



Pet Owner Preparation

The Josephine County Animal Shelter would like to remind pet owners to include their pets in their emergency preparation plans. This should apply to companion animals, livestock or any other animal requiring your care.

Infectious disease experts and multiple international and domestic human and animal health organizations agree there is no evidence at this point to indicate that pets become ill with COVID-19 or that they spread it to other animals, including people.

If you are not ill as a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case, you can interact with your pet as you normally would, including walking, feeding and playing. If you are ill with any of the other flu like influenzas occurring this season, act as you normally would if you were not feeling well and needed a little support in the home. Have someone else in the household, the neighborhood or a group you connect with provide in home feeding and watering services to your pets and livestock while you convalesce. If you are unable to locate assistance for this need, please see the two contacts at the end of this PSA for assistance.

Best practices are to keep your animals and livestock at home where their routines are established and you can enjoy their company. You should continue to practice good hygiene during those interactions (e.g., wash hands before and after interacting with your pet; ensure your pet is kept well-groomed; regularly clean your pet's food and water bowls, bedding material and toys).

Out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that those who do become ill with a confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 case limit contact with animals and humans in the shared household until more information is known about the virus. Have another member of your household or a helper take care of walking, feeding, and playing with your pet. If you have a service animal or you must care for your pet, then wear a facemask; don't share food, kiss or hug them; and wash your hands before and after any contact with them.

Although the current concern is focused on a quarantine situation, it is important to remain prepared for natural disasters or medical emergencies that can occur at any time. Do not forget to include your animals when preparing your grab-and-go bag. Photos, veterinary records, essential care instructions, ID information and owner contact information should be included for each animal. Ensure that each animal has transport options that are readily available (i.e., trailers, carriers, cages, etc).

As in any disaster event, make sure to have a supply of food, medication or any other essential supplies accessible for your animals. Look into filling any prescriptions ahead of time where

applicable, or any other supplies their care may require. Veterinary offices will be limited in what hours of operations they will have, or what services they can provide at this time, so be sure to call your vet ahead of time to make proper arrangements should an animal need critical care.

Visit the Animals emergency resources page at <http://www.rvem.org/animals.html>

Connect with local animal organizations online or on their Facebook groups such as Rogue Valley Humane Society and Southern Oregon Emergency Aid.