

Dubuque Regional Humane Society
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For Immediate Release

DRHS Rolls Out New Cat Adoption Fees

(Dubuque, IA – January 20, 2015) In an unprecedented move to counter the effects of feline overpopulation at the shelter, the Dubuque Regional Humane Society (DRHS) has rolled out a bold new adoption fee structure for all cats and kittens effective January 20, 2015.

Kittens (1 year and under): \$50 *(previously \$110)*

Cats (over 1 year): \$25 *(previously \$75)*

The DRHS is an “Open Admissions” shelter, which means we take in all cats, dogs, and critters that come through our door seeking a second chance. The staff has been analyzing the staggering effects of feline overpopulation for many years. Of the 4,000 animals that the DRHS cares for annually, over half are cats - most are taken in from June through November. In response to these changing trends, the DRHS developed new pricing to save more lives and to be true to our mission.

Maria Benham, President & CEO, commented, “We simply do not have the resources, namely space and staff, to adequately care for that many cats at one time without doing something drastic. As a community supported, nonprofit organization, we need to be cost-conscious in how we operate. The fact is, however, that we will never cover our costs through adoption fees. Lowering the fee will not help our operating margin, but it is simply the right thing to do.” She added, “It’s all about getting cats through the shelter system faster. By having cats adopted quicker, fewer will get sick, fewer will need to be euthanized and more will find forever homes. The Humane Society needs the community’s help to save the lives of these cats. We are doing what we can by lowering the adoption fee and we hope the community responds by considering the adoption of a shelter cat.”

The DRHS cat adoption fee includes: Spay or neuter surgery, deworming, first set of distemper shots, microchipping, flea & tick treatment, rabies vaccination, and a 4-pound bag of Hill's Science Diet Pet Food courtesy of Theisen’s Home Farm Auto.

The DRHS is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the tri-state region since 1901. Every year, the DRHS admits nearly 4,000 cats, dogs, and critters. The DRHS is committed to building life-long bonds between people and animals through adoption, humane education, community outreach, and animal cruelty prevention.

For more information, contact Maria Benham at 563-582-6766.

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