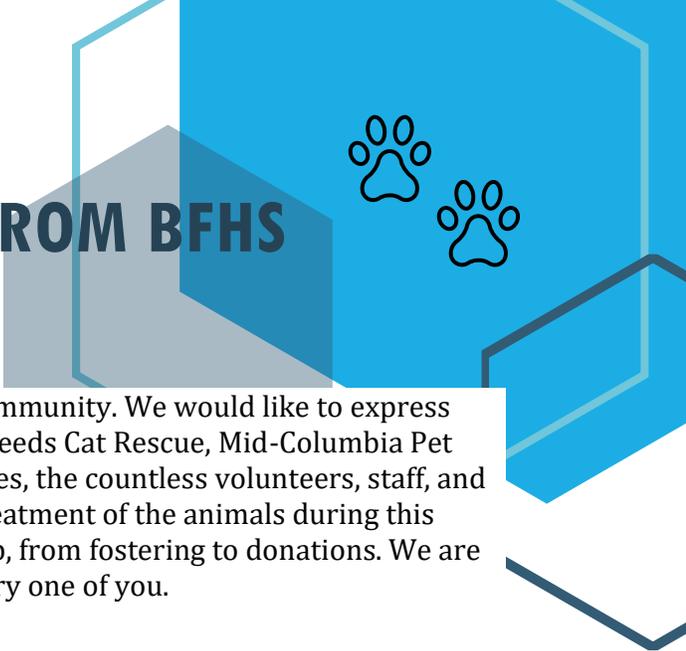


# AN UPDATE AND THANKS, FROM BFHS



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As most are aware, this has been a difficult week for the community. We would like to express extreme gratitude to the Silver Cloud Cat Rescue, Tumbleweeds Cat Rescue, Mid-Columbia Pet Emergency Services, Horse Heaven Hills Emergency Services, the countless volunteers, staff, and city officials who have assisted with the urgent care and treatment of the animals during this time. The community has been so generous in offers to help, from fostering to donations. We are so appreciative and truly wish we respond to each and every one of you.

That said, we ask for patience and understanding during this time as we work urgently to care for the animals and clean the facility. While BFHS will continue to operate as normal, please understand that some staff will be divided between two facilities. This will NOT affect the care of the animals at that facility. Foot traffic may increase and phone messages may take slightly longer to be returned. Our dedicated board of directors will be assisting to ensure our patrons receive the same amount of care and attention they are used to!

The Tri-City Animal Shelter will continue to operate, under BFHS, as Animal Control & a stray drop-off/redemption facility. For those families who re currently fostering - please hold tight! We are working on the logistics of a few urgent matters, but you won't be left high & dry! You provide such an incredible service to the community!

To avoid confusion, BFHS has stepped in to assist during this urgent crisis. Currently, there are no long-term contracts in place. We are working closely with the ACA to ensure positive change and ensuring a healthy environment both mentally and medically moving forward. We will be working diligently to accomplish this until either our services are no longer required or a long-term contract is agreed upon.

To our current donors, BFHS still relies on your support! We are amazed at how each of you have stepped up during this difficult time and can't thank you enough. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts and paws!!

*Below is the statement released by our friends at the City of Pasco...*

## Tri-City Animal Shelter Statement

On Thursday, November 11, at 9:15 am, the [Pasco Police](#) Department served a search warrant at the Tri-City Animal Shelter located at 1312 18th Ave. in Pasco. During the service of the search warrant, out of around 260 animals on-site, four dogs and 30 cats were seized and placed in immediate veterinary care.

During the search, it was determined to put a portion of the shelter complex under the supervision and responsibility of the Benton-Franklin Humane Society (BFHS). Immediately after police clearance, volunteers and staff from the BFHS began facility cleaning and assuming care of the remaining animals.

Based partly on the conditions encountered, City of Pasco Administrative staff terminated the operating contract with the director and manager of Neo's Nation Animal Foundation and personally served said notice on November 11. Operations and management of the shelter were immediately transitioned to BFHS. Current staff for regional animal control, shelter care, and volunteer animal care were retained under the supervision of BFHS to ensure that service to the community and the animals would not be significantly interrupted. BFHS will determine long-term employment for shelter staff based upon their organizational mission and need for the facility's continued operation.

Before the action was taken yesterday, an investigation commenced after City staff received information regarding shelter conditions and organizational operations with Neo's Nation. On October 26, city staff conducted an unannounced inspection of the shelter facility based on that information received. City staff is not trained nor certified in veterinary care or shelter management, so conditions were such that staff ensured that credentialed professionals accompanied law enforcement on the search warrant.

The City of Pasco, our partner communities, and the Tri-City Animal Control Authority would like to express appreciation for the community members who work and volunteer to serve the animals before, during, and continuing through this challenging time. Special thanks to the Benton-Franklin Humane Society for stepping in to continue operations for the animals and community.

Finally, thanks to the Tri-Cities community for its patience and understanding during this transition to provide the best care possible for the animals.

The City of Pasco strives to continue improving the quality of community life in Pasco.

*We can't do everything, but together, we can do something.*

