

### **3/17/2020 - An important update regarding Juneau Animal Rescue daily operations**

With the recent changes in recommendations from the White House regarding public gatherings to limit the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Juneau Animal Rescue is making the following changes to our daily operations. We are suspending our public rabies clinics, grooming services, public visitation of adoption animals, and volunteer programs. Further, we are asking that the public only surrender animals in emergency situations until further notice to allow us to make shelter services available to individuals and families who are in need. We are still open to the public for licensing, animal food purchases, and have a foster-to-adopt program to assist in adopting animals during this time, although we are limiting the number of individuals inside our lobby at one time.

### **An important message about pets & the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

**As of 3/17/2020, there is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19.** (\*Please note: This is a rapidly evolving situation. Guidance will be updated as new information becomes available.) However, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Family pets may fall under this transmission guideline. For instance, if an infected person were to cough on their pet, and that pet was then touched by an uninfected person who then touched their eyes, nose or mouth; this could result in disease transmission.

Therefore, the [CDC recommends](#) that [in addition to other prevention measures](#), people with COVID-19 who are identified by public health officials as requiring home care and isolation should be advised to limit interaction with pets and other animals. Specifically, while these people are [symptomatic](#), they should maintain separation from pets [as they would with other household members](#), and avoid direct contact with pets, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. Service animals should be permitted to remain with their handlers.

If possible, a household member should be designated to care for pets in the home. If the individual in home care and isolation must care for pet(s), including service animals, they should ensure they wash their hands before and after caring for pets and wear a facemask while interacting with pets, until they are medically cleared to return to normal activities.

We are also asking community members to have a plan in place for pets of individuals who become sick or require hospitalization who will need to have someone to take care of their animals. Having a plan for your pets care will free up Juneau Animal Rescue resources for those individuals in emergency situations with no other resources to assist with the care of their animals.

Juneau Animal Rescue asks that anyone showing symptoms consistent with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) not only keep themselves at home, but please keep their animals at home to reduce the risk of infection to JAR staff and the community as a whole.

Thank you for your understanding and support of Juneau Animal Rescue.

Samantha Blankenship  
Executive Director  
Juneau Animal Rescue