
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County Animal Shelter Remains Closed For New Adoptions

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) remains closed to the public. The decision was made after additional tests were consistent with the presence of Leptospirosis in a dog housed at the shelter. Animal Control will operate as usual. Phone calls and emails will be returned as usual. For questions regarding pending adoptions, stray animals, animal surrender or other services please call (616) 632-7300.

“The shelter is being disinfected for the protection of the other animals,” said Adam London, Administrative Health Officer with the Kent County Health Department. “Thankfully, we do not see any symptoms of the illness in any of the other animals housed here.”

Leptospirosis is a rare illness which can spread to other dogs if not handled appropriately. The disease is readily controlled with antibiotics, thorough sanitation, and limited exposure to other pets. It is very rare that the disease is transmitted to humans

The dog in this case was infected prior to arriving at KCAS. It was isolated as a precaution last week when the KCAS veterinarian began to suspect Leptospirosis. At that time the dog was placed on the appropriate antibiotic and shelter staff immediately began to disinfect the shelter. The animal’s prognosis is good.

More information about leptospirosis in dogs is available here.

<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Leptospirosis.aspx>

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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