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Humane Society of Berks County Announces the First of Weekly Low-Cost Vaccine Clinics During Summer

The Humane Society of Berks County (HSBC), the leader in animal welfare, announced that the agency will resume weekly low-cost clinics during the summer months beginning this Friday afternoon at the HSBC's Lindy Scholar Center at 1801 N 11th St, Reading. Vaccines, including rabies and distemper combinations, identification microchips and deworming will be offered at each clinic.

"We feel this is especially important, given that there is a lot of contagious disease over the course of the summer, especially in the City of Reading," said Laurel Martin, HSBC Veterinary Practice Manager. "Vaccination of a pet now may avoid significant and expensive medical problems later. For instance, the distemper combination protects against parvovirus, which is highly contagious and often fatal."

Vaccines will be offered for \$20 each, microchips for \$10 and deworming for \$15, all without regular appointment fees. "Cost is a major factor for some Berks County animal owners right now. There are plenty of great dog and cat owners whose animals aren't vaccinated – not because the owners don't want to do so, but because they may not be able to afford it," said Karel Minor, HSBC Executive Director.

Any dogs being presented for low cost services must have proof of a current Pennsylvania Dog License and **will be required to purchase a microchip for their pet** if it does not already have one implanted. "Among the leading causes of death of dogs in Pennsylvania is euthanasia of strays without identification in animal shelters," Minor said. "When we offer drastically reduced rates for services for dogs, we do have one string attached: we want to ensure that all dogs are licensed and have the best form of ID they can have, a microchip." Reduced rate services will not be given if microchipping is refused by the owner.

The June 18th clinic begins at noon on Friday and lasts until 4 p.m. Future clinics are scheduled for Friday mornings beginning at 9 a.m. “These clinics are first-come, first-served and we’ll continue to hold them as long as we see a need,” said Minor. “The message we’re trying to send is that there’s no reason why an animal shouldn’t be vaccinated and microchipped. We believe that everyone, regardless of income, deserves a happy and healthy summer with their pet.”

The Humane Society of Berks County serves all of Berks County and surrounding communities. It is a private, non-profit organization funded through donations and service fees. In addition to enforcing Pennsylvania’s animal cruelty laws for Berks, Montgomery and Chester Counties, the Humane Society provides adoption services, spay and neuter services, humane education, pet behavioral counseling, veterinary services to the general public, and helps stray, injured and mistreated animals. The Humane Society is located at 1801 N. 11th Street, Reading, and 1201 Ben Franklin Highway E., Douglassville.

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