

COVID-19 AND ANIMALS: RESOURCES

During this pandemic, law enforcement may receive calls related to animals and COVID-19. To make it a bit easier to find animal-related information, below are some key resources.

For a more complete resource with additional links, refer to the LE Resource Guide.

Key messages with links (from the Resource Guide) are below:

1. **Animal-related questions.** The CDC and others have compiled a list of questions and answers related to animals and COVID-19. Links attached.
Key link: CDC: [COVID-19 and Animals](#)
2. **Identify a caregiver.** It is recommended that pet owners identify a caregiver for their pets should they become ill with COVID-19. The point is to keep pets in homes and not over-burden animal shelters. A Pet Care Plan is in the attached document.
Key link: Cornell: [Guidance for Caretakers for pets of COVID19 Positive Patients](#)
3. **Protocols for entering an infected home.** You may get calls to retrieve animals from homes where the person is infected, will be hospitalized, and needs help with their pets. The National Animal Care and Control Association has set up recommended protocols for retrieving animals from infected homes, if assistance is needed.
Key link: [NACA Statements on Coronavirus](#)
4. **Intake of animals into shelters.** Protocols have also been established for animal shelters who receive, shelter, and care for the animals. Many municipal and private nonprofit shelters have already implemented procedures; links provide suggested protocols.
Key link: [Intake of companion animals](#) (scroll down on link to download Sample Protocols)
Additional: [COVID-19 Animal Shelter Preparedness Plan](#)
5. **Reduce potential burden on shelters.** Because people may have a loss of income due to COVID-19 which can impact their ability to care for companion animals and result in animals being surrendered, it is recommended that communities work with food shelves to also provide pet food and supplies to keep animals and people together.
6. **Domestic violence with animals.** The MN Day One Crisis Line provides assistance to domestic violence victims. They also work with shelters for the fostering of pets.
Crisis Line: <https://www.cornerstonemn.org/emergency-services/statewide-hotline/>

As with humans, information about animals and COVID-19 evolves and is frequently updated. These materials are informational only. There are local, state, and national resources available to assist law enforcement with questions about animals.

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