

Operation Kindness Aids Dallas Animal Services During Distemper Outbreak

Operation Kindness, a Texas animal welfare non-profit, is providing support to Dallas Animal Services by paying for distemper tests for every dog in their care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Carrollton, Texas) – Following the <u>announcement</u> of a canine distemper virus outbreak at Dallas Animal Services (DAS), resulting in the municipal shelter to limit animal intake, <u>Operation Kindness</u> reached out to the Dallas shelter on August 9 to provide support through its <u>Friends of Dallas Animal Services initiative</u>.

Canine distemper is a highly contagious virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of dogs. To prevent exposure of non-affected dogs and provide timely care for those impacted, Operation Kindness has committed to covering the cost of PCR distemper tests through Purdue's Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory for every dog at DAS. The tests are highly accurate diagnostics that detect the virus's genetic material and support early detection, even before symptoms appear. Priced at \$68 each, it's estimated that testing the entire dog population at DAS will cost approximately \$35,000.

To help dogs with canine distemper recover more quickly, reduce the risk of exposure to healthy dogs, and relieve space at the shelter, DAS is in urgent need of temporary fosters. To support volunteers fostering dogs with distemper symptoms, the Friends of Dallas Animal Services initiative of Operation Kindness is supplementing external veterinary care costs, up to \$250 per dog, at Preston Center Animal Clinic. You can learn more about fostering with DAS at https://bedallas90.org/foster/.

For community members interested in supporting, monetary donations are welcome and will be used specifically to help Dallas animals. Visit <u>support.operationkindness.org/friends-of-DAS</u> to make a gift.

Interviews with our CEO and staff veterinarians available upon request.

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About Operation Kindness

Operation Kindness, a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization, operates a lifesaving animal shelter and programs to assist people and pets. Founded in 1976, Operation Kindness is a pioneer in Texas for assisting animals in need of veterinary care, companionship and, most of all, a home.

In addition to pet adoptions and lifesaving medical care, Operation Kindness' programs provide foster care for vulnerable animals, behavior and training support for pet parents, affordable

veterinary services for community pets, a pet food pantry, volunteer opportunities and professional training. To learn more about Operation Kindness, please visit their website at www.operationkindness.org.

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