

## **Animal Shelter Services in Response to COVID-19**

To maintain essential services while keeping the health of staff, volunteers, and visitors at the forefront, the Spotsylvania County Animal Shelter will be implementing temporary changes for essential programs and services - effective immediately.

Our staff will be on hand to care for the animals as usual, however the following changes will be implemented to minimize the concentration of visitors in the building at any one time through April 15, possibly longer pending discussion as the situation evolves. All visits to the shelter will be by appointment only.

**Owner Redemptions:** If your pet is at the Shelter as a stray, email or call to make an appointment to reclaim them. Email - [animal@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:animal@spotsylvania.va.us) - 540-507-7459.

**If you find a stray dog in Spotsylvania County or City of Fredericksburg,** you have three options. You may call Animal Control (540-582-7115) to pick the dog up. You may email or call the Shelter to schedule a time (ASAP) to bring the dog to the Shelter so we may scan for a microchip and then hold for the stray period at the Shelter. You may hold on to the dog (if you do this option, you must file a found report).

**Animal surrenders:** We will continue to accept owner-surrendered pets by appointment only; no walk-ins will be accepted except in cases of true emergencies. Please call 540-507-7459 or email to make an appointment; email - [animal@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:animal@spotsylvania.va.us).

**Adoptions:** The Shelter will continue to facilitate adoptions! However, we will be moving to adoptions by appointment to minimize the concentration of visitors in the building at any one time. Temporary adoptions by appointment process:

Appointments to visit with the intent of adoption will be made for pets who are available. To see the list of available pets, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/SpotsyPets> or <https://www.spotsypets.petfinder.com>

**We will not be accepting walk-in visitors at this time.** Those interested in scheduling an appointment to meet a specific available pet must email the shelter at [animal@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:animal@spotsylvania.va.us) or call 540-507-7459.

Emails and telephone calls will be managed in the order they are received. Email and telephone will be monitored from 8am to 4pm. Shelter staff will contact you within 24 hours to make an appointment for the next available appointment opening. If there are multiple appointment requests for the same available pet, appointments will be made based on the order the requests were received.

If you are making an appointment to visit/adopt a dog, and you have a dog at home already, please bring your dog in at the appointment time so we can do a dog-to-dog meeting!

When visiting during your appointment, please only bring the people in your home. If anyone is ill, they should remain home.

Thank you for your patience as we implement these temporary changes!

If you have an animal-related emergency, such as ill/injured wildlife, a stray dog, or potential abuse or neglect, please contact Animal Control at 540-582-7115.