

## COVID-19 Policy

### Animal Shelter at Sullivan County

UPDATE: 3/30/2020

The Animal Shelter of Sullivan County continues to closely monitoring the ongoing information with Covid-19 (Coronavirus) and the recommendations from the National Animal Care & Control Association. Please note the following changes and cancellations.

1. Adoptions are OPEN, but limited. All potential adopters must submit an application online via our website [www.animalshelter-sullivancounty.org](http://www.animalshelter-sullivancounty.org) . Meet and greets MUST adhere to social distancing standards.
2. We are moving to essential intake only to ensure adequate space for animals brought in through animal control, emergency cases, and cruelty/ neglect cases. We are NO LONGER accepting stray animals. So, if you find a stray please attempt to locate the owner. PLEASE DO NOT bring in stray dog directly to the shelter, the shelter is CLOSED to the public. Please note that all local veterinarians can scan for a microchip. If your pet is not microchipped please consider doing this to ensure your pet can be returned to you as swiftly as possible.
3. Owner surrender of pets is NO LONGER PERMITTED! Please go online to our webpage to utilize the Rehome app option. This is a third-party system that provides a safer means to rehome animals vs Facebook or Craigslist. Please note that if you are seeking to surrender due to a concerned about obtaining/ paying for pet food we have partnered with Appalachian Mission Pawsible to provide a pet food pantry. We can provide 2-4 weeks of pet food for those who are displaced from work or those who cannot afford pet food related to other extenuating costs. For more information please contact AMP via their Facebook page.
4. Please note that all animal control calls will be answered in a triage fashion with priority given to bite, injury, and officer assistance calls. NO non-emergent calls will be responded to at this time. Please note animal control will only dispatch from central dispatch until pandemic safety measures are eased. Animal control will only respond to bite cases involving 911, bite cases urgent/ emergent medical centers, animals in need of emergency veterinary care, officer assisted cruelty/ neglect in which charges are being made, officer assisted dangerous animal calls, or other officer assistance calls.
5. We are NOT issuing Community Cat Spay/Neuter vouchers until the mandate that all non-emergent surgical procedures is lifted due to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If you find abandoned kittens please email us at [animal.shelter@sullivancountyttn.gov](mailto:animal.shelter@sullivancountyttn.gov). Please send photos and make a follow up call to us at 423-279-2741 to see if they qualify to go into our partner rescue Neonatal Kitten Rescue. not bring animals to the shelter as it is CLOSED.
6. The vaccination clinics are suspended until the enhanced social distancing and safer at home recommendations are lifted. We will continue to monitor CDC and NACA recommendations.

While we do not anticipate these restrictions being long term we will continue to follow the guidelines advised by the National Animal Care and Control Association and the CDC for the safety of our staff and to ensure the safety of the animals in our care.

We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation during this time. It is our goal to serve the citizens and animals of Sullivan county in a safe and effective manner as we confront closures, human resource restrictions, supply shipment delays, and enhanced human safety measures. Thank you and we will continue to update as we receive information from local, state, and federal sources.