Homeward Animal Shelter scrambling to save 7 dogs

BY MELISSA VAN DER **STAD** The Forum

FARGO — Seven dogs in the region are waiting for a miracle — or a few helping hands.

Quill, Thistle, Rook and more dogs like them need to find a foster family or adoptive family immediately or they will be euthanized, according to a Facebook post by Fargo-based Homeward Animal Shelter.

Their lives depend on the community stepping up to help, Homeward

"The animal rescue world is in crisis," Homeward said on Facebook. "Shelters and rescues are overwhelmed, and the

number of dogs in need has outpaced the space and resources we have. And then when we hear that dogs in our own region are at risk-and we've exhausted our foster and shelter options—we know there's only one place left to turn: you." Homeward is asking for

people to foster dogs, even for a short period, to help open space in the shelter system. The shelter in Yunker

Farm Park at 1201 28th Ave. N. doesn't have room to house more dogs right now, the organization said. Additionally, Homeward

said, they need people to adopt dogs and lessen the demand on an overwhelmed animal welfare system.

To help increase adoptions, Homeward is lowering its adoption fee to \$75, which includes all veterinary care, like vaccinations and spaying and neutering operations.

Those interested in adopting a pet can visit the Homeward Animal Shelter website to fill out an application. The seven pups in

urgent need of help are in Grand Forks, Homeward said, but the shelter there - Journey Home Animal Rescue — doesn't have the space to take them in from the pound.

'Our fosters are full. Their fosters are full," Homeward said. "And yet, there's still multiple dogs desperately in need of help, before their time

runs out."

Those unable to welcome a new dog into their home can help by donating funds, Homeward said. To address the rise in

animals in need, Homeward Animal Shelter is building a 20,000-squarefoot facility on 5.8 acres of land by the North Dakota Horse Park, just north of 19th Avenue North and west of 45th Street North. The new building will

have more space for cats, dogs and other small animals such as rabbits and birds, as well as an inhouse veterinary clinic to reduce medical costs long-term. To open the new build-

ing, Homeward Animal Shelter needs all paws on deck to raise enough

money to construct the \$15 million facility that will shepherd the shelter into the future.

They are looking for help — in big and small ways — to make that happen.

For more information about how to help, readers can visit https://www. homewardonline.org/ how-to-help.

Businesses, organizations or individuals that want to contribute a sizable donation or a legacy gift can contact Tasha Haug, executive director of Homeward Animal Shelter, at 701-364-9013 or thaug@homewardonline.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Melissa Van Der



Contributed / Homeward **Animal Shelter**

Bishop, a 60-pound male dog that is described as very friendly in Homeward's Facebook post, is one of seven dogs in urgent need of a foster family or adoptive owner to step up so he isn't euthanized.

Stad at mvanderstad@ forumcomm.com.

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