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**St. Mary's County Animal Control Division**  
**23090 Leonard Hall Drive**  
**Leonardtwn, Maryland 20650**  
**301-475-8018 After Hours: 301-475-8016**  
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## Q & A FOR ANIMAL CONTROL RESPONSE DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19

### What is considered an Animal Control emergency?:

- **Public Safety:** Any animal that is posing an immediate threat to the public or acting aggressive towards a person or another domestic animal.
- **Animal Welfare:** Animals left outside in extreme weather conditions, living in environments that are not up to minimum standards, animals being cruelly treated or neglected.
- **Injured or Sick Animals:** Domestic or wild animals
- **Wildlife** in the living area of a residence
- **Assisting First Responders** and other agencies with animal emergencies.

**What if I find and confine a stray dog or cat?:** Unless the animal is sick, injured, or posing a direct threat, Animal Control will only assist by helping the citizen locate an owner by phone or social media. Citizens can contact Tri-County Animal Shelter in Hughesville to deliver the animal there.

*Tri-County Animal Shelter: 6707 Animal Shelter Road, Hughesville 301-932-1713*

**I have a pet I need to surrender:** Owners wishing to surrender their animal(s) will be advised on options available to them, to include assisting with pet food if the need is there to prevent surrender at this time.

**What if I see a dog or dogs running at large?:** If the dog or dogs are posing a direct threat to the public, which includes animals posing a traffic hazard, Animal Control will respond.

**A fox family has moved into my backyard:** Questions and concerns involving our native wildlife and nuisance complaints will be handled by phone and advice and resources will be given.

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**What if I have a barking complaint:** At this time Animal Control will get your information over the phone and take a statement through email to have on file. Once we can meet face to face, we will contact the complainant and owner to finish the complaint.

**What if I need to borrow a live trap for feral cats or nuisance wildlife?:** At this time, we are asking for citizens to not set traps who have received one before the pandemic. Animal Control is not handing out traps until further notice unless it is for a sick or injured animal, or an animal that needs to be quarantined for rabies observation.

**I need to report an animal bite:** You can contact Animal Control during regular business hours to report a bite or exposure. If St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office obtains the bite report after regular hours, we will contact the victim and owner by phone if further actions need to be taken. If a medical facility reports a bite report, Animal Control will get the victims information and contact them by phone to fill out the bite report *once they have received treatment and left the medical facility.*

**What if I am in need of pet food assistance?:** Food Donations are still available during this time. We will take your information over the phone and ask a few questions about what is going on. The Animal Control Officer will drop the items off at your residence without making direct contact with you.

**How can I obtain a County dog license?:** We will update information on licensing in May 2020.

All Animal Control Officers that need to interact with the public will practice social distancing by not entering your residence and asking you to come outside. They will be wearing masks and personal protective equipment as required or needed.

The Animal Control Division would like to thank you for being patient and cooperative during this time.

For additional information please contact Animal Control at 301-475-8018

