



Operation Kindness Offers Pet Food Assistance as Food Insecurity Increases in Dallas-Fort Worth

Local Shelter Offers Animal Food Program to Tackle Growing Food Demands

CARROLLTON, Texas (May 15, 2020) – With the unemployment rate [reaching new heights](#) in Texas from layoffs and furloughed employees due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for food is increasing as food-assistance programs are distributing and supplying food to families facing this challenge. Between choosing food and everyday necessities, this leaves individuals in a position of uncertainty when it comes to providing for their families. [Operation Kindness](#), the leading no-kill animal shelter in North Texas, is taking action to help families with pets in need of animal food by providing assistance with its [Pet Food Pantry](#) program by appointment only.

The extent of the effects of the novel coronavirus is vast as Dallas-Fort Worth residents encounter hardships from the disruption of their daily routines. The inability to cover the costs of basic necessities is rising as food banks, shelters and schools see an increase in demand of food and other supplies. Because food security is becoming an issue across the region, the same can be said for the scarcity of animal food in households facing economic uncertainty. As a way to connect with the community and lend a hand during this difficult time, Operation Kindness reopened their Pet Food Pantry program last month to provide temporary food assistance so that pet owners can keep their dogs and cats during the pandemic. During the month of April, the shelter provided families in need with 10,905 pounds of dog and cat food, treats and litter, and 314 miscellaneous items including beds and bowls.

“Recognizing that there is a great need for families and their pets during this difficult time means we have an opportunity to come together and help our community by supporting them when they need it the most,” said Natalie Buxton, director of marketing and communications at Operation Kindness. “The donations of pet food and supplies we receive go a long way in helping those who might be struggling during the pandemic. We are both excited and proud to be a resource by making a positive impact and uplifting families during a time where pets and their owners deserve to remain safe and happy. The continuous support of our mission to advocate for humane values and behaviors has been monumental in making a difference for the wonderful companions in our lives.”

Extending its Pet Food Pantry program availability, Operation Kindness will continue serving guests on Thursdays from noon to 3 p.m. and adding additional hours for food pickups every Saturday beginning May 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The appointment only contactless system allows Operation Kindness to continue following guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health officials, ensuring the health and safety of staff members and the community. Guests interested in the program may fill out an application on [Operation Kindness’s website](#); pet food is available for up to three months upon approval. Guests must call Operation Kindness at 972-418-7297 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily to secure a 10-minute time slot. During the pickup window, a staff member will meet guests at the Pet Food Pantry’s front door with their items.

Individuals who are not in need of assistance but are looking for ways to help the community and make a difference in the lives of homeless pets can do so with donations. The Pet Food Pantry is due in part to kind individuals who’ve taken the time to give back and serve others. Donations of supplies, food and toys help Operation Kindness greatly as they care for homeless dogs and cats that find their way to the shelter—many in need of medical care, companionship and, most importantly, a home. These necessities also allow Operation Kindness to continue functioning as normally as possible and create the best possible environment for animals in foster care or in their medical wing. With its contactless system, Operation

Kindness can collect community donations from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. where items can be left at the nonprofit's front door. The shelter is located at 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton, TX 75006. Individuals maintaining social distancing guidelines can ring the front door and leave; a staff member will collect the donations, thereby avoiding person-to-person contact.

Additionally, Operation Kindness has updated its Amazon wish list, allowing donations to be shipped directly to the nonprofit organization from the comfort of one's own home: <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/ch/list/75-1553350>.

Assisting approximately 5,000 dogs and cats each year and an average of 400 animals daily, Operation Kindness goes above and beyond to address the heartbreaking issue of pet homelessness. By providing outstanding medical care and a safe environment, dogs and cats are given a safe haven and a second chance at a great quality of life. Founded on the belief that all animals should be given the kindness and care they deserve, Operation Kindness relies on the generosity of the community, partnerships, programs, staff members and volunteers to create and envision a world where all pets are cared for and loved. In doing so, Operation Kindness prioritizes the safety and health of all cats and dogs until they're ready to be adopted into a loving, responsible home.

For more information about Operation Kindness and its efforts to save homeless animals, visit <https://www.operationkindness.org/aboutUs>. To learn more about fostering opportunities, visit <https://www.operationkindness.org/volunteer3>.

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About Operation Kindness

Founded in 1976, Operation Kindness is the original no-kill animal shelter in North Texas. Its mission is to care for homeless cats and dogs in a no-kill environment until each is adopted into a responsible home. As an advocate for humane values and behaviors, Operation Kindness has been able to save more than 105,000 animals since its inception. The shelter assists more than 5,000 cats and dogs each year, caring for an average of 400 animals daily. To learn more about Operation Kindness, please visit <https://www.operationkindness.org/>.

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