

Update from BFHS:

Hello, this is Autumn White, Executive Director at BFHS. I personally wanted to give an update to the donors and supporters of Benton Franklin Humane Society on the current state of the shelter.

We continue to remain closed to the public and volunteers. But please rest assured here at BFHS we continue to provide each and every animal the exceptional care they deserve.

We have a total of 85 animals in our care. Some were placed in foster homes, but 63 dogs, cats and puppies are currently being cared for at the shelter.

If there is an animal you may be interested in meeting please contact us at shelter@bfhs.com or you may call 509-374-4235. We will reach out to those interested parties when the mandated state closure lifts.

We appreciate the continued support from our donors and supporters during these uncertain times. We understand that right now many of us feel unsure of what the future holds... but together, we can make a powerful difference for animals in need. Together, we can remain prepared for whatever comes next. If you are able, please consider [making a gift](#), and remain by our side during this time. Coming together for animals in need is a community effort! We are grateful to our donors and supporters who also, like us, believe the animals in need are worth the effort.

Coronavirus and Pets

The outbreak of COVID-19 is causing fear and uncertainty for lots of people, and the constant flood of news can make it hard to distinguish between fact and fiction. There is a threat to companion animal welfare because some people are starting to worry that pets could spread the virus.

While there is still a lot that we don't know about the virus, this case doesn't change a few things we already DO know:

- There is no evidence that the virus can be transmitted from our pets to us.
- Social distancing is important for our pets, too. Make sure your pets are keeping six feet from any other pets or people who are not part of your household.
- If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, try to limit exposure to your pets or wash your hands before caring for them to reduce the chance they could pick up the virus.

Have a plan in place if you are hospitalized or need help caring for your pets.

Your plan should have a friend or family member who's agreed to care for your pet in an emergency. Leave your pet's carrier or crate, kit and any documents in one location so the person can easily collect the supplies they need to care for your pet. In addition, you should:

- **Have two weeks of food, treats and medication on hand** (rotate the medication regularly so it doesn't expire)
- **Make sure your pet's vaccines are up-to-date** a copy of vaccination type and the dates they were administered from your veterinarian is also extremely helpful
- **Write a document of your pet's medication with dosages and directions** (including the prescription from your veterinarian is helpful)
- **Update your pet's identification:** a collar with an ID tag and a microchip registered with current contact information

The outbreak is rapidly evolving. **We encourage you to regularly visit the CDC's website and the Washington State Health Authority for updates.** For resources related to animals, we recommend the following:

- [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- [Washington Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- [The CDC's website about COVID-19 and animals](#)