



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

**THE TIMES OF COVID ARE CHANGING AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF KITCHENER
WATERLOO & STRATFORD PERTH IS GETTING READY**

KITCHENER, ONTARIO (Friday, May 15, 2020) - The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (KWSPHS) is readying new ways of work as Ontario communities open up for services and business.

“The Premier stated today that businesses should open only if they are ready,” stresses Kathrin Delutis, Executive Director, “and we are getting ready. The health and safety of our staff and volunteers is a priority, as is the safety of the public we serve. We are confident too that our donors who have supported the animals generously these past two months expect no less of us”.

For now, KWSPHS will remain closed to the public. Service to the community continues as it has for several weeks given that KWSPHS has been an essential service. These services include

- Receiving animals at risk identified by Provincial Inspectors and Waterloo Regional Police Service.
- Responding to calls of animals in distress.
- Receiving animals requiring emergency care.
- Receiving emergency surrenders and surrender of animals otherwise at risk for neglect and abandonment.
- Supporting pets and their families with end of life support to alleviate pain, distress, and discomfort at the end of life.
- Offering compassionate boarding for pets belonging to person who might be hospitalized for COVID-19 treatment and for whom there are no pet care alternatives.
- Coordinating and opening of the Waterloo Region Emergency Pet Food Bank in partnership with KW Pet Food Bank and Cambridge Humane Society.
- Providing minimal contact adoptions for pet companions ready for their forever home.
- Supporting our fosters and community with telemedicine support and pet behavioral advice to keep people and pets together.

The KWSPHS has already started working on a post COVID-19 Emergency State recovery plan guided by distancing and other directives of local and Provincial public health authorities. The KWSPHS is ensuring a robust supply of personal protective equipment, re-assessing patient flow in the Animal Hospital and Spay and Neuter Clinic, and where possible, changing up staff and public flow pathways in our buildings. Web cams will enable meaningful staff meetings without face-to-face gatherings for the time being, and some staff will continue to work remotely. Classes, clinics, and fundraising events will only resume when it is safe for the public to gather in numbers great than 5 persons.

“There is no time like the present to make changes that may have been contemplated and are now demonstrated to work well.” Delutis goes on to say.

“We are extremely grateful for the support of our donors especially since the advent of the COVID-19. Donors are supporting innovative service, new service, and the requisites for safe service, all to advance a humane community, always. And for this we sincerely thank them”.

To learn about access to programs, including our Spay/Neuter clinic, emergency pet food bank, adoptions and online fundraising initiatives, please message info@kwsphumane.ca or visit our website at www.kwsphumane.ca

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The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth is a leader in animal welfare in our communities, focusing on what is in the best interest of the pets. We do this through community education, advocacy, care, and compliance. Charitable BIN 11898 3550 RR0001

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