



# CITY TIMES

Keeping residents in the know

FortWorthTexas.Gov

VOL. 48 / NO. 12 | December 2025

## Fort Worth's live release rate soars in 2025

Fort Worth Animal Care & Control (FWACC) made positive progress in saving animal lives this year. The live release rate, which measures the percentage of animals leaving the shelter alive through adoption, transport, rescue or return-to-owner, has climbed steadily in Fiscal Year 2025, reaching 85.47%. That's a notable increase compared to 79.77% the year before.

You can really see the difference when looking at the numbers side by side. In February 2024, FWACC recorded a live release rate of 79.66%. Just one year later, that same month in 2025 reached an impressive 88.05%. Simply put, more pets are finding homes, getting reunited with their families or being transferred to rescue partners instead of staying in the shelter.

This success is the result of teamwork across every level of FWACC, from kennel technicians providing daily care to staff and volunteers running innovative programs that

connect animals with families.

The improvement is especially meaningful given the high number of animals coming through the doors. On average, FWACC takes in 38 dogs each day, a mix of stray animals brought in by field officers and pets surrendered by owners.

Even with this heavy demand, the team remains committed to saving more lives.



## How to recycle your live Christmas tree after the holidays

Live Christmas trees can be disposed of as part of the normal weekly yard waste pickup following the holidays.

Trees must be less than eight feet long; cut trees in two pieces if necessary. Be sure to take all your decorations, lights and tree stands off the tree before placing it on the

curb. Do not put the tree in a plastic bag. Flocked trees are accepted; artificial trees should be disposed of in the brown garbage cart.

Residents can also take the trees to any of the City's four drop-off stations:

- 2400 Brennan Ave.
- 5150 Martin Luther King Freeway
- 6260 Old Hemphill Road
- 301 Hillshire Drive

Remove all lights, decorations and tree stands before taking live trees to the drop-off station so the trees can be turned into mulch for beneficial reuse. Live trees with decorations on them that are taken to the drop-off stations cannot be mulched and will be placed in the trash.

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## 'Tis the season to save water

The holidays in Fort Worth are full of lights, food and fun. All of that cheer uses more water than most people think.

Wrapping paper, ribbon, candles and extra cooking all consume water. A roll of wrapping paper can use 18-105 gallons of water to produce. Seasonal holiday flowers such as poinsettias can require about three gallons per plant to grow, even before they make it to your mantel.



Try these simple ideas to save through the holidays:

- Reuse gift bags, boxes and bows.
- Pick wrapping paper made from recycled materials.
- Save ribbons and tissue paper for other holidays.
- Scrape dishes before rinsing in the sink to save water.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Choose decorations that last many years, like fabric garlands and reusable candles.

Every drop counts. When you reuse and recycle, you help save water that would be used to make new products. Small choices add up to big savings over time.

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## WORTH KNOWING

Fort Worth's New Mitchell neighborhood has been selected for the 2026 Neighborhood Improvement Program. The roughly \$4.4 million transformative project will follow a three-year timeline, which includes community engagement and collaborations with external partners and several City departments.

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The Fort Worth Mobile Tool Shed program is expanding citywide, making free tool loans available to all residents across the city. The Mobile Tool Shed provides residents with an easy way to borrow lawn mowers, string trimmers, edgers, power washers and other yard tools. And, by removing the financial and transportation barriers that often prevent property upkeep, the program helps promote vibrant neighborhoods.

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With extra family members, friends and neighbors gathered around the hearth during the upcoming holidays, it's easy to generate trash that exceeds the capacity of the brown cart. There's good news! All residents are allowed two extra bags of garbage next to the cart on their first pickup day following Christmas and New Year's Day. Bags can be up to 30-gallon sized and should not exceed 40 pounds per bag. There is no added fee for this service.

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## WORTH GOING



The Fort Worth Botanic Garden presents **Christmas in the Garden**, a family-friendly celebration that transforms the garden into a winter wonderland filled with light installations, local cuisine and holiday memories. Christmas in the Garden, through Jan. 4, invites visitors to step away from the hustle and bustle of the busy holiday season and focus on what makes the season special: precious time spent together, exploring, laughing and building traditions that will last for years to come.

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