Happy Friday everyone! Here are your updates for the week:

ADOPTIONS: Empty the Shelters today and tomorrow-adoptions are fee waived for all adult animals and small animals. Thanks to the adoption staff for getting our animals into their new homes so quickly!

COVID: We are watching the increase in cases for the GR area and will continue to follow all current executive orders for our region. Any staff member that is exposed to a positive person will be asked to get tested and wait for a negative result before returning to work in the building. An important reminder that masks are required to be worn by anyone in the building. If you see someone without a mask or wearing a mask incorrectly, please ask them to correct the situation. If you are uncomfortable saying something, please get any supervisor.

NEW SHELTERING MODEL: The Human Animal Support Services model is in it's very beginning stages. HSWM will begin planning to move toward this model. I am attaching a short video for your reference. This will be a long process for us and will be incorporated into our strategic planning process that we will begin this fall. I am so excited to find ways to better support the animals and people of our community! I will be participating in 2 national working groups that will be helping to decide what this new programming could look like for shelters across the country, so our staff will have input for a whole new world of animal welfare. More to come soon!

ADMITTING: We have been doing lots of owner surrenders and transfers the last few weeks. Thanks to the admitting staff for processing so many new animals every day and keeping smiles on your faces amid the crazy!

FOSTER: Our foster program continues to grow and is consistently housing 50-75% of our animal population. Great job Stephanie! Sabrina will be transitioning to her new role supporting the foster program over the next few weeks.

VET STAFF: More incoming animals means more medical and surgical demand for our vet team. You guys are rocking it, thank you! We hope to have a new part time vet tech hired in the next week or two to replace Sabrina. Jessica will be working in the clinic 3 days per week as well.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS: Camp is rolling along, and will be adding some kid's day out opportunities starting next Thursday. Kids will be allowed to come to the shelter in limited numbers and these days will be focused on outdoor activities. In the case of inclement weather, we will cancel. Kelsey is working with vet staff to put a plan together to resume low cost vaccine clinics. We are aiming for August and will let everyone know once we have a definite date. Cattery volunteers started returning this week to provide some much needed enrichment for our cats and kittens. A huge thank you to Ashley, Megan and Kelsey for making our virtual camp so fun for the kids!

ANIMAL CARE: Everyone returned to their normal schedules starting this week, and the animals couldn't be happier or more grateful. Thanks guys for keeping everyone clean, healthy and happy while they are with us-even the poopy puppies and undersocialized kittens!

DATA: Julie has been tracking and correcting all sorts of data for the shelter. This data is important for us to know where we are and where we have been in the past, and helps us decide how to move forward. Thanks Julie for all of your hard work, we know it's not always fun! It might even be safe to say it's hardly ever fun, but it's necessary and we are grateful.

KITTEN NURSERY:  We will be moving forward with our plan to renovate lobby 2 into some appropriate kitten spaces. Our contractor is currently booking into September, so we will have to be patient with their schedule.

DEVELOPMENT: If you haven't noticed yet, we are now doing a nightly fb post of which animals got adopted that day! I think the public will love it, as well as our staff and volunteers. Thanks Parker and Jaime for making that happen. The events team is working on Bark in the Dark which will be here before we know it. They have several options for format depending on what our current COVID situation is at that time, including staggered start times, a more distanced layout for vendors, and a completely virtual option. More info to come as we have it. We also received a grant for 10K to purchase ipads and treat dispensing cameras so the public can be more interactive with our shelter pets. Thank you development team for making sure the shelter is part of our community and has money to do what we do every day!

BEHAVIOR: Amber has been working with Parker and Amy to create a feline behavior page for our website. This is another great resource for the public and will make for happier kitties! It will also include our organizational stance on declawing. Lyndsey has been working feverishly to evaluate our canines so they can be available for adoption ASAP. Our training staff is rocking our puppy classes and will be adding adult classes very soon. A huge thank you to all of you for keeping our animals mentally healthy and helping them transition successfully to their new homes!

OTHER: HSWM will be hosting a 2 day conference June 8 and 9 of 2021 put on by the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance. This will be a great opportunity for our staff to participate in some really cool seminars.

Next week I will be at the shelter on Tuesday and Thursday instead of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Once you have read this entire email and watched the attached video, please respond letting me know. Everyone who responds will be entered in a drawing for a $10 gift card.

As always, if you have questions or need more info on anything, please let me know. Have a great weekend everyone!

Best,

Holly