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## **SPCA Florida Adjusts As COVID-19 Ushers In New Normal**

Lakeland, FL— SPCA Florida is one of the many animal shelters working to continue to care for dogs and cats as more and more people are staying home to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Both the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention see no evidence that companion animals -- like cats or dogs -- carry COVID-19.

"We are remaining very fluid with daily changes," said Shelley Thayer, Executive Director. "Safety and the wellbeing of our staff, volunteers, fosters, adopters and clients is our number one concern, along with the dogs and cats in our care and those who are going to need our support. Our Adoption Center is open to serious adopters with 300+ dogs, cats, puppies and kittens to select from. We encourage those who are homebound to consider adopting an adorable fur family member. Our Medical Center is open and safety measures can be found on our website [www.spcaflorida.org](http://www.spcaflorida.org) or by calling our Medical Center 863.646.4647, Adoption Center 863.619.8570 or Donations Line 863.577.4600," said Thayer.

SPCA Florida is asking people to avoid surrendering healthy pets, following guidance provided by the National Animal Care & Control Association to take extra measures to reduce shelter intake to mitigate the short and long-term effects of COVID-19. There is no evidence that dogs or cats can be infected or spread the virus that causes COVID-19.

Meanwhile, the shelter's employees, volunteers, and visitors are being asked to stay away if they aren't feeling well, are showing symptoms, have recently traveled internationally or believe they may be at high risk for infection.

The team is currently working on a comprehensive contingency plan just in case they have to shut down. This plan includes minimizing the intake of animals and increasing reliance on in-home foster care placement. Doing this would minimize the need for on-site staffing while maintaining high-quality animal care.

SPCA Florida is asking for financial, foster, and adoption support. To help, go online at [www.spcaflorida.org](http://www.spcaflorida.org) and donate, foster or check out our adoptable dogs and cats.

### **About SPCA Florida**

*Founded in 1979, SPCA Florida is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization headquartered in Lakeland, serving all of Polk County and the surrounding communities. Dedicated to improving the lives of pets and people, SPCA Florida provides caring, compassion and hope to more than 4,300 homeless animals entering our doors each year.*

*Open to the public, our Reva McClurg Animal Medical Center is a state-of-the-art veterinary facility that heals and helps 50,000 patients annually. Thousands more pets and people are served through our community outreach and education programs.*

*Simplistically, every \$100 donated to SPCA Florida, or essentially the cost of an average adoption, equates to \$3,000 worth of positive economic impact throughout Polk County, Central Florida, and the state. Additionally, we are proud of the fact that 92% of every dollar goes to program resources and helping homeless animals.*