



616 BIG BEAR BLVD.  
COLUMBIA, MO 65202  
P: 573 443 7387  
F: 573 875 6155  
CMHSPETS.ORG

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **CENTRAL MISSOURI HUMANE SOCIETY TO CLOSE INTAKE FOR TWO WEEKS**

COLUMBIA, MO - The Central Missouri Humane Society is struggling with an outbreak of canine upper respiratory infections, including canine pneumovirus.

The non-zoonotic canine pneumovirus is highly contagious amongst dogs and is not transferable to humans or cats. Signs of the virus include but are not limited to coughing, discharge from the eyes or nose, and abnormal breathing.

To stop the spread of illness, CMHS will be suspending intake services for dogs for at least the next two weeks. CMHS and Columbia/Boone County Animal Control will assist with intake emergencies only. CMHS is asking the public for their help to reunite lost and found dogs in the field. CMHS will be open to scan for microchips and will also provide basic supplies for any finders holding onto strays while they wait to find their owners.

CMHS is also seeking adopters and foster parents for the dozens of animals currently at the shelter. CMHS hopes to move approximately 50 dogs out of the shelter and into foster or adoptive homes by Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Adoption fees have been lowered to just \$20 for all dogs 30 pounds and over at the shelter until January 20<sup>th</sup>.

“Like many shelters across the country, we have been battling this virus for months,” says Executive Director, Julie Aber. “We are asking our community for their help to get animals out of the shelter and into foster and adoptive homes to help stop the spread.”

To learn more about the CMHS foster program, please visit [cmhspets.org/foster](http://cmhspets.org/foster). To view adoptable pets, please visit [cmhspets.org/adopt](http://cmhspets.org/adopt).

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