

## Humane Society badly overcrowded; 72 new animals in 5 days

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

The Humane Society of Central Oregon has received 72 animals since Saturday, badly overcrowding the shelter and making it necessary that a number of animals be transported to Portland. The shelter is urgently requesting that anyone who has recently lost a dog or cat to come in to reclaim their pet “ and to do so as quickly as possible.

The 72 animals include 51 stray animals, 20 owner relinquished pets, and one court ordered hold. As of closing on Thursday, the shelter had returned only 13 animals to their owners.

Because of the heavy influx of strays and relatively few animal adoptions, animal welfare director Troy Kerstetter was forced to transport 20 animals to the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) in Portland during the past few days. The Second Chance Program at the OHS temporarily alleviates stress on the Central Oregon agency by opening up a few kennels.

“Critical situations like this can be avoided if pets have identification, owners report a missing animal immediately and comes to the shelter to look for their pet. A black Labrador Retriever looks similar to another one. Only you can properly identify your pet,” says Kerstetter.

“Current identification tags, microchips and dog licenses are essential to quickly reuniting you with your companion,” Kerstetter said, adding “it is imperative to reclaim lost pets quickly.”

The Humane Society of Central Oregon is located on 27th street just south of Reed Market Road. Stray animals are posted on the agency’s web site at [www.hsc.org](http://www.hsc.org), but it is best to visit the shelter personally to properly identify your pet. The Bend shelter is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information call 382-3537.

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