



COVID-19 RESPONSE INFORMATION

Updates as of 3/17/2020

- Our public spay/neuter surgeries are cancelled through April 3, 2020. We will not be scheduling any new spay/neuter surgeries until further notice. This will allow us to prioritize those with cancelled appointments when our public surgery operations are active again.
- We have several adoptable animals looking for loving homes and will be offering \$25 off all adoption fees on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. If you're interested in adopting, please call us at (401) 421-1399 or email us at reception@parl.org for more information about the animals(s) prior to coming to the shelter. We will work to prevent congregation of people in our common areas. We may ask you to wait outside or in your car when appropriate.
- Beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and until further notice, we will not be processing animal adoptions. We are making every effort to transition animals currently in our care into volunteer foster homes. If you are willing to be an emergency foster home for a dog, cat, or small animal in the coming weeks, please call us at (401) 421-1399. (We anticipate an influx of pregnant cats and orphaned bottle-fed kittens very soon. Foster homes will be needed for these animals as well!)
- We will make every effort to continue providing pet food and supplies to pet owners in need throughout our community. Please call us at (401) 421-1399 to schedule a supply pick up.

3/14/2020 Statement

Providence Animal Rescue League (PARL) joins the greater Rhode Island, national, and world-wide community in a proactive approach to slow and diminish the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

We will be doing our part to encourage social distancing while still working to find loving homes for dogs, cats, and small animals in our care. Animals remain in need of our help and we are making every effort to ensure our most essential programs can continue. To ensure the health and safety of our staff – and thus our ongoing capacity to care for the animals in our shelter, we have had to make some difficult decisions. We ask for your help and patience as we navigate this time. Please note:

- Our vaccine clinic scheduled for March 22, 2020 has been cancelled.
- The following events/appointments are cancelled until further notice: nail trim appointments, microchip appointments, and volunteer orientations.
- Our shelter will be open during regular hours but access to our animals will be denied to anyone who is not seriously interested in adopting. Anyone interested in adopting an available animal is encouraged to call us at (401) 421-1399 or email us at reception@parl.org for more information about the animals(s) prior to coming to the shelter.
- We will continue to intake animal surrenders from our community on an emergency basis. We will make every effort to schedule non-emergency animal surrenders in a timely manner and will provide resources and guidance

to all who need assistance in re-homing a pet. Please review this information: <http://www.parl.org/services/pet-surrender>

- If you have a cold, the flu, or COVID-19 symptoms; has been in close contact with an individual who has cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms; or who has recently traveled internationally: Please stay home!
- We have increased our daily cleaning protocols to include frequent disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and common areas.
- We have hand sanitizer throughout our building and several sink stations for hand washing with soap.
- We will work to prevent congregation of people in our common areas. We may ask you to wait outside or in your car when appropriate. This includes individuals bringing pets for pre-scheduled spay/neuter surgery appointments.
- We will make every effort to keep spay/neuter surgery appointments as scheduled. Should we need to reschedule, we will provide as much advance notice as possible.
- Pet owners: Please have an emergency plan in place for your pets. Make sure pets are wearing proper identification; have crates and extra food or supplies on hand; and identify a trusted family member, friend or pet sitter who can care for your pet if you or a family member become ill or are hospitalized. This is a very helpful resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/emergencies/pet-disaster-prep-kit.html>
- COVID-19 is contagious for humans and, as of now, is understood to spread primarily from person to person. At this time health officials don't believe COVID-19 can be spread by animals. More information about this subject can be found here: <https://wsava.org/news/highlighted-news/the-new-coronavirus-and-companion-animals-advice-for-wsava-members/>

The spread of the COVID-19 virus is alarming for all of us. Schools and business are closing, and large community gatherings have been cancelled. In the animal welfare world, we are struggling to find a balance, especially since more animals and pet owners in our community will be needing our help in the coming weeks and months. Kitten season is nearly upon us and we already have several animals in our care needing special medical attention. Unexpected layoffs and unbudgeted expenses will make it hard for some pet owners in our community to provide necessities for their pets. We want to help, and we must help.

If you have the means and desire to help with our animal rescue, community support, and pet adoption efforts in the coming days, weeks, and months, please donate today at <https://paypal.me/PARL1913>.

As we stand together, helping one another, I know we will get through this.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Baylies
Executive Director
Providence Animal Rescue League

P.S. We know it's a long shot, but if you happen to have access to a stash of hand sanitizer or bleach wipes, we would be beyond thrilled to add them to our rapidly dwindling supply closet!