



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GALLUP, MCKINLEY COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY AND ANIMAL PROTECTION IS ON A FULL FOUR WEEK QUARANTINE STARTING JUNE 20TH, 2022**

Unfortunately, due to a distemper outbreak, the McKinley County Humane Society will be undergoing a full four-week quarantine. During this time the Humane Society will **NOT** be doing any adoptions, animal viewings, and accepting any surrendered animals.

The Gallup Dog Park will be closed during the four-week quarantine period.

Distemper is a very serious disease that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous system of adult dogs and puppies. It is very contagious and transferred through airborne exposure (sneezing or coughing) to the virus from an infected dog or wild animal. All dogs and puppies are susceptible to the disease but puppies four months and younger and unvaccinated adult dogs are at a higher risk.

To help prevent the exposure of distemper and to maintain your animal's safety we request:

- You vaccinate your dogs/puppies. Puppies must receive 4 vaccinations in 2 week increments and dogs must have their vaccinations done annually.
- Avoid any public areas (especially dog parks) if your animal is not fully vaccinated
- Because of the highly contagious nature of distemper, it is recommended that dog owners maintain your animals on your property and don't let animals roam freely in order to avoid contact with other animals that may be infected.

Gallup, McKinley County Animal Protection will not be picking up any stray animals during the quarantine. Please do not drop off any animals at the Humane Society Shelter during the quarantine period. Any animals found at the shelter abandoned will have to be euthanized due to the outbreak.

Animal Protection will still be responding to calls regarding snakes, injured and aggressive animals.