



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

**HUMANE SOCIETY CLOSES ANIMAL CENTRES
AND MOVES TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES ONLY**

KITCHENER, ONTARIO: The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (KWSPHS) is closing both of its centres in Kitchener and Stratford and moving to essential services only until further notice. Following the announcement made by Premier Ford yesterday, animal welfare organizations were deemed an essential service. As a direct result of that announcement, the humane society has changed its services to the following (effective March 25, 2020):

- Animal control – emergency services including sick/injured animals, dangerous/vicious animals, support for emergency services (police, fire, EMS).
- Lost and Found Services – calls from the public to report lost or found animals. The public is urged to call to file a report right away.
- Stray drop-off services – community members **MUST** call the centre to make an appointment to bring a stray in.
- Emergency boarding services
- Cremation services – community members **MUST** call the centre to make an appointment in advance.

The organization's essential services also includes the general care and veterinary care of the animals in their facilities. A dedicated essential staff team will remain in place to care for the animals, while other animals will move into foster care until adoptions can resume.

"We are very happy that the Ontario government has named animal welfare organizations as an essential service," stated Kathrin Delutis, executive director, The Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth Humane Society. "It's an unprecedented time, and there are still animals relying on us for support."

Residents with questions for either centre should call the humane society directly at 519-745-5615. Those looking for their lost pet or looking to reclaim their pet **MUST** call in advance.

The humane society is also hoping that community members will make a donation if they are financially able. Being a charity, the organization relies on programs, events and fundraising activities to fund their lifesaving efforts. With activities cancelled or postponed until further notice, the humane society is incurring a loss of critical revenue.

For more details, or to read the most current update, please visit 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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