary care. Learn more about fostering at [www.thehumanesociety.org/get-involved/foster](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/get-involved/foster).

**Temporarily Care for Lost and Found Pets:** Prevent animals from entering the shelter through owner reunification efforts. Check for ID tags, post signs in the neighborhood where the pet was found, and use local lost-and-found platforms to help reunite the pet with their family. The shelter can assist by

scanning for a microchip, posting found pets on its website, and providing additional support to facilitate reunification. Additionally, the shelter can provide food, supplies, and crates (while supplies last). For more information and resources, visit [www.thehumanesociety.org/lost-and-found-pets](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/lost-and-found-pets).

**Donate:** The community can provide much-needed resources to fund the continued admission of animals requiring shelter, care, and medical attention. Donations made before midnight on Tuesday, Dec. 31, will be tripled thanks to a \$110,000 matching gift pooled from the Joan Webb Memorial Fund, Svane's Foundation, and another anonymous donor. To donate, visit: [www.thehumanesociety.org/donate](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/donate).

### **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, the shelter finds 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, the shelter offers 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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