

Draft of changes at MACC because of COVID-19 Coronavirus in Nashville

Metro Animal Care and Control to alter operations to protect against COVID-19 Coronavirus

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (DATE) – The Metro Public Health Department (MPHD) announces new measures being taken by Metro Animal Care and Control (MACC) to protect employees, volunteers and animals in their care.

Guidance from the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA) advised shelters to take actions to mitigate the short- and long-term effects of COVID-19. While Animal Control Officers at MACC will continue to answer high-priority and emergency calls, non-emergency calls and activities will be suspended or reduced. Animal Control Officers will be instructed to wear personal protection equipment in cases when the location they are dispatched to involves a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. Officers are also advised to make every effort to avoid entering the home of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Guidance from NACA also advised shelters to limit non-essential intakes. Instead of surrendering healthy pets, MACC is asking owners who are not facing an immediate crisis to delay surrendering pets. Owner surrenders require an appointment, a point of person-to-person contact when transmission of COVID-19 could easily occur. Little evidence has been found of animals transmitting the virus.

To help mitigate possible overcrowding, MACC is working to connect with people interested in taking in a foster pet. Interested persons should read the [Foster Care Guide](#) on Nashville.gov and complete a foster care application. Applications can go to foster.macc@nashville.gov.

The new policies at MACC will be in place until it is safe for employees to go about their normal routines without risk of COVID-19 infection. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, people across Nashville are encouraged to take these preventative measures:

- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds per wash using soap and water. If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%-95% alcohol.
- Cover your cough or sneeze. The best practice is to cover it with a tissue and throw the tissue away. The inside of your arm is also acceptable to limit the spread of the illness.
- Keep a distance of at least six feet from people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick. Only leave for pre-arranged medical care.
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using household cleaner.

Pet owners are encouraged to plan for their pet's care in the event the owner tests positive for COVID-19. Part of that planning is stocking up on two weeks of pet food and supplies.

Metro Animal Care and Control (MACC) is committed to the delivery of effective, courteous, and responsive animal care and control services to the residents of Nashville/Davidson County. MACC's mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of pets and people in Nashville. Our

goals are to build partnerships within the community to promote responsible pet ownership, decrease the overpopulation of domestic pets through spay-neuter programs, and to place adoptable animals in good homes.