



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

**HUMANE SOCIETY OF KITCHENER WATERLOO & STRATFORD PERTH SEEING
HIGHER NUMBER OF STRAY AND ABANDONED RABBITS**

KITCHENER, ONTARIO: The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth received six stray rabbits this past weekend, with five of them believed to be abandoned at the Kitchener Waterloo Animal Centre overnight on Sunday, April 3rd. When staff arrived at the centre on Monday morning, they found the rabbits loose outside. They are now caring for 18 rabbits across their Kitchener and Stratford centres and foster homes.

“We’ve had an increasing number of requests for rabbit surrenders over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, with 34 rabbits on our waiting list at the moment,” stated Amanda Hawkins, senior manager of animal care. “Abandoning an animal is not only extremely dangerous for their health and well-being but can also be deemed an offence under provincial legislation. We are here to support our communities and are trying to bring rabbits in as fast as we have space and foster homes to assist us.”

The rabbits have all had wellness exams, and the humane society is hoping to place them in foster homes shortly. At the moment, their greatest needs are:

- Wishlist items such as fresh greens, timothy and alfalfa hay, rabbit chew toys and pet store gift cards for other essentials.
- Foster homes to help care for the rabbits.
- Monetary donations to help cover medical expenses like spay/neuter surgeries.

The Humane Society is sharing the message that abandoning an animal can be an offence under the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act. If anybody has any information about rabbits being abandoned in their area or on the Kitchener Waterloo animal centre property, they are being asked to contact the Provincial Animal Welfare Services team at 1-833-9ANIMAL.

For those interested in welcoming a rabbit into their home, the Humane Society currently has five available for adoption through their website. The remaining rabbits will be posted on their website as they become available for adoption.

For more information on the Humane Society and their programs and services, please visit kwsphumane.ca.

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The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and 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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