

Ketchikan Gateway Borough
Animal Protection Department

Covid-19 Mitigation Plan for the Pat Wise Animal Shelter and Field Services

Introduction:

In an effort to mitigate future cases of the Covid-19, this mitigation plan implements the guidelines of the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Covid-19 virus is a zoonotic virus. Since transient animal care is one of the primary duties of the department, the department will also consider guidelines from the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Shelter Association in this plan. This plan is in accordance with current guidelines. The department will be open to the public on Friday, 5-22-20. Hours of operation will be Monday through Saturday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. The shelter is closed on Sunday. Emergency calls will continue to be addressed from 5 P. M. to 8 A. M. Cleaning and disinfecting protocols will remain in place.

Employee Responsibilities

Each employee of the department is responsible for the following measures to reduce the potential spread of the Covid-19 virus. These include but are not limited to the following:

Recognition of the human symptoms of Covid-19 virus, which include:

- Coughing
- Fever
- Compromised breathing
- Chills
- Body aches
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and / or vomiting
- Nasal discharge
- Loss of taste or smell

If staff members are exhibiting symptoms of illness they will be prevented from coming to work or will be sent home immediately. They will be directed to contact their healthcare provider for guidance before returning to work.

Shelter Duties: Animal Care

- Maintain 6-foot social distancing from other individuals when possible; if distancing is compromised, use a mask provided by the department.
- Wear a facemask and nitrile gloves when working with animals.
- Wash hands and change nitrile gloves between the handling of each shelter animal.
- Monitor animals for signs of disease, especially upper respiratory disease. Watch for labored breathing, coughing, ocular and / or nasal discharge, lethargic behavior, in-appetence, diarrhea.
- Report any signs of disease and isolate the animal exhibiting the symptoms for a veterinary exam. Note the findings in the animal's chart.
- Follow the designated protocols for animal husbandry, which are bactericidal, viricidal, and fungicidal by design (see attached). These protocols also include disinfecting the entire shelter.

Field Duties: Public-facing

- Officers running calls for service must wear a mask and nitrile gloves when addressing the call. Implement social distancing of 6 feet from members of the public.
- Discard nitrile gloves upon completion of the call.
- Disinfect masks by spraying them with 70% alcohol and allow to air dry. Rotate masks for each new call.
- Spray all equipment used on the call with a viricidal disinfectant (Pine Quat).
- Upon return to the shelter, wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.

Shelter Visitors and Volunteers:

- Sneeze / cough guards are in place at the front counter (Disinfect counter and guard after each visitor).
- All patrons will be required to provide and wear a mask; if they do not have a mask, one will be provided for them along with nitrile gloves.
- Staff will be required to wear masks and gloves while providing customer service to patrons at the shelter.
- Upon completion of a visit, staff will spray down contact areas with a viricidal disinfectant (70% alcohol or Pine Quat).
- Bathrooms will also be disinfected with a viricidal disinfectant after each use.
- Door handles, keyboards, work surfaces and telephones will be disinfected after each use by staff and visitors.

- Visitors and volunteers observed to be exhibiting symptoms of the Covid-19 virus will not be permitted to enter the shelter and asked to reschedule their visit.