



Flathead City-County Health Department

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Population Health Services
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Animal Shelter
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March 18th, 2025

Contact: Austin Hicks, 406-758-2414

On March 13, 2025, the Flathead County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant at a residence in Coram, resulting in the seizure of 27 live dogs. All rescued dogs were placed in the care of the Flathead County Animal Shelter.

Over the past several days, Flathead County Animal Shelter (FCAS) staff have worked diligently to assess each dog and provide needed medical care. To ensure the animals receive the continuous dedicated care that they need, FCAS reached out to animal shelters throughout the state for help, resulting in the transport of 16 adoptable animals to various other shelters in Montana, which helped to make room for the influx of dogs in Flathead County. FCAS would like to graciously thank the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter, Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, Stafford Animal Shelter, Humane Society of Western Montana, and Tobacco Valley Animal Shelter, for their assistance.

Even with the help of other shelters, FCAS is still responsible for the care of 27 dogs involved in the case, in addition to 10 adoptable dogs currently under their care. Due to the large volume of animals in the shelter and increased level of attention that is needed, FCAS is not currently accepting owner surrenders; however, the shelter will continue to accept animals brought to them through Flathead County Animal Control.

"We cannot disclose any additional information about the case, as it is actively being investigated by the Flathead County Sheriff's Office," said Austin Hicks, Flathead County Animal Shelter Division Manager. "With that being said, we would like to extend our greatest thanks to our fellow shelters across the state, Flathead Shelter Friends, and the public for their support throughout this difficult situation."

At this time, FCAS is unable to adopt out any of the dogs involved in the case, as they are considered part of an active investigation. Members of the public that are interested in supporting the care of these animals may do so through making a donation to Flathead Shelter Friends, a local non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for shelter animals. Funds donated will go directly towards the care of dogs from this case for the duration of their stay in the shelter. Flathead Shelter Friends can be reached at 406-890-0459 or flatheadshelterfriends501c@gmail.com.



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