

## Keeping Your Pets Safe During COVID-19



# PETS AND COVID-19

There is a risk that people with COVID-19 can spread the virus to pets so the CDC recommends that owners limit their pet's interactions with those living outside of their homes.

### **DO:**

- Keep cats **indoors** when possible
- Walk dogs on a leash **at least 6 feet away** from others
- **Avoid contact** with your pet such as snuggling, petting, or kissing if you have COVID-19 symptoms

There is no evidence that the virus spreads to people from the skin, fur, or hair of pets.

### **DO NOT:**

- Wipe or bathe your pets with **chemical disinfectants** such as alcohol,

hydrogen peroxide, Lysol wipes, or hand sanitizer

- Take your dog to the dog park, boarding facility, or groomer **if you or your pet is sick**
- Put **masks** on your pets

There is still a lot to learn about how pets are affected and carry COVID-19. With that in mind, it's better to be careful and take extra precautions! **Always consult your veterinarian if you have concerns or questions about your pet's health.**

Learn more tips about pets and COVID from the CDC [on their website.](#)

## September is National Preparedness Month

### Be Prepared - Make a Plan It could save your pet's life!

#### PREPARE A TO-GO BAG

Keep a bag ready that's filled with at least a 5 day supply of pet essentials such as food, water, toys, and medications.



#### LOCATE A SHELTER

Not all evacuation shelters accept pets. Be sure you know where you can take your pet if you all need to leave.



#### MICROCHIP & ID YOUR PET

Be sure your pet is microchipped and all information is up-to-date in case you are separated.



#### PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Practice evacuating in the car with your animals so everyone has practice.



Don't wait for disaster to strike. **#BePrepared**  
Learn more at [www.ready.gov/animals](http://www.ready.gov/animals)

**Financial Assistance Programs  
for Pet Owners**

The MVMA Charities does not have a program for pet owners at this time but does offer a listing of [resources for pet owners](#) on our website.

If you need help paying for your furry friend's care, check out these available programs.



## Your Dollars at Work

### Stray Animal Program

*The MVMA Charities provides financial assistance for urgent and emergent care of non-owned, unwanted, and unclaimed stray animals. By creating partnerships between local Animal Control Officers and veterinarians, the MVMAC plays an important role in helping these animals receive the medical care they need. Funds are made available to every town and city in Massachusetts.*

### 2020 Q3 Activity

**New Communities Enrolled in the Program: Plainfield, MA**

**Number of Requests: 7**

**Total Amount Requested: \$3,579.50**

### Success Stories



Brownie was surrendered after his owner died of COVID-19 and family couldn't care for him. He was in desperate need of a grooming and also had to be vaccinated for Rabies. He will be put up for adoption through Baypath Humane Society.



Dracut police were dispatched to a boarded up house that allegedly had dogs living inside. The responding officers located three emaciated dogs living in unsanitary conditions with no food or water. All three dogs were taken to Wignall Animal Hospital. One of the dogs named Gibbs was determined to have an obstruction and needed emergency surgery. Gibbs was brought to Northwood Veterinary Hospital in New Hampshire. The surgery was successful and the vets removed two PPE paper masks from his stomach. Without this surgery, Gibbs would have died. Gibbs is described as a seven-year-old mini schnauzer. He was transferred to ARL Boston and pending adoption.

Read more **success stories** on our website.

## And remember Gibb's Rule:

Dispose of PPE in a **covered** waste container and don't leave it on the ground!

**KEEP PETS AND WILDLIFE SAFE**  
**PROPERLY DISPOSE OF PPE**



Used masks and gloves can smell like food. When ingested, they can cause serious and life-threatening conditions.  
Always throw PPE in **covered** waste baskets to protect animals!

## Please Keep the MVMA Charities in Your 2020 Giving Plan

Your gift of **any size** will help fund urgent veterinary care of abandoned and unowned animals through our [Stray Animal Program](#) and disaster preparedness and response through our [Emergency and Disaster Program](#).

**Easy:** [Donate online](#) in one installment or monthly recurring gifts OR mail in [this form](#).

**Effective:** 100% of your donation funds our programs, not overhead costs.

**Essential:** Help protect the lives of animals in Massachusetts.



# THANK YOU!!

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For further information please contact:

**MVMA Charities**

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To learn more about the MVMA Charities [click here](#).



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