



City of Murphy
206 N. Murphy Rd.
Murphy, TX 75094
(972) 468- 4000
www.murphytx.org

News Release

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Media Contact: Celso Martinez 972-623-8836

Murphy Animal Shelter to shift hours for public access

MURPHY (August 16, 2017) Beginning on Monday, Aug. 21, the Murphy Animal Shelter will reduce the hours open to the public, giving shelter staff the time they need to care for the shelter's temporary tenants and get ready for the day's activities.

"We will not change the shelter's operating hours, only the time when our doors are open," said Police Chief Arthur "Trey" Cotten. "We will keep the doors closed for the first two hours of the day so that shelter personnel can conduct necessary animal care and shelter maintenance."

The Murphy Animal Shelter, located at 203 North Murphy Road, on the grounds of the Murphy Community Center and Murphy Activity Center, is currently open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, starting on Aug. 21, the doors will open to the public at 10 a.m. and remain open until 5 p.m.

"The Animal Control staff will use the first two hours of the day to ensure that the animals are fed, watered and cared for," he said. "As it is now, the shelter staff is being asked to deal with these important daily tasks while at the same time interacting with the public."

Conducting internal maintenance and animal care at the same time as visitors arrive means that one or the other activity will not have the full attention of the staff.

"Our intention is to ensure that the animals and the shelter are both in good order, and that our visitors and pet-adopting families are given the appropriate amount of attention. Using the first two hours of each day to take care of the first task gives us the time and flexibility to take care of the second," said the Chief.

The Murphy Animal Shelter is staffed by professional Animal Control Officers who also serve as hosts and tour guides for families and individuals seeking to adopt the shelter's tenants. More time spent with the animals gives the staff a greater level of familiarity with the adoptees. This allows the staff to better share the animals' tendencies with their potential new owners.

A survey of area animal shelters revealed that most if not all have a similar policy of staff time devoted to the animals before the public is allowed to enter.

"As funny as it may sound, we consider the animals in the shelter as our guests, and we want to keep them healthy and make them comfortable as they await their adoption," said the Chief.

The Murphy Animal Shelter can be reached at 972-468-4226. Information is also available by visiting <http://murphytx.org/65/Animal-Control>.

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 19,330, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.