



## Seattle Humane: No Barriers Remain Land, Equipment, Funding Ready to Care for King County Animals

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The Seattle Humane Society stands ready to provide and care for the stray, abandoned and orphaned animals in King County, and can accomplish this goal without any funding from King County, or the county's help with trailers, cages, or the use of adjacent county-owned property.

The King County Animal Care and Control (KCACC) shelter in Kent is slated to close on Nov. 1, due to the potential threat of flooding from the Green River. The Seattle Humane Society is prepared to take over the county's animal sheltering duties on a permanent basis at that time. The Seattle Humane Society is also prepared to take more than 300 cats and dogs who are currently housed at the Kent shelter.

The Seattle Humane Society had previously offered to take over all animal sheltering in the county, and to house all the animals at KCACC's shelter in Kent, once King County had made available the temporary trailers and cages from its Kent facility, and allowed us to make use of land adjoining our Bellevue campus. However, late last week, the Seattle Humane Society identified 6,451 square feet of space at its Bellevue campus that is not currently being used to house animals. By repurposing this space for the animals, we determined that we can create the isolation and separation needed to house the animals in King County who need us, and to keep them healthy.

In addition, the Seattle Humane Society has continued to reach out to other animal welfare organizations serving King County, asking them if they will be part of the solution to provide better care for the animals in our community. They have responded with a resounding "Yes."

Seattle Humane Society continues to ask King County Executive Kurt Triplett and the King County Council to let us do what we do best: provide quality care, medical services, and behavior rehabilitation for the animals in our community, beginning from the first moment these animals enter the shelter. Executive Triplett's proposal to hold all stray animals for three to four days at a temporary county facility, before moving them to our shelter for medical care and adoption, is financially irresponsible, and will cause unnecessary stress, disease, and other problems for the animals.

The Army Corps of Engineers has advised King County that the risk of Green River flooding is not as imminent as once thought; there will be at least a 48 hour warning before any flooding begins. However, the KCACC shelter in Kent is currently experiencing an uncontrolled outbreak of ringworm, and it is urgent that the county move these animals to a shelter where they can be isolated and receive appropriate medical care.

The Seattle Humane Society asks King County to consider its offer before it spends another \$2-3 million to buy or establish another county-owned shelter. Executive Triplett has asked King County to immediately spend nearly \$1 million just for a temporary shelter to replace the Kent facility after Nov. 1. With a \$56 million shortfall in the county budget, and serious cuts being made to human services, the county should not spend money to replicate services that can be provided more efficiently, and with a much higher level of quality, by private, non-profit organizations in the region.

We were heartened to hear Executive Triplett speak on KUOW on Oct. 14, when he said, "We've been talking with the Guild, we've been talking with the Humane Society and PAWS and other entities about how to make this all work. We're about 90 percent of the way there" (on coming to an agreement on county animals services.)

Representatives from the Seattle Humane Society are scheduled to meet with Executive Triplett early

this week. We hope that Executive Triplett and the King County Council will accept our offer to save the county \$2-3 million this year, and approximately \$1.5 million annually in subsequent years. The sooner we have an agreement with the county, the sooner we move all of the animals out of the Kent shelter, and begin working with other private, non-profit organizations in the region to provide sheltering for all the stray and owner-surrendered animals in King County.

*Seattle Humane Society has been awarded the coveted 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. Founded in 1897 to bring people and pets together, Seattle Humane Society provides incredible companion animals for adoption 7 days a week, pet workshops and training, a pet food bank, a low-fee spay/neuter surgery program, humane teen club, a visiting pets program and more. Seattle Humane Society is located in Bellevue, at 13212 SE Eastgate Way. For directions and more information, visit [www.seattlehumane.org](http://www.seattlehumane.org) or call (425) 641-0080.*