



*The National Animal Care & Control Association
is committed to setting the standard of professionalism in animal welfare
and public safety through training, networking, and advocacy.*

NACA Statement on Removing Pets from Homes of Residents that are or Suspected to be Infected With COVID-19

As more and more people fall ill as a result of this virus, animal control personnel will increasingly be required to remove animals from homes occupied by COVID-19 cases. This poses an additional risk to the health and safety of those officers. The National Animal Care & Control Association recommends the following procedure be utilized when faced with a call for service involving the removal of an animal from a home where a resident is reported to be ill. For those agencies who do not have appropriate PPE, they should request at least one mask and gown for each field officer from their EMA, police or paramedics/Fire Dept. No officer should feel required to enter a property with proper protection.

- Dispatch should obtain information as to the residents' COVID-19 status (If information is unknown this call should be treated as though a resident is infected). Information about the animal should be gathered as well as contact information for the person that will be on scene to release the animal.
- Upon arrival verify that you have the legal authority to enter the property and remove the animal. This should be obtained through your normal process of entering a property.
- If there is no one at the residence that can safely bring the animal out to you, officers should enter the property wearing the proper PPE equipment consisting of: N95 face mask, disposable gloves and gown. If possible, your shoes or lower legs should also be covered by PPE. This may likely cause additional fear in the animal so extra precaution in humane handling may be required.
- Once inside the residence, Officers should avoid physical contact with anything other than the animal. Safely and humanely secure the animal and exit the residence. In the case of fearful animals traps may need to be set and rechecked. In this case be sure to discuss with those who have access to the property.
- Once the animal has been secured into the vehicle, PPE can be removed. Remove PPE before entering the vehicle. Have an empty garbage bag for this purpose. Remove and dispose of all PPE except face protection. Sanitize hands with alcohol gel then remove and dispose of face protection. Sanitize hands again. This will avoid contamination of the door handle, steering wheel etc.
- Transport the animal to the shelter and conduct intake as per shelter protocols. Using PPE as needed. The transporting officer should now disinfect the equipment and vehicle. When disinfecting, ACOs should wear a disposable gown and gloves. A face shield or N95 respirator and goggles should be worn when spray devices such as a hose or spray bottle during cleaning are utilized. In addition to the animal compartment, the passenger area should also be disinfected.

For more information on animal control and the Covid-19 situation visit: <https://www.nacanet.org/covid19/>