



*The National Animal Care & Control Association
is committed to setting the standard of professionalism in animal welfare
and public safety through training, networking, and advocacy.*

NACA Statement on Animal Control Functions During the COVID-19 Pandemic

For the safety of our officers and the public they serve, NACA is advising all officers to take extra measures to mitigate the short and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include protecting themselves properly to reduce risk of spreading the virus, as well as working to manage and minimize the number of new animals entering our shelters.

Working in the animal care and control field presents unique challenges because of the nature of the job to respond directly to residences where a person may be known or suspected of having COVID-19.

Dispatchers or call-takers should question callers and determine the possibility that a call may involve a person who may have signs or symptoms and risk factors association for COVID-19. By determining this information, responding officers can utilize the appropriate PPE if they must enter the residence or other building and when handling any animal that may act as a fomite of COVID-19. Officers should make every effort to not enter the home of anyone known to have been exposed or symptomatic with the virus.

Recommended PPE include:

- A N-95 or greater respirator or facemask (if a respirator is not available).
- Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face).
- Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
- A single pair of disposable nitrile gloves. Gloves should be changed in they become torn or heavily contaminated.
- An isolation gown.
- All personnel should avoid touching their face while working.
- After completing the response and before entering their response vehicle, officers should remove and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene to avoid soiling the vehicle compartment.

For ongoing information, please continue referring to all updates from the Centers for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>