



NEWS RELEASE

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Changes to Wake County Animal Services Due to COVID-19

Shelter visits by appointment only, animal control not responding for strays

The [Wake County Animal Center](#) is working hard to protect staff and visitors from COVID-19 while continuing to allow adoptions and provide emergency animal control services.

“As your community shelter, we want to thank everyone for helping us keep our staff healthy, so they can continue to care for the pets at the shelter,” said Dr. Jennifer Federico, director of the [Wake County Animal Center](#). “We look forward to the day when we can welcome everyone back to the animal center. Until then, stay safe, stay home and stay healthy!”



Appointments Needed to Visit to the Animal Center

Until further notice, an appointment is required for all visits to the animal center.

That includes:

- Adoptions
- Looking for lost pets
- Bringing in strays
- Owners bringing in pets to surrender

Call 919-212-PETS to make an appointment. Scheduling visits will reduce the interactions among visitors and give staff time to sanitize the center between trips. Appointments are available noon to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Same-day appointments may not be available.

Before you call, you can look online for a furry friend to join you during the stay-at-home order. Go to pets.wakegov.com to see who's available!

What to Do If You See Stray Animals

Wake County Animal Control has reduced its response right now to emergency calls only, which means officers will not respond to calls about stray animals.

So, what should you do if you spot a stray?

- Look for a collar. If the pet has a collar or tags and appears friendly, approach the animal and look for information about the pet's owner. Don't approach an animal unless you feel comfortable doing so!
- If you don't see a collar or feel uncomfortable going near the animal, keep your distance and snap a photo to share on social media. We find people have the best luck on [NextDoor](#).
- Ask a postal worker. Many mail carriers know where dogs live along their routes.

- Still can't find the owner? Call us at 919-212-PETS and make an appointment to bring the stray to the Wake County Animal Center.

Plan Ahead for Pets in Case You Get Sick

Most COVID-19 patients don't need hospitalization, but now is the time to make sure someone could take care of your pets in your absence.

If possible, your pets would be most comfortable staying at your home or with a friend who knows them. Also, make sure you have a two-week supply of food and medication on hand for your pets.

Hold on to Donations for Now

If you have donations for the shelter, please hold onto them for the time being. We have enough supplies, and we want to limit our foot traffic to those adopting animals.

We know a lot of people are knocking out their spring cleaning during the stay-at-home order, and we'll be happy to take those extra towels and blankets once our operations are back to normal.

About the Wake County Animal Center

The [Wake County Animal Center](#) is an open-admission shelter operated by Wake County in Raleigh. The center receives all stray, abandoned and surrendered pets in the county and works in partnership with fosters, volunteers and local rescues to treat and rehome thousands of homeless animals every year.

To learn more about the Wake County Animal Center and animals available for adoption, visit www.wakegov.com/pets and follow @WakeGovPets on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Staying Updated on COVID-19

Wake County has made it easy for you to stay updated on the latest information about COVID-19.

You can visit our [COVID-19 webpage](#), which has a set of frequently asked questions to educate residents in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#), a list of COVID-19-related [closures and service changes](#), as well as an email address and phone number that people can use to ask personal health-related questions about COVID-19.

The county is also sharing important information on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

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