

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **TACOMA ANIMAL SHELTER CELEBRATES 135-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

*As one of the oldest humane societies in the U.S., the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County celebrates their 135-year anniversary and upcoming Proclamation Day on August 24<sup>th</sup>.*

TACOMA, WA – On Aug. 22, the Pierce County Council proclaimed Aug. 24, 2023 as the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County Day in honor of the shelter's 135-year anniversary and unique history.

The organization was founded in 1888 during Tacoma's frontier era. A drunken logger brought a bear cub to a local street corner and began kicking him to perform tricks. Tacoma's Justice of the Peace was summoned, and the logger was arrested.



*Jack the black bear cub became a local legend in 1888.*

Shortly after, a group of town leaders met to form what is now called the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County, and is now one of the oldest in the country.

"Over the course of these 135 years, our animal shelter has stood as a beacon of hope for countless animals who found themselves in need of care, love, and a second chance," says Leslie Dalzell, chief executive officer at the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County.

In 2022, the shelter cared for over 8,500 animals and found placement for over 6,000 animals. The shelter has also experienced several capacity emergencies due to an influx of animals in need and limited space over the past few years.

"As we look back on our history, we also look ahead to the future, recognizing the challenges and opportunities that lie before us, such as the pressing need for a new facility to meet the growing needs of our community," says Dalzell. "While we celebrate the accomplishments of the past, we are working to create a brighter future for animal welfare in Pierce County."

In honor of this milestone, Petco Love is matching donations for the shelter's Day of Giving event, by quadrupling every donation up to \$75,000 from now until August 24<sup>th</sup> at midnight. That means a donation for animals in need will go four times as far to save even more pets in urgent need.

Donations can be made on the shelter's website at: [www.thehumanesociety.org/day-of-giving](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/day-of-giving).

More information regarding the shelter's history can be found on the shelter's website at: [www.thehumanesociety.org/honoring-our-135-year-history-and-paving-a-future-together](http://www.thehumanesociety.org/honoring-our-135-year-history-and-paving-a-future-together)

**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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