

Kennels

1. Sign-in and Sign-out sheets are being filled in or signed by facility employees rather than having owners handle paperwork and pens.
2. Some kennels are providing curbside check-in and check-out services and instituting pay-by-phone.

Shelters

1. One shelter has put in the following procedures in place and have put the information on their Facebook page to inform the community:

As a precautionary measure due to COVID-19: The shelter at XX (address of the shelter) will be open with LIMITED access. Please call our main office at XX (shelter number) for assistance.

In the last couple of days, we at the XX (Shelter name) have been discussing the best course of action to protect our staff, community and, of course the animals from the spread of COVID-19. In an effort to provide the best and safest service to all involved, we are limiting access to our shelter.

We are currently not accepting owner surrenders. We are asking you keep your family pet during this crisis and revisit surrendering when it is safe to do so.

Trying to balance our commitment to everyone's safety, we will be open for adoptions, but under strict guidelines. We ask that you view our FB page and know prior to arrival which animal you are interested in. Staff will allow only one person at a time in the shelter and meet and greets will be done in our outdoor play yard only.

For now, please check petharbor.com if you have lost your pet. We will use the same protocols as adoptions, show us a picture of your pet and this will be done one person at a time.

We will be doing limited stray intakes. We ask that you not bring something home you are not willing to hold and advertise to find the owner. There are multiple sites to assist with Lost and Found pets. Please phone our office for more information on this. We will also be posting more tips to assist you.

The staff at XX (shelter name) is desperately trying to avoid drastic measures in the event of our shelter filling up.

If you have any questions, please call our office at XX (shelter number).

We value our XX (location) community and know that with your help we will get through these troublesome times. We can only do it together!

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

2. The shelter could consider putting photos of all animals on a loop and placing a computer in a front window of the shelter which shows these animal photos in a continuous loop. The instructions for what to do in the event that someone identifies their pet could be posted in the same window. The instructions should contain a phone number to speak to a shelter staff member.

3. Photos could also be posted on the front door of the shelter with instructions and the phone number as well.

Notes

COVID-19 & Sheltering webinar presented by Animal Keepers with Elizabeth Berliner, DVM Cornell University

Spay/Neuter

-Their recommendation was to stop all spay/neuter procedures currently if it is not essential to the animal's health, such as a prolapse.

Intake

-If there is a known exposure to COVID, such as animal's owner is in hospital and you are intaking their animal because there is no one else to care for it then: wear your PPE; place the animal in double-sided housing; limit your handling of the animal for 3 days. This is because that is the longest they believe at this time that the virus can live on the haircoat and because the fur has been ruled very low as a vector for transmittal of droplets. This is the extreme conservative precaution; do not adopt/foster the animal until after 14 days. The reason for this recommendation is because animals have been known to have the virus in nasal passage or feces, again this is going the extra conservative side of caution.

-If animal can stay in the home they should because that is what's best for the animal and less stressful.

Euthanasia

-The question was asked: how to social distance when two people are required for humane euthanasia? Dr. Berliner stated this is where you need to use your PPE, because you will not be able to do it with 6ft between you. She said it can be reusable PPE that is for that one person only and washed daily.

Hot Topics

-She recommended that, if you can, divide your staff into two teams that do not have contact with each other. That way if one person in the team gets infected it only affects that one team and not the whole staff. She realizes staffing is essential especially when some losing staff because they must stay at home and take care children.

-Transporting is life-saving, but only transport for essential needs such as to a vet.

-If you have a foster program and dogs need vaccination maybe let them go a little longer between vaccines since they are in a foster home and safer than if they were being housed in shelters.

-After doing some research, she said is she becoming more favorable towards cloth masks if they are assigned to one person each.