



Humane Society of the Black Hills

March 25, 2020

HSBH offers ways to help animals during COVID-19 pandemic



Rapid City, SD (March 25, 2020) - The Humane Society of the Black Hills (HSBH) is currently closed to public traffic but open for essential services and adoptions by appointment. (More details are on our website: www.hsbh.org). In addition to the adoptions by appointment only, we are adjusting our operations to serve the public and animals in order to keep everyone safe.

Last year during March and April, the HSBH took in 826 animals, so the shelter is preparing now for the inevitable kitten and dog influx in the next two months.

"We're doing everything we can to best serve the animals and community during this crisis and will continue to do so," Jerry Steinley, HSBH Executive Director said. "These few simple steps will help immensely and keep more animals safe and healthy."

Adopt: Help HSBH create a cushion of space by adopting a pet today. HSBH is currently open seven days a week for adoption appointments. Call (605) 394-4170 to schedule an adoption. Dog adoptions can be done without entering the building; cat and small animal adoptions can be done with limited contact.

The shelter needs adoptions to continue to avoid critical overcrowding during the upcoming kitten and puppy season which will start in the next one to two weeks.

Hold stray pets at home: For friendly, healthy stray pets, the shelter is asking finders to consider holding onto them, call (605) 394-4170 to file a "Found" report, get the pet scanned by an Animal Services officer or the shelter to see if there is a microchip, and hold the pet until the owner has a chance to pick it up. HSBH is accepting emergency-only intake and is trying to keep the number of pets in the shelter as low as possible to prepare for the coming weeks of higher-than-usual intake anticipated. The shelter is asking pet owners who would like to surrender their pets, to hold onto their pets during this outbreak, unless it is a true emergency.

Leave kittens alone: Unless the kittens are sick or in immediate danger, the shelter is asking people to leave them with their mothers, where they have the best chance of survival. More information about springtime litters can be found on our website.

Plan ahead: Pet owners should make a plan for their pets in case they get sick and need to be hospitalized. The safest place for pets is in their own home, so people should be asking family members, neighbors or friends if they could care for their pets if they happen to be hospitalized. Pet owners should write down their pet's diet and feeding schedule, any medications they need, and other special instructions.

Donate to HSBH: Donations of cash and supplies help immensely and can be left at the HSBH, 1820 E. St. Patrick Street, or can be made on our website: www.hsbh.org.

Stay home and consider fostering: We have limited foster availability at this time, but we would like to have a list of people who would be available to help in a crisis. Potential fosters can learn about fostering on our website, www.hsbh.org.

Spread the word: Tell friends, family, coworkers, and more that HSBH needs adopters for cats, small animals, and dogs. We also need scheduled volunteers, fosters and donations to continue to sustain the animal care efforts. People can share our posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, reminding others that "social distancing doesn't have to be lonely. Adopt or foster a HSBH pet today!"

All dogs and cats adopted will come with age-appropriate vaccinations, a microchip and a free vet visit. HSBH is located at 1820 E. St. Patrick Street in Rapid City.