



*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 Cat Intake Protocol Recommendations During COVID-19 Pandemic

The most likely impact of COVID-19 on shelters is a trend of average or increased intakes combined with reduced foster, adoption and rescue outcomes. This can quickly lead to overcrowding and shelters being forced to euthanize for space.

As COVID-19 impacts on shelters continue, it is the recommendation that animal control agencies suspend intake of healthy stray and community cats, except for the purposes of sterilization and release. Officers should cease any activity involving trapping and intaking healthy community cats.

Animal control organizations should continue to take in cats that are sick and injured, or are in immediate danger, as in the case of cats that are victims of neglect or cruelty.

Further, for cats involved in hoarding situations, it is the recommendation of NACA that cases are evaluated on an individual basis, to determine the immediacy of need based on condition of the cats and living premises. Animal control agencies may consider deferred or staggered intake in cases where cats do not require immediate medical attention. In cases where there are a lot of cats at one residence, but cats are not in immediate danger, animal control agencies may consider sheltering some or all of the cats in place, at the cats' existing home, while strategically managing intake timing to bring in a few cats at a time. This managed intake process should be considered as long as there is not an immediate threat to public safety or the safety of the cats.

For more information and guidance please visit <https://www.nacanet.org/covid19/>