

As COVID19's impact on our community increased we feel it is important to connect directly with you to share more about the steps we're taking at AWA and across our community to help keep you, our staff and volunteers and the community safe as well as to ensure the welfare of vulnerable homeless animals.

Our hearts go out to all those who have been affected. The welfare of our community, employees and all animals is our top priority, and this is a rapidly evolving situation that we continue to monitor and evaluate. We wanted to update you on the steps being taken by AWA to prepare for anything from short-term, minor operations discretion to the worst-case scenario of a longer and more significant shutdown.

As always, meeting the needs of the animals already at the AWA shelter will continue to remain our main focus.

COVID-19 Disruptions of Services

- AWA has temporarily suspended Pet Therapy visits (going to assisted living and nursing homes), our PAWs program (youth from area agencies), and Humane Education (visits to area schools).
- With colleges and schools closed Camden County College Vaccine Clinic dates have been suspended until further notice.
- We anticipate staffing shortages in the coming days due to childcare needs, etc.
- Necessary changes to our hours of operation in every department will continue. The Pet Clinic and Shelter will be closed certain days for staff to care for their families and for our remaining staff to care for all of our animals.
- Some communities are facing an influx of abandoned animals due to hospitalizations and fear. Our transport partners are struggling to get them to us due to the same staffing and volunteer challenges we are facing.
- Fundraising & community event cancellations will continue to be posted as they happen via our [website calendar](#) and [Facebook page](#)

- We are monitoring if we will be able to continue with our largest fundraiser, Paws and Feet in May.

We are committed to continuing the AWA mission-critical work for our animals during this uncertain time. This is a very fluid situation, so we will share more updates as things change.

If there's one thing that's clear. It's the fact that our animals and organization are going to need your support as we navigate these uncertain times..

You have shown us time and time again that you will be there when the going gets tough.

Stay Well,

Maya Richmond

Executive Director of AWA