



# HUMANE SOCIETY OF NORTH TEXAS

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May 3, 2024

## Media Alert

### **The Humane Society of North Texas Announcement Regarding Management of Kaufman County Pet Adoption Center**

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After careful consideration and extensive efforts to address financial and operational challenges, the Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) gave notice to representatives of Kaufman County that HSNT will terminate the contract to manage the Kaufman County Pet Adoption Center as of the close of business on August 31, 2024, or 13 months before the contract termination date of September 30, 2025. HSNT will transfer any remaining pets at the Kaufman County Pet Adoption Center on August 31 to other HSNT facilities to continue its lifesaving mission.

HSNT began managing the shelter in March of 2022 when the 12,000-square-foot Pet Adoption Center opened. Through March of 2024, HSNT has incurred over \$640,000 in losses by operating the facility. In June 2023, HSNT requested a management fee of \$360,000 for the 2023-24 fiscal year, but the County only approved \$228,400 in funding. Consequently, HSNT had to cut staffing and decrease the number of animals it can accept at the Pet Adoption Center to reduce financial losses. HSNT's mission is "to save, shelter, protect and advocate for all animals in need in North Texas." However, HSNT must always pursue this mission in a fiscally responsible manner, which led to the difficult decision to terminate the contract with Kaufman County.

In the two years of operating the facility, HSNT has taken in more than 4,200 pets from the area, including more than 2,200 from the Kaufman County Sheriff's Department. Over the same period, HSNT has adopted more than 1,200 pets out of the Kaufman County Pet Adoption Center and returned 179 lost pets to their owners. Due to the number of pets coming into the facility far exceeding the demand for adoptions in the area, HSNT was forced to transfer more than 2,400 pets from Kaufman County to other shelters in Tarrant County under HSNT's management, putting an additional strain on staffing, operations, and finances. HSNT encourages all pet owners to spay and neuter their pets to prevent the birth of unwanted litters and help alleviate overcrowding in animal shelters.

Despite these operational and financial challenges, HSNT has continued to save lives and serve the Kaufman County community. In addition to taking in more than 4,200 pets, HSNT has provided free spay/neuter vouchers to the public and held two low-cost vaccination clinics at the facility. HSNT also

participated in 14 adoption events over the last 12 months in Kaufman County (away from the Pet Adoption Center) to showcase adoptable pets in the community. HSNT is proud to have maintained an overall 97% live release rate while managing the facility, which supports a core objective of the management agreement by “reducing the number of animals euthanized in Kaufman County, Texas.”

Below are some key accomplishments to date that HSNT has achieved while managing the Kaufman County Pet Adoption Center from March 1, 2022 through April 30, 2024. HSNT is extremely grateful to the dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to care for the pets entering the Kaufman County facility – they are true heroes!

- Intakes (53% were puppies or kittens):
  - Kaufman County Sheriff = 2,252 (2,249 dogs, 3 cats)
  - Mabank Police Department = 138 dogs
  - Public = 1,821 (712 dogs, 1,051 cats, 58 other)
- Adoptions:
  - Kaufman County Pet Adoption Center (48% were puppies or kittens) = 1,201 (818 dogs, 339 cats, 44 other)
  - Other HSNT locations = 2,245 (1,663 dogs, 566 cats, 16 other)
- Return to Owner = 179 (176 dogs, 3 cats)
- Transfer to other Animal Welfare Groups = 182 (137 dogs, 44 cats, 1 other)

For further inquiries, please contact Destiny Vandeput at [dvandeput@hsnt.org](mailto:dvandeput@hsnt.org) or 469-426-9815.

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### **About the Humane Society of North Texas**

Since 1905, the Humane Society of North Texas (HSNT) has worked to eliminate animal cruelty, promote humane values and end animal homelessness in North Texas. As an independent nonprofit organization, HSNT relies on the generosity of the public to help ensure there is a safe place for abused, injured, and homeless animals in the community. To make a lifesaving donation, please visit [hsnt.org/donate](https://hsnt.org/donate) or [Facebook](#). To learn more about HSNT, [visit hsnt.org](https://hsnt.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [TikTok](#).