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NACA Statement on Bite Quarantine Requirements During The COVID-19 Pandemic

In an effort to reduce person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 through animal services work and reduce the number of animals held for extended periods of time at shelters, The National Animal Care and Control Association is urging states to relax requirements for animals involved in bite cases and is asking that those animals be quarantined at home rather than at an animal shelter. Many jurisdictions already allow in-home quarantine for animals involved in bite cases deemed less than severe. In these cases, the officer determines whether an in-home quarantine is appropriate based on the capacity of the owner to properly and safely confine the animal along with vaccination history and severity of the bite. Health checks on the animals can be done from a distance as can the inspection of fencing etc. so the interactions with the resident are minimal while maintaining the appropriate distance under CDC guidelines.

During this global pandemic, it is imperative that only animals who pose a clear and immediate danger to the public or who are in distress themselves be impounded and taken to shelters. Animal control agencies are facing reduced staffing due to furloughs and staff illnesses, both of which will only increase over time. Additionally, the anticipated increase in the number of animals entering shelters due to COVID-19 fallout related to pet owners' health, employment and financial stability warrants taking measures to keep animal shelter populations at a minimum.

For more information on animal control and the Covid-19 situation visit:

<https://www.nacanet.org/covid19/>