



The Humane Society of St. Thomas (HSSTT) understands the growing concerns surrounding coronavirus, COVID-19, across our community. We are closely monitoring the situation and following guidance provided by animal welfare agencies, Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization.

The HSSTT is open, and we have many wonderful dogs and cats looking for their forever home. At this time, we are not discontinuing any services due to the virus; however, that may change. The national public awareness centers have stated that there is no evidence that companion animals such as cats and dogs spread the virus that causes COVID-19. Please do not surrender or abandon your pets!

So please put your mind at ease. Currently, multiple health organizations have stated that **pets and domestic animals are not at risk for contracting COVID-19**. To date, the CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19.

With so much news circulating about COVID-19, it's important to seek out updated information from reliable expert sources like the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), avoid speculation and focus on the information we do already know. (please see links below)

HSSTT recommends that, like in preparation for any disaster, you make plans that include your pet. A few steps you can take include:

1. Making a plan with your family and network that includes contingencies to care for your pet should you be hospitalized or otherwise unable to provide care.
2. Having a supply of pet food and necessities.
3. Keep pet vaccinations up to date in case you must consider boarding.

As Virgin Islanders, many of us are used to taking these steps to prepare for hurricanes. Similarly, Virgin Islanders generously support shelters and pets in those times. This is one of those times and we need your help.

- Foster Homes – We desperately need fosters who are willing to care for dogs and cats for a minimum of 30 days. We have dogs that can go home with other dogs, cats, and children.
- Donations – You can visit [donate here](#) or [donate food \(dog and cat\)](#) to our pet food bank.
- Share – Please help us share the message of preparing for your own pets and that there is no connection between pets and the spread of COVID-19.
- Adopt – If you are thinking about adoption, now is a great time! We will waive adoption fees for anyone who donates a bag of pet food, hand sanitizers, or paper goods to our shelter.

Your support for HSSTT in times of need has been unwavering and we know that together, we can weather any storm that comes our way.

Stay current with updates at the ["Paws to Care Thrift Store"](#)

Keep calm, wash your hands, and foster a dog or cat.

(WHO) [World Health Organization](#)

(CDC) [Centers for Disease Control](#)

(AVMA) [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)

Sincerely,

Annette T Zachman

President, Board of Directors

Humane Society of St. Thomas