

With the news about coronavirus (COVID-19) changing rapidly, Benton Franklin Humane Society is taking precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Starting Thursday, March 19 all animal adoptions will be by appointment only. Animal viewing areas will be closed to the public.

The actions are being taken in response to the recommendation from local health authorities to implement social distancing measures where possible.

Also, BFHS activities are being canceled or suspended through at least April 17. The Kitten Shower scheduled for March 28 will be cancelled. **Corwin Ford's Dogs, Divots and Drinks** golf fundraiser for BFHS will be postponed until June (tentatively). BFHS will alert our supporters to the new dates of the events once they are finalized.

BFHS has a large selection of animals waiting for their new homes! In fact, we have been caring for an unusually large influx of dogs from pet owners in our community. **Please check out our website** for the latest information and to see all the wonderful animals waiting for a loving home. If you would like to make an appointment to adopt please contact 509.374.4235.

BFHS is also increasing efforts to prevent the spread of any illness — asking staff to stay home when they are ill, reducing the number of large groups visiting the shelter, and cleaning and sanitizing surfaces regularly.

During uncertain times, it's a good reminder to have an emergency plan in place if you are no longer able to care for your pets. This includes ensuring pets are wearing proper identification, identifying a friend or family member who can help in case you get sick, and having extra food and supplies on hand. These preparations can also be helpful if there is a need to stay in your home for an extended period of time.

There have also been questions about whether pets can get sick from COVID-19 or if they can make us sick. According to the **Centers for Disease Control** and the **World Health Organization**, there is no evidence that companion animals such as cats and dogs have been infected or could spread the virus that causes COVID-19.

Finally, with the Covid-19 pandemic and the recession looming, your support is now more than ever, critical for the homeless animals in our care. With the fragile economy, non-profit organizations tend to suffer the most and sadly, BFHS is no exception.

For every homeless animal waiting for a new family at BFHS, there are countless others in the community who still need our help. We will continue to provide a warm safe place to sleep, food and water and necessary medical care for the homeless animals! We will also continue to provide free food to those who cannot afford to feed their pets at this time.

By stepping up for the animals during these uncertain times, you show them you believe they shouldn't have to face neglect, suffer or go hungry!

Thank you for your support!!!