



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Hope for the Holidays: Community Support Needed to Help Two Local Dogs Battling Heartworm Disease**

**KITCHENER AND STRATFORD, ONTARIO (NOV. 26, 2025):** This holiday season, the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) is asking the community to come together to support two dogs in urgent need of lifesaving care.

Django, a 2-year old dog, currently at the Stratford Centre, recently arrived in their care and tested positive for heartworm disease during his routine intake exam. Around the same time, Oscar, a 4-year old dog, at the Kitchener Centre, also tested positive for the same disease. Having not only one, but two dogs undergoing heartworm treatment is rare for the organization and is also incredibly costly.

Heartworm treatment is complex, lengthy, and unfortunately very expensive. Together, Django and Oscars estimated medical costs are \$10,000.

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition spread by mosquitos. A single bite from an infected mosquito can introduce microscopic larvae into a dog's bloodstream, where they grow into adult worms living in the heart and major blood vessels. Without prompt treatment, heartworm can cause irreversible organ damage.

Django and Oscar will be undergoing a series of treatments over the next couple months to target both adult worms and larvae. They will remain in the HSKWSP's care for approximately two months before safely going up for adoption and finding their forever homes. Throughout their healing journeys, the Humane Society's veterinary team, animal care staff, and dedicated volunteers will support them every step of the way.

"This holiday season, we're asking our community to help give Django and Oscar the gift of health," said Victoria Baby, CEO of HSKWSP. "Your donation will support their treatment and help ensure they each have the chance to enjoy many more holidays in loving homes."

Please consider making a one-time donation for Django and Oscar [here](#). Anything raised above and beyond will go to care for animals who need it most.

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*We are leaders in animal welfare in our communities and committed to promoting the human-animal bond, while focusing on the responsible treatment of animals through education, collaboration, compliance, advocacy and care. Charitable BIN 11898 3550 RR0001*

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