

# **COVID-19**

# **ANIMAL-RELATED RESOURCES**

# **FOR MINNESOTA**

# **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**REVISED JUNE 2020**

**PURPOSE:** The following resources have been compiled as a tool for law enforcement when dealing with animal-related issues in Minnesota pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing easy access to information.

**USAGE:** All or part of this document can be used and disseminated.

**NOTE:** The content provided is informational only and based on available data; the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve daily. Links are provided to multiple, credible resources that may revise or update data where appropriate. Any links to third party websites implies no endorsement or affiliation. Questions or comments can be directed to name below.

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# CONTENTS

- I. **OVERVIEW: COVID-19 AND ANIMALS** Pages 3-13
  - A. Purpose and Policy
  - B. Function and Strategies
  - C. MN Emergency Operations Plan
  - D. Animal FAQs
  - E. Governor Executive Orders: Animals
  
- II. **RETRIEVING AND CONTAINING ANIMALS** Pages 14-23
  - A. Dispatch: Questions to ask public
  - B. Pets: Protocols when removing pets from infected homes
  - C. Pets: Protocols for housing animals
  - D. Emergency Services
  - E. Livestock and Other Animals
  
- III. **PUBLIC: RESOURCES** Pages 24-31
  - A. Pet Owners and Caregivers: Pet Care Plan
  - B. Pet Food & Supplies
  - C. Homelessness and Pets
  - D. Kids and Adults: Mental Health Support
  
- IV. **CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS** Pages 32-34
  - A. Domestic Violence with pets
  - B. Animal Cruelty: Chapter 343
  - C. Animal Abandonment: Chapter 343
  
- V. **TOOLS, FORMS, & RESOURCES** Pages 35-44
  - A. Contacts
  - B. Disinfectants
  - C. PPE and Decontamination
  - D. Forms
  - E. Communication tools
  - F. Multilingual information

## **I. A. OVERVIEW: COVID-19 AND ANIMALS**

### **PURPOSE AND POLICY**

#### **PURPOSE**

This resource guide provides recommendations and tools from credible experts for use by law enforcement to execute their duties related to the protection and care of animals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **POLICY**

As defined in the Minnesota Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP), local government has the primary responsibility for meeting the immediate health and safety needs of its citizens in the event of a major disaster/emergency. Minnesota also recognizes the health and safety of animals during this emergency.

Resources in this guide reflect information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), National Animal Care & Control Association, and other credible organizations or agencies. For state and federal assistance, refer to the MEOP.

Policies may vary based on the needs of the community.

## **I. B. OVERVIEW: COVID-19 AND ANIMALS**

### **FUNCTION AND STRATEGIES**

#### **FUNCTION**

Law enforcement may be called upon to assist with the coordination of animal care. This could include the retrieval of animals from homes or other properties, sheltering, veterinary care, or other services. Various public, private, and nonprofit organizations are available to assist.

Specific to household pets, law enforcement may be:

- Contacted by an individual who may be infected at home or must be hospitalized and has pets or other animals in need of care;
- Contacted by an identified caregiver of the infected individual, such as a trusted family member or friend, for assistance in retrieving the pets;
- Contacted by a neighbor who may suspect animals remain at the residence;
- Be on the property assisting EMT and notice that animals, too, are at the residence, in need of care;
- Contacted by an individual who may be at risk of domestic violence, elder abuse, or other crime and need assistance with pets or other animals.
- Contacted by the general public for information.

#### **STRATEGIES — COMPANION ANIMALS (PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS)**

Removing pets from homes in emergencies is typically a duty of Animal Control Officers; however, it is understood that not all communities in Minnesota have animal care and control agencies. For some communities, this duty is directed to law enforcement, including patrol officers or Community Services Officers.

To ensure your department or office is prepared for animal issues, consider:

1. **Command.** Confirm command structure; identify internal and external resources for animal services (obtain Mutual Aid Agreements or Memorandums of Understanding for external assistance).

2. **Objectives.** Define objectives and actions:
  - **Collaborate.** To assist in containment of animals, collaborate with both municipal and private animal shelters, foster organizations, veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, or other qualified entities.
  - **Determine capabilities.** Confirm animal care abilities and intake protocols; define existing kennel space and caging availability. Additional sheltering may be needed to house pets should pet owners/caregivers have COVID-19 or surrender animals due to loss of income.
  - **Focus.** To reduce burden on the animal shelter system, direct animal service staff to assess functions (essential vs. non-essential); refer to guidelines from the [National Animal Care and Control Association](#) for essential activities. Shift strategies, when necessary.
  - **Reduce possible surrenders.** To keep pets in homes and reduce animals being surrendered to shelters, assemble contacts for local resources of free pet food, supplies, or other items for individuals needing assistance in care of their pets. Support housing of pets in qualified foster homes.
  - **Build contacts.** As with human issues, information about animal health and issues may change as new data is learned. Identify animal experts for assistance with all species, if and when needed.
  
3. **Training.** Inform and train dispatch and officers as to duties related to animal care and any procedural changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, including information and identification of owner and animals, retrieval of animals, intake and housing of animals, use of personal protective equipment, and other safety measures for humans and animals.
  
4. **Information.** Share information with the public and community on social media and other formats about animal care and information during crisis.

The above strategies have been adapted, in part, from the Association for Animal Welfare Advancement.

## **CDC — GENERAL: COMMUNITY MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

General information from CDC for communities to slow the spread of COVID-19.

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

## **I. C. OVERVIEW: COVID-19 AND ANIMALS**

### **MINNESOTA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (MEOP)**

#### **COMMAND**

Per the Minnesota Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP), local government has the primary responsibility for meeting the immediate health and safety needs of its citizens in the event of a major disaster/emergency.

MEOP provides the basis for a coordinated *state* response to a major disaster or emergency. This may include state-sponsored sheltering of animals or other functions and needs defined within the MEOP.

To obtain most recent copy of MEOP:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/all-hazards-planning/Pages/meop.aspx>

To request state or federal assistance, law enforcement and other local officials should follow standard protocols and contact MEOP emergency managers.

#### **MEOP CONTACTS—SEOC AND COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGERS:**

- **State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)**

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)

A Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety

- <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/seoc/Pages/default.aspx>
- Contact: 651-297-1304 or 800-657-3504
- Map of County Emergency Managers with program coordinator names and contacts: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/contact/Pages/county-emergency-managers.aspx>

- **BCA: Minnesota Duty Officer Program**

The Minnesota Duty Officer Program provides a single answering point for local and state agencies to request state-level assistance for emergencies, serious accidents or incidents, or for reporting hazardous materials and petroleum spills. The duty officer is available 24 hours per

day, seven days per week. If, for instance, there is a need for mass sheltering of animals or veterinary medical support, the Duty Officer would reach out to the Animal Disaster Coalition (ADC), the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (MNVMRC), and others for assistance.

- Website: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/administrative/Pages/minnesota-duty-officer-program.aspx>

## **MEOP FUNCTIONS**

The Department of Agriculture is the primary Emergency Support Function (ESF) Coordinator for animal issues when state assistance is needed. Support functions are outlined under ESF #11. (Refer to MEOP.)

Other MEOP functions also support animal safety and well-being with designated agencies and coordinators, including ESF #6, ESF #8, ESF #9, and ESF #14.

A multi-agency response to a domestic incident includes multiple state and federal services, such as, but not limited to, mass evaluation, sheltering, and emergency of household pets and service animals, coordinating disposal issues for animal carcasses resulting from disease, protecting livestock animal health, providing veterinary medical support, supplies, and equipment, and coordination with animal welfare and agricultural stakeholders and service providers in long-term community recovery efforts.

## **SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF HOUSEHOLD PETS**

Following the passage of the [Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act](#) (PETS, federal), the MEOP was revised to include providing for the safety and well-being of household pets.

The state response focuses on the safety and well-being of household pets during natural disasters and other emergency events resulting in mass displacement of civilian populations. This includes providing technical support and subject-matter expertise on functions such as:

- mass evaluation and sheltering of household pets
- medical care of household pets

- transportation of household pets
- search and rescue operations for household pets
- ensure continued assistance is provided for household pets during long-term community recovery

## **RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS**

For job titles, descriptions, and qualifications of different animal workers, click link below, hit browse, and scroll to animal (any description starting with animal), scroll to veterinarian, or scroll to other job descriptions.

- <https://rtlt.preptoolkit.fema.gov/Public>

## **FUNDING AND FUNCTIONS**

ESF #11 also states that the Department of Homeland Security (FEMA) provides a granting mechanism to fund preparedness efforts on the local level to ensure that an infrastructure exists to meet the timely challenges of evacuation and rescue, funds state and local preparedness activities for household pets and service animals, and other needs.

## **PREP TALKS AND FEMA TRAINING**

FEMA provides PrepTalks (videos and discussion materials) by subject-matter experts to spark new ideas and promote leadership on preparedness, response, and community engagement. Many of the PrepTalks were filmed before the COVID-19 outbreak but some lessons and resources may be applicable.

- <https://www.fema.gov/preptalks>

FEMA provides training for animals in disasters (developed prior to COVID-19).

- Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-10.a>

- Animals in Disasters: Community Planning

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-11.a>



## I. D. COVID-19: GENERAL ANIMAL INFORMATION

### ANIMAL FAQs

The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human to human transmission. Per the CDC:

- At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.
- The CDC is still learning about this virus, but it appears that it can spread *from people to animals* in some situations.
- Currently, there is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 can spread to people from the skin or fur of companion animals.

It's always a good idea to practice [healthy habits](#) around pets, livestock, and wildlife, such as washing your hands and maintaining good hygiene. This is to protect both humans and animals from becoming infected.

#### LINKS—ANIMAL INFORMATION:

*Links below provide answers to frequently asked questions about COVID-19 and animals. Information on links are updated as new data becomes available.*

- **CDC: COVID-19 and Animals**  
Basic answers to questions pertaining to COVID-19 and animals.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#COVID-19-and-Animals>
- **CDC: If You Have Animals**  
The link below provides information from the CDC about what to do if you own pets and protecting pets if you are sick.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>
- **Animal Welfare Daily Digest**  
This resource provides timely and updated information for the animal community, including animal shelters, animal control, veterinarians, and

the public. It is compiled by multiple animal welfare organizations, working together. Subscribe for the emails.

<https://mailchi.mp/animalwelfaredigest/subscribe>

- **Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program**

The link below provides general information about animals and COVID-19, including a video and multiple resources, with an emphasis on pet care.

<https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/2020/04/16/covid-19-who-will-care-for-your-pet-if-you-cant/?fbclid=IwAR1QV4NnBlyTxx5dnSFL4Nfn71VWsXTD7Uf3n1Jvg57ADHuSXG-CWfmwokc>

- **OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health**

Questions and answers on the COVID-19.

<https://www.oie.int/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus/>

- **AVMA: American Veterinary Medical Association**

The link below provides general information about COVID-19 and animals.

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/sars-cov-2-animals-including-pets>

- **University of Wisconsin Shelter Medicine (and UC Davis-Koret)**

The link below provides information about coronaviruses and pets with suggested guidelines for animal shelters, veterinary services, pets and foster care, and other recommendations.

<https://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/animal-services-role-in-covid-19-support>

- **OVMA: Ontario Veterinary Medical Association**

Per OVMA: Pets can provide important emotional support during challenging times. The risk that they would be a source of COVID-19 in a household is exceptionally low, with some basic practices. While there are reports of people asking to surrender their pet because of fear of COVID-

19, risk posed by driving to a shelter to surrender a pet is probably much greater than the risk posed by a pet.

[https://www.ovma.org/assets/1/6/Pets\\_and\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://www.ovma.org/assets/1/6/Pets_and_COVID-19.pdf)

- **HSVMA: Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association**

Per HSVMA: Until we learn more about how this virus affects animals, the CDC and the veterinary community recommend that you treat pets as you would other human family members to protect them from a potential infection.

[https://www.hsvma.org/hsvmastatement\\_catscovid19](https://www.hsvma.org/hsvmastatement_catscovid19)

- **WSAVA: World Small Animal Veterinary Association**

This link provides COVID-19 information pertaining to companion animals, with updates from One Health and Scientific committees.

<http://wsava.org>

- **National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Programs (NASAAEP)**

Provides communication and networking to help plan for, prepare, and respond to disasters involving animals at local, state, and federal levels.

<https://www.thenasaaep.com/>

## **I. E. COVID-19: ANIMAL INFORMATION**

### **GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDERS: ANIMALS**

The Minnesota Governor has provided Executive Orders on matters related to COVID-19. Some of these orders relate to animals, including pets, livestock, and wildlife, as well as the care of, production, selling, and transport of animals.

*NOTE: Executive Orders by the Governor will continue to change as the pandemic changes. The Governor's Office is available to answer questions about the orders and how they apply to animals.*

### **EXECUTIVE ORDERS FROM GOVERNOR WALZ**

#### **All Executive Orders**

<https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp>

#### **Of interest:**

As with physicians for humans, certain surgeries and procedures conducted by veterinarians, such as spay and neuter, were not allowed at one time during the pandemic. Also, veterinarians and animal shelters were requested to share extra PPE with hospitals treating humans; veterinary clinics implemented safety measures for care of animals.

Pets were included in the “care of others” **Executive Order 2020, Section 5 f**: “Individuals may care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and may transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Executive Order, including the transport of children pursuant to existing parenting time schedules or other visitation schedules pertaining to a child in need of protective services (“CHIPS”) proceeding.”

Humane officers, animal control officers, and all workers who support life-safety measures for animals are considered essential services, similar to law enforcement and first responders, and allowed to perform their duties.

## STATE AGENCIES

- For State Emergency Operations Center (DPS-Homeland Security):

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/seoc/Pages/default.aspx>

- For human health (MDH):

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

- For animal disease (BAH):

<https://www.bah.state.mn.us/covid-19/>

- For animal production (MDA):

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/covid-19-agriculture>

- For animal welfare and care:

Contact animal care services, including local or national animal welfare nonprofits. See CONTACT page in this resource guide.

## II. A. RETREIVING AND CONTAINING ANIMALS

### DISPATCH

Individuals may contact law enforcement with questions about animal care during this crisis or if they or loved ones are infected and need assistance with pets or other animals in the household.

#### Questions:

In addition to standard protocols, it is recommended that Dispatch ask:

1. How many pets are in the home?
2. What are the types of animals? (i.e., breed of dog or species such as pet fish, bird, rabbit, etc.)
3. Where are the animals located in the home?

Officer (ACO, CSO, patrol) who goes to the scene should be prepared with the necessary tools, procedures, and resources, including appropriate PPE.

#### Further:

- **Entry.** Local policy to be followed for entry into home and removal of pets or other animals (property). If entry and custody form are available from resident, obtain.
- **Caregiver.** An identified caregiver may be present instead of the pet owner.
- **Assistance.** Additional qualified assistance may be needed for retrieval and housing of animals. Instruct all participants to follow PPE protocols and safety measures.
- **Identification.** All animals removed must be properly identified.
- **Kit.** If a Pet Emergency Kit, with pet medications, food, and other supplies, has been compiled by pet owner, officer should obtain from home.

## **II. B. RETRIEVING AND CONTAINING ANIMALS: PROTOCOLS WHEN REMOVING PETS FROM INFECTED HOMES**

Emergency protocols should be adapted to reflect safety and care measures to protect the officer, pet owners or caregivers, and the animals.

Links to recommended protocols and safety information are below from:

1. National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
3. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

### **KEY CONSIDERATIONS (adapted from NACA):**

When retrieving animals from a person/home infected with COVID-19 (details on NACA protocols posted on links below):

- **Data:** Determine if resident is infected; obtain any additional information from Dispatch about the animals and residence.
- **Entry:** Verify legal authority to enter home; follow process for entry.
- **PPE:** Before entering the home or handling an animal, make certain to have appropriate PPE. Follow all safety guidelines using PPE and social distancing practices, including discarding or sanitizing items.
- **Removal:** For non-emergency calls, ask that animals be brought outside to you. If not possible, use leash or carrier to secure animal(s) from home. Be aware that animals may be scared or agitated by PPE.
- **Transport:** Transport animal(s) to animal shelter and follow shelter intake protocols or, if requested by pet owner, to identified caregiver. Be certain to include identification of animals on animals, crates, or carriers.

### **NACA LINKS:**

- **NACA: Removing Pets from Homes of Residents that are Known or Suspected to be infected with COVID-19**

<https://www.nacanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/8.Removing-Pets-from-Homes-of-Residents-that-are-or-Suspected-to-be-Infected-With-1COVID-19-2.pdf>

- **NACA: Officer Safety During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Link below provides safety recommendations for removing animals, including PPE, cleaning/sanitizing supplies, personal care, and other measures.

<https://www.nacanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/6.Officer-Safety-During-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-2.pdf>

- **NACA: Other Statements on Coronavirus with Updates**

<https://www.nacanet.org/naca-statements-on-covid-19/>

### **KEY CONSIDERATIONS (FROM CDC):**

General information about animals and the transmission of the virus.

- **CDC: Interim Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People with COVID-19 | Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/interim-guidance-managing-people-in-home-care-and-isolation-who-have-pets.html>

- **CDC: Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for COVID-19**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-home-care.html>

- **CDC: Information for First Responders on COVID-19**

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) – Guidance for EMS related to COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

- **CDC: Law Enforcement**

What law enforcement needs to know to protect themselves from COVID-19, including recommended PPE.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>

*More on next page.*



**KEY CONSIDERATIONS (FROM MDH):**

General health recommendations for first responders and law enforcement.

- **MN Dept of Health: Guidance Library: COVID 19**

List of guidance documents available for COVID-19 response.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidance.html>

- **MN Dept of Health: Mental/Behavioral Health and COVID-19**

Mental health and behavioral health resources specific to COVID-19.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/behavioral/covid19.html>

## **II. C. RETRIEVING AND CONTAINING ANIMALS: PROTOCOLS FOR HOUSING ANIMALS WHEN RETRIEVED**

Protocols have been established for the intake of companion animals to animal shelters, boarding facilities, veterinary clinics, or other designated facilities from households where humans with COVID-19 are present.

The local animal shelter, such as a municipal or private nonprofit facility, should already be aware of how to receive animals from infected homes for temporary care. *If not, the links below can be provided to these facilities.*

Law enforcement, including animal control officers, must follow all safety protocols when delivering an animal to the shelter or other facility from an infected household. Confirm protocols with shelter beforehand.

### **Animal health and COVID-19**

*Per The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), May 15, 2020:*

“There is little to no evidence that domestic animals are easily infected with SARS-CoV-2 under natural conditions and no evidence to date that they transmit the virus to people. The primary mode of transmission of COVID-19 in humans is person-to-person spread.”

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>

There have been reports of animals becoming infected with COVID-19 *by humans*. Based on this information, the CDC is suggesting social distancing of animals (6 foot rule) — so animals do not get sick. It is also recommended that animals delivered to a shelter from infected households be quarantined for 14 days. Other recommendations are detailed in the shelter preparedness plans below.

### **LINKS:**

Multiple links are provided below for protocols for animal shelters on the intake of companion animals:

- **AVMA: Interim Recommendations for Intake of Companion Animals from Households Where Humans with COVID-219 Are Present**

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/interim-recommendations-intake-companion-animals-households-humans-covid-19-are-present>

- **Shelter Medicine: School of Veterinary Medicine / University of Wisconsin-Madison** – *Scroll down on page to download Sample Protocol for shelter intake of pets.*

<https://www.uwsheltermedicine.com/library/resources/animal-services-role-in-covid-19-support>

- **American Pets Alive! COVID-19 Animal Shelter Preparedness Guide**

Includes field services and intake operations, shelter operations, foster and adoption, veterinary services, sample documents, and other items.

<https://americanpetsalive.org/resources>

- **Animal Sheltering: COVID-19 Shelter Toolkit**

<https://www.animalsheltering.org/COVID19>

- **Association of Shelter Veterinarians**

<https://www.sheltervet.org/covid-19-resources>

## **II. D. RETRIEVING AND CONTAINING ANIMALS: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Emergency Medical Services (EMS), during the COVID-19 infection, includes services provided to people and to animals. Law enforcement may be the point person to coordinate animal care and seek assistance, if needed.

If law enforcement accompanies an EMS provider to enter a home to remove a person for hospitalization, be certain to check home for pets or other animals. Arrange for removal of the pets for care and temporary or permanent housing. If possible, have person sign custody and medical permission form.

- **HOME CARE**

**The CDC has developed Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for COVID-19**

Link below is targeted for staff at local and state health departments, infection prevention and control professionals, and healthcare personnel who are coordinating the home care and isolation of people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection, including persons under investigation.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-home-care.html>

- **FUNCTIONAL NEEDS PLANNING TOOLKIT – SPECIAL NEEDS**

The link below is a Functional Needs Planning Toolkit for Emergency Planners developed by DPS-HSEM. Focus is on serving individuals with disabilities (special needs populations). Multiple contacts included.

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/access-functional-needs/Documents/functional-needs-planning-toolkit.pdf>

- **ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE RESOURCES**

There are local and national organizations who may be able to provide direct assistance with animal care or answer questions about potential resources for animal care, sheltering, veterinary support, and other concerns. See CONTACT page in this resource guide.

## **II. E. RETRIEVING AND CONTAINING ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS: CARE**

In addition to companion animals (pets and service animals), safety and care of farmed animals, equines, wildlife, exotics, and other animals are also a concern in times of disaster and emergencies.

During COVID-19, reports of infection (with workers) within animal production facilities in Minnesota have been reported. Further, disruption to the food supply chain has resulted in the mass destruction of animals. Safety and care of workers and animals in food production — before, during, and after the coronavirus crisis — especially within slaughterhouses, is a concern. Be aware of all interactions.

In addition to governmental agencies, refer to animal welfare organizations and associations for advice on the humane treatment and care of animals.

### **COVID-19 DESCRIPTION**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses with some affecting animals and some affecting people. Most livestock producers and veterinarians are very familiar with common animal coronaviruses like Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus, which impacts pigs. The majority of coronaviruses stick to their own species. ...

There is a very specific molecular structure of coronaviruses to make each compatible with the specific species they infect. All species have different cellular structures and react differently to each virus. While one species can be infected, another could pass the virus through its body without any effects. This explains why different coronavirus strains affect specific species and body systems.

*(Above is per the MN Board of Animal Health.)*

### **LINKS:**

- **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (DOA)**

Link below provides information related to COVID-19 and food and agriculture, which includes livestock and issues related to food production and animal care

such as carcass disposal, livestock permitting, processing, and other issues.

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/covid-19-agriculture>

- **Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH)**

Link below provides information about COVID-19 and animal issues, such as animal imports and exports, biosecurity, livestock resources, and other matters.

<https://www.bah.state.mn.us/covid-19/>

- **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)**

MDH provides resources for information and resources on zoonotic diseases

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/>

- **Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (BVM)**

BVM licenses veterinarians in Minnesota and provides veterinary medical information.

<https://mn.gov/boards/veterinary-medicine/>

- **United States Department of Agriculture**

COVID-19 information provided by the federal government.

<https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>

- **National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs**

Provides guidelines and training for community emergency response programs.

<https://www.thenasaaep.com/>

- **FEMA - Animals in Disasters: The Care of Livestock and Horses in Disasters**

Link below is a FEMA training module with advice for large animal caregivers. This was written prior to COVID-19; refer to other resources for safety measures.

[https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/downloads/is10\\_a-8.pdf](https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/downloads/is10_a-8.pdf)

## **Animal welfare**

For additional guidance on animal welfare and animal health, including the humane treatment and/or disposal of livestock and other animals, contact local or national animal welfare organizations and veterinary organizations. Refer to CONTACT page.

## **WILDLIFE**

The National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) has received questions regarding interactions with wildlife during COVID-19. NACA has posted some resources for wildlife response on link below.

<https://www.nacenet.org/wildlife-during-covid-19/>

For information and advice on wildlife issues in Minnesota, also refer to:

- **MN Department of Natural Resources (wildlife)**

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

- **Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Minnesota (wildlife)**

<https://wrcmn.org/>

## **EQUINE**

For information and advice on equines, refer to:

- **University of Minnesota Extension: Horses**

<https://extension.umn.edu/horse-ownership/horse-care-during-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1bq8KU3aAMaxS7rlbWD-dwDWQBT9FXayG79TIjob176sPmLthGcjlBos>

- **The Horse: COVID-19 resources for Horse Owners**

[https://thehorse.com/features/covid-19-resources-for-horse-owners/?utm\\_medium=partners&utm\\_source=Newsletter](https://thehorse.com/features/covid-19-resources-for-horse-owners/?utm_medium=partners&utm_source=Newsletter)

- **Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition (equine resources)**

<https://www.minnesotahorsewelfare.org>

- **Minnesota Horse Council (equine resources)**

<http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org>

### III. A. PUBLIC RESOURCES

#### PET CARE PLAN AND KIT

Authorities have warned that the COVID-29 pandemic may extend for months or years. It is expected that additional individuals will test positive for the virus and more hospitalizations and deaths will occur.

In Minnesota, many households (over 60%) have multiple pets. To many people, these companions are family members. To keep animals in homes (and not overburden animal shelters), individual pet owners are being encouraged to prepare a Pet Care Plan, which includes identifying a caregiver should they become sick or hospitalized and are unable to care for the animals.

Law enforcement can also convey this message. Where possible, encourage use of authorization form and door sign (attached below). Also refer to Animal FAQs in this resource guide for additional animal information.

#### **MESSAGE for the public: CREATE A PET CARE PLAN**

##### **1. IDENTIFY CAREGIVER AND ASSEMBLE KIT**

Plan ahead for care of your pets and to prevent transmission of the virus.

- **Identify a caregiver**, such as a family member or friend, in case you or other household members must be hospitalized and need someone to care for your pets. Also have a back-up, such as trusted neighbors or a boarding facility.
- **Assemble a Pet Emergency Kit.** This kit should have everything the caregiver needs in one convenient location — ready to go. Include basic care items for your pets for at least 2 weeks, such as food and treats, pet medications, crate or carrier, toy, and other supplies that are washable or wipeable. Also include identification documents, such as photo of your pets, ID tags, and your veterinarian's name and contact with contact with [authorization for care](#). *Scroll further for additional examples of forms.*



- **Create and post a sign on your door**, indicating the number of pets (and species) in your home and where they are located in the house. [Download sample sign](#); fill in information.

## 2. STAY AT HOME; SELF-ISOLATE

If you have tested positive for the virus and have pets in your home, isolate (distance) yourself from other household members and from your pets.

- **Household members:** Others in your household should assume care of your pets as you quarantine yourself.
- **Alone:** If you live alone and are infected with COVID-19 but your symptoms do not require hospitalization, the CDC continues to recommend that you care for your pets in your home but avoid close contact, such as no petting, snuggling, or sharing food. Treat your pet as you would any family member — limit contact, wear a mask, and wash hands often.

## 3. HOSPITALIZATION: ACTIVATE PLAN

If you find you must be hospitalized, this is the time to activate your plan.

- **Contact your pet caregiver.** If you haven't already, go over instructions for the care of your pets. It is recommended that pet owners and caregivers:
  - **Be informed.** Stay updated. Findings about the virus and what to do are changing daily. Use precautions. Learn how best to care for pets in the home and/or introduce them into the new household at:
    - [Cornell, Guidance for Caretakers for Pets of COVID Positive Patients](#)
    - [CDC Guidelines](#)
  - **Reach out** to your city or county, local animal control or law enforcement, or animal shelter to find out what support is available, including potential assistance in retrieving pets.
  - **Provide the Pet Emergency Kit;** discuss where/how to give key to caregiver or authority to gain access to the home.

- **If you have not identified a pet caregiver** or the person is no longer available, contact the [MN Department of Health hotline](#) or your local law enforcement or animal control agency for further guidance and assistance. The hope and plan are to keep pets safely in homes, wherever possible. Be certain to include your name and contact information, pet identification, and directive for pet custody in the Pet Emergency Kit.

### **Financial Help**

Red Rover has resources available for people and pets affected by COVID-19.

Go to: [Red Rover Emergency Resources](#)

### **Veterinary Care**

Most veterinary clinics have implemented safety procedures for animal care and treatment. Veterinarians are also able to accept pets for boarding in the event that a COVID-19 patient does not have other options.

### **Additional Forms and Resources**

More detailed forms for pet guardianship, medical permission, and other actions:

- [Guardianship authorization form](#) (copyright 2011; Pennyborn Planning)
- [Pet emergency care form](#) (posted by Maddie's Animal Shelter Program)

Additional examples of Pet Care Plans

- [Pet Disaster Kit Checklist from CDC](#)
- [Best Friends: COVID-19 Pet Preparedness Plan](#) (in Spanish too)
- [Best Friends: Pet Preparedness Plan – Additional downloads](#)
- [American Red Cross: Pet Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Video on Pet Care and Planning: Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program](#)

### **Governor's Stay-At-Home Executive Order**

[Executive Order 20-20](#) (Section 5F) allowed for individuals to leave their homes to care for a pet in another household or to transport pets from another household.

### **III. B. PUBLIC: RESOURCES**

#### **PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES**

A concern of many, during this crisis, is keeping people and their animals together. With the loss of jobs and income, some individuals may think of surrendering their pets. Where possible, it is recommended that local communities be encouraged to source or provide resources for free pet food and supplies to those in need.

Unfortunately, these types of resources are not fully coordinated throughout Minnesota. Often individuals or pet food companies may donate pet food to animal shelters, (human) food banks, rescue organizations, or other entities and they, in turn, will distribute it to various food shelves, kitchens, pantries, churches and other outlets. There is not a master, statewide list of places that regularly accepts, distributes and/or delivers free pet food and supplies.

#### **OFFERING PET FOOD**

- **Meals On Wheels and Ani-Meals**

Meals on Wheels targets people age 60 and over in need of food. Ani-meals is a part of Meals on Wheels and provides pet food through the human services (only to those who participate in Meals on Wheels). This program serves Minneapolis through Community Emergency Services. For contact:

<https://www.cesmn.org/programs-services/meals-on-wheels-mow/79-ces-mow-animals-program>

- **People & Pets Together**

Pets & People Together distributes food and supplies to multiple locations in the metro area, including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Minnetonka, Stillwater, and Bloomington. For locations:

<https://www.peopleandpetstogether.org>

- **Animal Humane Society (AHS)**

Locations on link below have been provided free dog and cat food by the Animal

Humane Society's Community Outreach program.

<https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/outreach/community-outreach-pet-food-distribution-locations>

AHS Pet Helpline: [https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/pet-helpline?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIwty0rKy76QIVx0XVCh2ilweCEAAYASAAEgKeOPD\\_BwE](https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/pet-helpline?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIwty0rKy76QIVx0XVCh2ilweCEAAYASAAEgKeOPD_BwE)

### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

For pet food offered in your area, consider contacting agencies such as:

- your local **animal shelter** or **Meals on Wheels**

- **Hunger Solutions Minnesota**

This organization works with multiple partners with a focus on human food.

Ask if the food shelves provide pet food. Below is a link to a map of Minnesota that lists food shelves. Enter zipcode or address to find resources in your area.

Map: <https://www.hungersolutions.org/find-help/>

Helpline: <https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/>

- **Second Harvest Heartland**

This organization also focuses on food to human food shelves; however, they may, at times, have pet food available. Below is a map of Minnesota with service areas and partners.

<https://www.2harvest.org/for--about-partners/community--coalition-partners/cluster-food-banks.html#.XsFnNi2ZOv>

- **The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army also provides meals to Minnesotans. As with other food organization, the focus is on humans but they do provide some pet services which may include food. Below includes a map of locations.

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/northern/>

- **American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross has assisted with some pet services during disasters and

emergencies. Link below provides contact to the 9 local chapters in Minnesota and Dakotas Region.

<https://www.redcross.org/local/mn-nd-sd.html>

## **NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS**

Some national animal nonprofits are providing assistance with pet food and supplies. Collection and distribution of food varies. Possible contacts:

- **Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)**

HSUS provides assistance during COVID-19, serving people and pets. Link below provides contact information for Minnesota state director.

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-faq>

- **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)**

ASPCA provides information and assistance to communities.

<https://www.aspca.org/animal-protection/covid-19>

Information hub for updates:

<https://www.aspcapro.org/left-navigation/aspca-covid-19-information-hub>

- **Animal Humane**

American Humane has a campaign (Feed the Hungry) to ensure no animals go hungry during the COVID-19 crisis.

<https://www.americanhumane.org/>

- **Greater Good**

GreaterGood.org has provided pet food and supplies through its Rescue Bank (to animal rescue organizations) and to other distributors in Minnesota.

<https://greatergood.org/>

- **Commercial: Pet companies**

Numerous pet-related companies are also providing assistance directly or through their foundations, such as PetCo, Pet Smart, and others.

### **III. C. PUBLIC: RESOURCES**

#### **HOMELESSNESS AND PETS**

People without homes and living on the streets or in shelters may also have pets and medical/veterinary needs. When treating homeless individuals and their pets, assess the risks. Tele-medicine and on-call status for urgent cases may be needed during this time.

#### **COVID-19 Protocols for Street Medicine**

Link below is developed by Street Dog Coalition (see profile below).

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/theaawa.org/resource/resmgr/files/COVID\\_19\\_Protocols\\_for\\_Stree.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/theaawa.org/resource/resmgr/files/COVID_19_Protocols_for_Stree.pdf)

#### **Contact**

Street Dog Coalition, an organization based in Colorado and with teams in over 30 cities nationwide, provides medical and related services to pets of unsheltered individuals. For additional information and insight on this issue, contact the coalition directly. Website: <https://www.thestreetdogcoalition.org/>

### **III. D. PUBLIC: RESOURCES**

#### **KIDS AND ADULTS: MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

Domesticated animals depend on humans for their care. During this pandemic, it's important that humans have the mental health support they need to care for themselves as well as family members, including pets. Resources below.

- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**

Phone numbers for mental health services, including suicide prevention lifeline.  
<https://namimn.org/support/mental-health-support-and-information-on-covid-19/>

- **MN Department of Human Services: Adult and Children's Mental Health**

Crisis response phone numbers by Minnesota county for adult mental health.

<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/people-with-disabilities/health-care/adult-mental-health/resources/crisis-contacts.jsp>

Crisis response phone numbers by Minnesota county for children's mental health.

<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/people-with-disabilities/health-care/childrens-mental-health/resources/crisis-contacts.jsp>

- **MN COVID-19 Response: Mental Health Support**

List of resources for mental health support in Minnesota.

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/get-help/mental-health.jsp>

- **CDC: Coloring and activity book**

Designed for children to cope with emergencies and disasters.

[https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/readywrigley/documents/RW\\_Coping\\_After\\_a\\_Disaster\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/readywrigley/documents/RW_Coping_After_a_Disaster_508.pdf)

- **American Red Cross**

Information for how to talk to kids about COVID-19 and keep them healthy.

<https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/news/2020/coronavirus-how-to-talk-to-your-kids.html>

## **IV. A. CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS**

### **ASSISTANCE WITH HUMAN AND ANIMAL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

#### **CONTACT:**

- Minnesota Day One Crisis Line: **1-866-223-1111** or text: **612-399-9995**

The above crisis line is offered by [Cornerstone](#). This phone number will refer any requests for pet assistance (with domestic violence victims) to their program: MN Family and Animal Safety. This agency works directly with human shelters, animal shelters, and rescue organizations (for fostering of pets) in Minnesota.

#### **KEY CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Reports of domestic violence have increased during the COVID-10 pandemic due to multiple stressors and risk factors (i.e, unemployment or low income, fear and uncertainty, drugs/alcohol, higher gun sales).
- Violence against humans is also linked to violence against animals. Often the pet or other animals may be the first to be hurt, followed by the person.
- It is documented that human victims may refuse to leave the home without the pets for fear that the animals will be hurt by the abuser.
- In addition to domestic violence, animal cruelty is also linked to elder abuse and child maltreatment.
- CDC: Risk and Protective Factors for Perpetration  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>



## **IV. B. CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS**

### **ANIMAL CRUELTY: CHAPTER 343**

Cruelty against animals and humans continues even during emergencies, such as this pandemic. Law enforcement, including humane agents and animal control officers, are considered essential workers and must continue to respond to and investigate complaints of suspected animal cruelty.

During and after the crisis, it is important for law enforcement to remain informed about the welfare of animals and risk management. Fear of COVID-19 can lead to inappropriate actions and measures being taken against animals.

#### **ANIMAL CRUELTY**

In Minnesota, all species are protected from animal cruelty. Refer to Chapter 343 for definitions and officer duties: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/343>

For assistance, refer to below. “In-person” assistance may vary during COVID-19.

#### ***State and local assistance:***

- Animal Folks (MN animal law and resources): [www.animalfolks.org](http://www.animalfolks.org)
- Animal Humane Society (investigations, transport, housing and care of animals): <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/>
- Minnesota Federated Humane Societies (investigations, resources) <https://www.mnfhhs.org/>
- Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (investigations, transport, housing and care of animals; directed to City of Minneapolis but can assist with questions): <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/animals/>
- Local humane agents, animal control officers, and animal shelters (varies based on community)

#### ***National Assistance***

- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS, national): <https://www.humanesociety.org/contact-us>
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA, national): <https://www.asPCA.org/about-us>

## IV. C. **CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS**

### **ANIMAL ABANDONMENT**

As explained by the CDC, COVID-19 is a human-to-human transmission.

Per Drs. Scott Weese and Maureen Anderson, Ontario Veterinary College's Center for Public Health and Zoonoses\*, at this time it is known that:

- COVID-19 is spread almost exclusively, if not exclusively, person-to-person.
- A pet owner is much more likely to transmit the virus TO their pet than to get it FROM their pet.
- If someone's pet is infected, they got it from a person. If the pet has been kept away from pets and people from outside the household, their infection would have come from a household family member.

Though the above information has been conveyed worldwide, there are still some individuals who may intentionally abandon their pets or other animals.

In Minnesota, animal abandonment is a crime. (This is not the same as surrendering a pet to a shelter so the animal can be cared for and re-homed.) The abandoned animal could suffer or die due to lack of food, water, shelter, and other necessary factors for maintaining life.

Refer to: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/343.21>

- **Minn. Stat. sec. 343.21 subdivision 5. Abandonment.** No person shall abandon any animal.
- **Minn. Stat. sec. 343.21 subdivision 5. Temporary abandonment.** No person shall allow any maimed, sick, infirm, or disabled animal to lie in any street, road, or other public place for more than three hours after receiving notice of the animal's condition.
- If the above results in deprivation of necessary food, water, or shelter, or neglect or cruelty to the animal, other subdivisions within section 21 of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 343 also exist.

\*<https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/2020/04/articles/animals/cats/pets-and-covid-19-fears/>

## V. A. TOOLS, FORMS, & RESOURCES

### CONTACTS

#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: COVID-19

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

#### MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT: COVID-19 (*pertaining to animal issues*)

- Minnesota COVID-19 Response  
<https://mn.gov/covid19/>
- Minnesota Governor Office: <https://mn.gov/governor/>  
MN COVID-19 Response: <https://mn.gov/covid19/>
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM, division of DPS)  
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/Pages/default.aspx>
- State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC, under HSEM/DPS)  
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/seoc/Pages/default.aspx>
- MN Department of Health (includes personnel for zoonotic diseases)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/>
- MN Department of Agriculture: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us>

#### OTHER: Public, private, and nonprofit assistance for COVID-19 animal care.

#### Veterinarians

Veterinarians are critical to the health and welfare of animals. They play a key role in disease prevention, animal care and protection, and food safety for humans. Veterinarians can also inform animal owners of measures to avoid further spread of COVID-19 and may provide boarding services. Primary contacts:

- MN Board of Veterinary Medicine (licenses all Minnesota veterinarians)  
<https://mn.gov/boards/veterinary-medicine/>
- MN Board of Animal Health (focus on animal disease and transport)  
<https://www.bah.state.mn.us>
- University of Minnesota – College of Veterinary Science  
<https://vetmed.umn.edu/>
- University of Minnesota Medical Centers  
<https://www.vmc.umn.edu>
- MN Veterinary Medical Association (information and resources)  
<https://www.mvma.org/>
- MN Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (emergency response)  
<https://www.mnvmrc.org/>
- Association of Shelter Veterinarians  
<https://www.sheltervet.org/>

### **Municipal Shelters: Animal Care and Control**

Counties, cities, and townships in Minnesota vary on who provides its local animal care and control services, including sheltering of animals. Organizations below are available to answer ACO and animal care questions.

- National Animal Care and Control Association  
<https://www.nacanet.org/>
- Minneapolis Animal Care and Control  
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/animals/>

### **Horses, Large Animals, and Other Species**

- MN Department of Agriculture (animals for food production)  
<https://www.mda.state.mn.us>

- MN Department of Natural Resources (wildlife)  
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us>
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Minnesota (wildlife)  
<https://wrcmn.org/>
- Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition (equine resources)  
<https://www.minnesotahorsewelfare.org>
- Minnesota Horse Council (equine resources)  
<http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org>
- The Wildcat Sanctuary (exotics):  
<https://www.wildcatsanctuary.org>

### **Private Animal Shelters and Additional Resources**

There are many municipal and private animal shelters throughout Minnesota. These shelters also collaborate with animal rescue organizations that help foster pets. For assistance or animal care questions, contact facilities in your local area. Largest shelter in Minnesota, with multiple facilities, resources, and personnel:

- Animal Humane Society  
<https://www.animalhumanesociety.org>

Two organizations listed under MNVOAD provide specific assistance during emergencies, per request by the state:

- Animal Disaster Coalition  
[http://www.minnesotaanimaldisastercoalition.org/home\\_10.html](http://www.minnesotaanimaldisastercoalition.org/home_10.html)
- Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART)  
<https://bartsl.org>

There are numerous *local and national* organizations that provide assistance with questions about animal law, welfare, and other resources. Services may vary during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you need help with a referral, contact Animal Folks at [ann@animalfolks.org](mailto:ann@animalfolks.org).

## V. B. TOOLS, FORMS, & RESOURCES

### DISINFECTANTS

Disinfectants In response to COVID-19, the CDC have recommended cleaning hands and surfaces for the removal of germs followed by disinfection. Various products are used, depending on purpose. For recommendations on products and how to clean and disinfect, see links below.

- **Distilled Spirits Council: Distilleries and Hand Sanitizer**

See link below for a list of distilleries in Minnesota (and the U.S.) that are making hand sanitizer to fight COVID-19.

<https://www.distilledspirits.org/distillers-responding-to-covid-19/distilleries-making-hand-sanitizer/>

- **CDC: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

- **CDC: Cleaning and Disinfection for Households**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>

- **CDC: Cleaning and Disinfecting You Home**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>

### **EPA: Disinfectant Use and COVID-19**

Link below, compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides information on registering disinfectants, ensuring availability of disinfectants, and taking action against fraudulent products.

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/disinfectant-use-and-coronavirus-covid-19>

*More on next page.*

### **ASPCA: Shelter Disinfectant Quick Reference**

The link below, compiled by ASPCA-Pro, includes a reference guide describing different disinfectants for different issues.

<https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-disease-management/shelter-disinfectant-quick-reference>

## **V. C. TOOLS, FORMS, & RESOURCES**

### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) and DECONTAMINATION**

The equipment needed, including vehicles, to remove animals from an infected home may vary based on the type of animals. Some animals may require a leash or carrier for removal and transport, while other pets may already be caged or contained (i.e., rabbit, bird, fish, hamster).

Animal care and control services should have the necessary equipment for such duties, including traps or catch poles if needed. (Adhere to humane practices if using such equipment.) Of importance for this pandemic is personal protective equipment (PPE) and decontamination procedures.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Law enforcement who must make contact with individuals confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should follow [CDC's Interim Guidance for EMS](#). This includes interactions with animals from infected homes.

PPE recommended by the CDC includes facemasks, eye protection, gown, and gloves. Refer to link above for details and updates.

#### **LINKS:**

- **CDC: What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know About COVID-19**

Link below describes recommendations above and other information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html>

- **CDC: First Responders and Law Enforcement**

Guidance to plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/first-responders.html>

- **CDC: Sequence for putting on PPE**

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf>



- **Homeland Security: COVID-19**

Includes exposure and risk mitigation best practices for Law Enforcement with links to multiple documents, including optimizing PPE supply.

[https://www.waspc.org/assets/docs/covid-10%20le%20risk%20mitigation%20and%20exposure%20best%20practices%20 final.pdf](https://www.waspc.org/assets/docs/covid-10%20le%20risk%20mitigation%20and%20exposure%20best%20practices%20final.pdf)

- **NACA: Protocols (and PPE use) when retrieving animals**

<https://www.nacanet.org/naca-statements-on-covid-19/>

- **LSU NCBRT/ACE: Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education**

Includes videos and resources about protective measures for COVID-19.

<https://ncbrt.lsu.edu/courses/COVID19.php>

- **MDH: Alternative facemask guidance materials**

[Interim Guidance on Alternative Facemasks \(MDH\)](#)

[Interim Guidance on Facemasks as a Source Control Measure \(MDH\)](#)

## **DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES**

Links below are from King County Sheriff's Office (Washington State); includes decontamination procedures for deputies with or without PPE and decontamination of uniforms and gear.

<https://waspc.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/decontamination%20procedures%20ocovid%2019.pdf>

## **V. D. TOOLS, FORMS, & RESOURCES**

### **COMMUNICATION TOOLS**

During any emergency, clear communication is important. Different organizations have created communication tools, including infographics, mini-posters, flyers, and social media tools, to reach the public and convey messages. Some are for use by animal shelters; some could be used or adapted by law enforcement. A few links with downloads are below.

Please note: Messages may change as more is learned about the virus.

- **American Veterinary Medical Association: Social tools**

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/covid-19-social-tools>

- **The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement**

[http://blog.theaawa.org/covid-19-comms-graphics-and-flyers-for-messaging-your-community-staff/?fbclid=IwAR2\\_wDXjYDmg87xZ84BEn\\_a7XM-ZO53v9B03ES0Rotkm0mhISFxQrUYMhP4](http://blog.theaawa.org/covid-19-comms-graphics-and-flyers-for-messaging-your-community-staff/?fbclid=IwAR2_wDXjYDmg87xZ84BEn_a7XM-ZO53v9B03ES0Rotkm0mhISFxQrUYMhP4)

- **Animal Sheltering**

<https://www.animalsheltering.org/COVID19/communications>

- **MN Department of Health**

Videos PSAs, print materials, and translated documents to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (general messaging) can be found at the MN Department of Health.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/index.html>

## **V. E. TOOLS, FORMS, & RESOURCES**

### **FORMS**

Different forms may be needed when entering a home, retrieving animals, and sheltering animals or providing veterinary care.

Examples of forms for use by the public (informational only; not legal advice):

- [Door sign](#) (for homeowner to notify pets inside home)
- [Custody / Medical \(Veterinarian\) Permission](#)
- [Guardianship authorization form](#) (copyright 2011; Pennyborn Planning)
- [Pet emergency care form](#) (posted by Maddie's Animal Shelter Program)

#### **Other sample Documents**

Sample documents, such as Emergency Exception for Foster Care, Foster Care Application, Cleaning Protocols, and other forms, can be found at:

- [American Pets Alive: Documents & Presentations](#)

#### **MOUs and MAAs**

When working with other organizations or agencies, it may be necessary to also use Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) or Mutual Aid Agreement (MAAs).

## V. F. TOOLS, FORMS, & RESOURCES

### MULTILINGUAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Law enforcement interacts with the public, which includes all cultures and languages. Some COVID-19 materials have been translated from English into some other languages and sign language.

Translated documents to assist with communicating about and preventing the spread of COVID-19 can be found at the MN Department of Health:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/index.html>

These materials reflect *human-related messages*. Refer to your local community for assistance in translation of animal-related messages.

- Governor Walz: COVID-19 Stay At Home Public Service Announcements  
<https://mn.gov/covid19/media/share-message/videos/index.jsp>
- COVID-19: CDC – Message in American Sign Language  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkaMC2Fipgg&list=PLvrp9iOILTQatwnqm61jqFrfsUB4RKh6J&index=3>
- COVID-19: PSA from MN Dept of Health - American Sign Language  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=18&v=Q8bUdMEsiPQ&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=18&v=Q8bUdMEsiPQ&feature=emb_title)
- Twin Cities PBS: Coronavirus: An Almanac Special  
Messaging in Hmong, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese included on link.  
<https://www.tpt.org/coronavirus-an-almanac-special/coronavirus-resources/>
- SPANISH – COVID-19 Information: <https://www.fema.gov/es/coronavirus>