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Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear friend of Kitsap Humane Society and the animals,

While our shelter is a place for rescued animals, **KHS is also an extremely busy public venue.** During normal times, we'll see up to 1,000 people *per week* entering the shelter: staff, volunteers, prospective adopters, low-cost clinic customers and other visitors.

In light of the rapidly changing situation around COVID-19 and the recent restrictions on public gatherings set in place to slow the spread of the disease, Kitsap Humane Society will restrict access by the public to ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers and visitors.

Kitsap Humane Society will remain open for adoptions but only on a limited basis.

Our primary focus will be on the rescue, care and rehoming of our community's many stray animals – who continue to enter our doors daily. To ensure that animals find homes, we will continue to adopt animals out, but are limiting the number of prospective adopters coming into the Pet Adoption Center to just three (3) customers at a time. We are also limiting surrenders and returns of animals based on an assessment of need, and by appointment only. And we have suspended all low-cost spay neuter appointments until further notice.

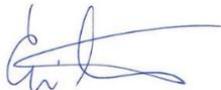
During these more limited operations, we are constantly disinfecting and sanitizing, washing hands, requiring staff and volunteers to stay home if feeling unwell, and upholding standards for social distancing (minimum of 6 feet) to minimize risks for our personnel. Please note that none of our employees or volunteers have reported testing positive for COVID-19.

We have dozens of pets who are patiently awaiting their forever homes and relying on us to give them the care they need. Our commitment to serving these helpless animals and our community will remain steadfast as we push through these uncertain times. Despite the circumstances, we encourage you to open your hearts to the animals at our shelter looking for their forever homes.

Please note that [the WSAVA \(World Small Animal Veterinary Association\) Global Veterinary Community](#)—an association representing more than 200,000 veterinarians—states that there is no evidence that pet dogs or cats can be a source of infection to other animals or to humans. We encourage you to regularly consult the websites for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [World Health Organization](#).

For the latest updates on COVID-19 in Kitsap County, go to <https://kitsappublichealth.org/CommunityHealth/CoronaVirus.php>

Sincerely,



Eric Stevens
Executive Director