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Humane Society of Berks County adds kittens to free adoption program

Reading Eagle

The Humane Society of Berks County has expanded its free cat-adoption program to include kittens.

In addition, the organization has scheduled a pet food giveaway for Friday at the Reading shelter, 1801 N. 11th St.

The "Free to A Great Home" adoption program typically benefits older cats or cats that have medical issues.

But faced with near-capacity conditions in the Reading and Douglassville shelters, the society is waiving adoption fees for all cats and kittens until further notice, said Dylan Heckart, assistant director of development.

The free adoptions come with all the usual benefits - cats are sterilized, vaccinated and receive a 30-day health guarantee. Applicants still must complete the normal screening process.

The society, which has room for 60 cats and kittens, ideally likes to keep 10 to 15 cages open for emergency rescues, Heckart said.

"We're filling up emergency cages, and this is the point where we want to get them moving because we don't want to euthanize healthy, adoptable animals," he said.

The organization hasn't had to put down any healthy cats for nearly two years, he said.

Adoptions can be done at both the Reading shelter and the Douglassville shelter, 1201 Ben Franklin Highway (Route 422).

The pet food giveaway on Friday begins at 11 a.m. only at the Reading shelter. Excess food from the Ani-Meals on Wheels program will be distributed until it runs out.

Applicants must provide proof of a valid 2009 Berks County dog license to receive dog food, and cat food will be limited to 40 pounds per household.

For more information, contact the Humane Society at 610-921-2348 or log on to www.berkshumane.org.