

PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2020

Lifesaving Services Will Still be Handled During Covid-19

Riverside County Department of Animal Services (RCDAS) issued the following press release as it pertains to animal sheltering related to COVID-19. RCDAS has closed its shelters to the public due to an abundance of caution during the Covid-19 pandemic, but is still operating virtually and through modified measures for essential services.

“Although the shelters are closed to the public, we’re still at the shelter caring and providing for the animals and our animal control officers are in the field protecting our constituents and animals,” Bank said. “We have already been successful in placing more than 1,660 animals in March and we are still coordinating adoptions, fostering and pet reunions, but these services will have a unique look.”

That look will resemble an Uber-like service or something resembling Instacart, she said. Would-be adopters and fosters can search online for a pet that meets their family’s needs and team members will coordinate a curbside pickup or schedule a delivery to the adopter’s home if feasible, Bank said.

“We’ll still do our official adoption process and proper vetting,” Bank said. “But with strong social distancing still practiced. Also, if the pet does not make for a perfect fit, there is no pressure on the adopter to complete the application.” And if that’s not exciting enough, all animals for adoption are free of charge during this time.

The foster application can be found here: <https://www.rcdas.org/index.php/volunteer/foster-care>

Adopters can call 951-358-7387 or e-mail the pet animal ID number to this email:

We are also beefing up our call center services to provide information on ways to support you as a pet owner and to provide more information on ways you can help as a concerned resident. Animal control officers will continue to respond to bite and cruelty investigations, as well as any public health, safety and welfare issues.

For updated information on our services please visit www.rcdas.org.

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ABOUT MENIFEE: *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 95,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California’s premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee’s business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community’s character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city’s strong financial position. Menifee’s growing family-oriented population values the city’s ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city’s strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state’s most promising new cities.*

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Riverside County Department of Animal Services (RCDAS) is open for essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is the information you need to know:

- We have temporarily suspended walk-in access at our facilities in an effort to keep people safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently doing appointment-based scheduling for people interested in fostering or adoption.
- **For adoptions**, please call (951) 358-7387 to make an appointment.
- **For fostering**, please visit our foster page to fill out an online application [HERE](#).

Non-essential services are suspended at this time, to protect your health and safety and in order to reduce the number of pets and people coming into RCDAS' shelters.

- **If you need to license your pet**, please use our [online services](#). In-person licensing is not available at this time.
- **If you find a stray pet**, please hold the pet if you can to give the owner time to locate their lost pet and to reduce the number of pets entering our shelters. Report the lost pet on Pet Harbor at www.petharbor.com. Post the lost pet on many different social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, Craigslist, Nextdoor, and any other resources available so that an owner may see them. If you cannot hold the pet, please call (951) 358-7387.
- **If you find kittens**, please leave them alone unless they are sick, injured or in immediate danger. [Find out why](#).
- **If you need to relinquish a pet**, RCDAS has suspended owner intakes through field officers. RCDAS is only accepting emergency intakes at this time. There are many resources available to assist you in rehoming your pet. Post your pet on available social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, Craigslist, Nextdoor. By helping to rehome your own pet, you are ensuring your pet's safety and the continued safety of the pets who enter the shelter.
- RCDAS has suspended community cat trap-neuter-return and vaccination clinics.

You can help! Right now, we need the following:

- **Foster caregivers** to take pets and help us find them permanent homes or hold them through this immediate crisis period. Fill out an online application [HERE](#).
- **Adopters** – call (951) 358-7387

Donations – can go to the [ASK Foundation](#). Your donations can help us to purchase critically needed supplies, help pets with special needs, provide resources for foster caregivers or persons needing assistance in our communities, and more