

The Humane Society of Skagit Valley suggests including pets in your preparedness plans amid COVID-19 concerns.

March 13, 2020 – With the number of confirmed cases of [coronavirus](#) disease 2019 on the rise worldwide, it is important for Skagit County residents to include their pets in preparedness plans.

Humane Society of Skagit Valley joins the Humane Society of the United States and The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement in suggesting community members create a preparedness plan that includes their pets in the event the community is impacted by the virus that causes COVID-19. In addition to [preparations typically recommended](#) for any natural disaster threat, individuals with pets should identify family members or friends to care for pets if someone in the household becomes ill and is hospitalized.

Steps to making a preparedness plan for your pets:

- Identify a trusted family member or friend to care for your pets if someone in your household becomes ill or is hospitalized.
- Research potential boarding facilities to utilize in the event boarding your pet becomes necessary.
- Have crates, food and extra supplies for your pet on hand in case moving them becomes necessary or if the disease spreads in the community and it becomes necessary to reduce social exposure.
- All animal vaccines should be up to date in the event boarding becomes necessary.
- Ensure all medications are documented with dosages and administering instructions. Including the prescription from the prescribing veterinarian is also helpful.
- Pets should have identification including a collar with current identification tags and a registered microchip.

The Humane Society of Skagit Valley recommends staying diligent in preparations, but not overreacting to COVID-19 concerns. By creating a preparedness plan ahead of time for the unlikely event it becomes necessary to put into motion, community members can do their part to ensure animal service resources do not become overwhelmed and their pets are spared unnecessary stress.

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association [states](#) that there is no evidence that companion animals can be infected with, or spread COVID-19. This is also the [view](#) of the World Health Organization. As this is a rapidly evolving situation, people with confirmed COVID-19 should avoid contact with other people as well as pets.

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Humane Society of Skagit Valley

The Humane Society of Skagit Valley is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 to provide a safe haven to shelter and care for the abandoned, abused, or unwanted animals within Skagit County; to treat the animals with dignity and respect; to place these animals into loving and caring homes; to create public education programs that increase the awareness of humane treatment and the

necessity of spay and neuter of all animals; and to coordinate resources for housing and placement of small animals evacuated during disaster. We are not a county or city municipal shelter, although we do contract with Skagit County and a number of cities to provide services to them. We are a private non-profit shelter that relies heavily on fundraising events throughout the year as well as donations and gifts left to us in wills. We truly appreciate the generosity of our community members as well as the amazing efforts of our volunteers at the shelter and at our fundraising events.

We are an open-admission facility. We do not pick and choose our pets, but accept any companion animals who need our care. We see over 2500 animals pass through our shelter each year. We provide care, comfort, and medical care to the animals that come through our doors. Even animals that have extensive medical needs get the attention they require.

Our mission

To provide a safe haven to shelter and care for the abandoned, abused, or unwanted animals within Skagit County; to treat the animals with dignity and respect; to place these animals into loving and caring homes; to create public education programs that increase the awareness of humane treatment and the necessity of spay and neuter of all animals; and to coordinate resources for housing and placement of small animals evacuated during disaster.

Our principles

Whereas, we are responsible for the welfare of those animals that we have domesticated and those upon whose natural environment we have encroached; and

Whereas, all utilization of animals gives us neither the right nor the license to exploit or abuse them; and

Whereas, all life possesses an inherent value and is thus deserving of considerate treatment.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Humane Society of Skagit County and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals encourages the public to adopt the following guidelines and further expects our membership to agree with these principles:

- We will not kill animals needlessly nor for entertainment, nor to cause pain or torment.
- We will provide adequate food, water, shelter, and care for animals for which we have accepted responsibility.
- We will not use animals for medical, educational, or commercial experimentation or research unless absolute necessity can be demonstrated and unless such is done without causing pain and torment.
- We will not maintain animals that are used for food in a manner that causes them discomfort or denies them an opportunity to develop and live in conditions that are reasonably natural for them.

- We will not kill animals for food in any manner that does not result in instantaneous unconsciousness.
- We will not confine animals for display, impoundment, or as pets in conditions that are not comfortable and appropriate.
- We will not permit domestic pets to propagate.

About the Humane Society of the United States

Founded in 1954, the Humane Society of the United States and its affiliates around the globe fight the big fights to end suffering for all animals. Together with millions of supporters, the HSUS takes on puppy mills, factory farms, trophy hunts, animal testing and other cruel industries, and together with its affiliates, rescues and provides direct care for over 100,000 animals every year. The HSUS works on reforming corporate policy, improving and enforcing laws and elevating public awareness on animal issues. More at humanesociety.org.

About The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement

Incorporated in 1970, The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement develops strong leaders, promotes stands of practice, and cultivates collaboration to advance the animal welfare profession with a united voice. The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement is committed to raising the level of expertise for all professionals in animal welfare and animal care & control, as we believe the impact of our work will save more animals' lives.