FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Monday, March 16, 2020 – Munster, IN. Humane Indiana has determined for the safety of its shelter staff to close the shelter to the general public until further notice. The organization is taking precautions and recommendations issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO).

As of today, Humane Indiana’s Shelter is limiting visits exclusively for meet-and-greets and adoptions which must be made by appointment only. The appointments will be scheduled by our staff in two-hour blocks, after which time, shelter staff will deep clean to prepare for the next two-hour block visits. Only one member from each family may enter the shelter for scheduled visits and must be 18 years or older.

Visitors to the shelter will be greeted at the door with hand sanitizer. We ask that all persons visiting the shelter also take precautionary measures by washing hands before arriving at the shelter. We ask that the public refrain from visiting the shelter if they are ill or displaying symptoms of illness. “We want to make sure the public understands these precautionary measures are being taken to protect our staff,” said Shelter Director Jessica Petalas-Hernandez.

Once a meet-and-greet has taken place, and the adoption is approved by staff, we ask that adopters take the pet home that same day. “Our goal remains to find the animals permanent homes, but we are taking steps to protect our staff because they are the ones caring for our homeless pets every day,” CEO Brian Fitzpatrick said.

In an effort to continue to find homes for our shelter pets, Humane Indiana will post pictures of adoptable pets on our Facebook page @HumaneIndiana and update the website daily. Humane Indiana will not be accepting new animals or surrenders effective immediately until further notice. In the case that we must close temporarily, Humane Indiana is also looking for foster families for our shelter pets. Foster applications are available at HUMANEINDIANA.ORG/SHELTER.

The shelter will be deep cleaned throughout the day each day for the health and safety of its staff and prospective adopters. Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide is used for our shelter’s deep cleaning which is known to kill the Coronavirus. Humane Indiana will not allow shelter staff to report to work if they are sick or showing symptoms of illness.

Humane Indiana will continue to follow recommendations made by the CDC and WHO and will re-evaluate its plan weekly. To make an appointment for a meet-and-greet or adoption, please contact our shelter at 219.922.3811 ext. 203. For information on current adoptable pets, or if you are interested in fostering a healthy pet, please visit us online at HUMANEINDIANA.ORG/SHELTER.