



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

**HUMANE SOCIETY'S EMERGENCY BOARDING PROGRAM SUPPORTS
PEOPLE AND PETS WHO HAVE NO OTHER PLACE TO GO**

KITCHENER, ONTARIO: The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (KWSPHS) wants to help people and pets stay together during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their emergency boarding program currently offers support to pet owners who are faced with a personal emergency and have nowhere else to turn. While the program has been in place for Waterloo Region and Perth County residents for a number of years, the Humane Society has also prepared to assist those hospitalized or severely affected by the pandemic.

"We recognize that some pet owners may become ill or require hospitalization, and may not have anyone to look after their pets," stated Kathrin Delutis, executive director, KWSPHS. "Our program exists to relieve that stress, allow individuals to focus on getting the help they need, and when ready, be reunited with their pet."

KWSPHS' program offers pet owners short-term housing for their pet(s) including cats, dogs, small animals and birds. It is offered in partnership with various social agencies and emergency services. Individuals or families working with these agencies can access emergency boarding services for a temporary period. Partnering referral agencies include social agencies, family and children's services, police/fire/EMS, homeless shelters, women's shelters, hospitals and more.

"We have received five requests for emergency boarding in the last few weeks, with three requests coming in this past Monday," stated Amanda Hawkins, senior manager of animal care, KWSPHS. "We don't know if this number will rise, but we are prepared to help those pets that need us."

KWSPHS is strongly urging pet owners to have a pet care plan in place BEFORE a personal emergency arises. This plan should include medication instructions, vaccination information, vet information and feeding instructions. A downloadable template can be found on the humane society's COVID-19 update page at kwsphumane.ca. Owners should download and complete one form per pet, provide to their back-up caregivers (2-3 recommended), or leave in a highly visible location in their home.

KWSPHS is also offering relief in the form of food and animal supplies through the Waterloo Region Emergency Pet Food Bank. Formed under the Waterloo Region Pandemic Planning Committee, the initiative is offered by KWSPHS, the KW Pet Food Bank and the Cambridge & District Humane Society. KWSPHS is also running an Emergency Pet Food Bank out of their Stratford Perth Humane Society location, serving Perth County residents.

For more information on the Humane Society's emergency boarding program, pet care plan template or your local emergency pet food bank, visit kwsphumane.ca.

- 30 -

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

For more information or for media inquiries please contact:

Calla James

Senior Manager, Marketing and Communications

519-745-5615 ext 257 | calla.james@kwsphumane.ca
