



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 8, 2019

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KENT COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE FREE PET BOARDING SERVICES FOR SHELTER OCCUPANTS

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (Feb. 8, 2019) – The Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) is providing a free-of-charge pet boarding service for residents with pets who are seeking shelter from the winter storm. This service is only available for residents seeking shelter at the following four emergency shelters. **Residents are encouraged to seek other pet boarding options first, as space at these emergency animal shelters is limited.** Please note: once residents register at the shelter, animals will be transported to a safe, secure and warm animal boarding facility.

Qualifying locations:

Ottawa Hills High School

2055 Rosewood Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Union High School*

1800 Tremont Blvd NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Residents who are oxygen-dependent should go to Union High School*

North Rockford Middle School

397 E Division St NE
Rockford, MI 49341

(Please note: pets will shelter in place with their owners at this facility)

Walker Fire Department

1470 3 Mile Rd NW
Walker, MI 49544

When arriving at one of these facilities with a pet, owners will register their animal with KCAS and it will then be transported to a safe and warm boarding facility. Pets will be kept at the animal boarding facility throughout the weekend while owners remain at the emergency shelter.

Pet owners are encouraged to bring identification, vaccination records and any medication the animal is currently taking. Pet owners will also need to sign a release of liability form.

Vaccinations will be given to pets whose owners cannot provide vaccination records. Dogs will also be licensed before being returned to owners. Pet owners will not incur any costs for vaccinations or licenses. Also, owners will not be fined for unlicensed dogs during this emergency. Cat owners are asked to bring cats in carriers.

“These power outages are unprecedented, and we know that many residents are unwilling to come and seek shelter because of their love for their pets,” says Sara Simmonds Director of Environmental Health at KCHD. “These services would not be possible without the partnerships we have established with an incredible group of animal welfare partners.”

The KCAS wishes to acknowledge the Bissell Pet Foundation, C-SNIP, West Michigan Humane Society, West Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, John Ball Zoo and numerous other pet and animal professionals in West Michigan.

“We encourage residents to seek shelter first with friends and family, to consider hotels, and then look to these four local shelters,” said Kent County Emergency Manager Lou Hunt. “We do not want anyone to risk their safety for the love of their pets. We are so grateful to the organizations and individuals in our community who partnered with KCAS to make this service possible.”

Residents are encouraged to visit accesskent.com for updated information.

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