



Operation:Crisis Response

JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF CHARLOTTE AND CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL





WEATHER SAFETY

Cold Weather

Cold weather can be as rough on animals as hot weather. Follow these tips to keep your pets safe during the colder months.

- Always remove any snow balls/ice from between his foot pads
- Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth.
- Salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry their skin - make sure to wipe paws after the come in.
- In snow/ice, paw booties can provide protection for sensitive paws
- Car antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
- Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep. Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. Fur coats aren't enough to keep pets warm in freezing weather.

Hot Weather

Hot weather is particularly dangerous for pets because without the ability to sweat, dogs and cats are unable to cool their own body temperature. Follow these tips to keep your pets safe during the warmer months.

- Make sure pets are up-to-date on heartworm preventative. Heartworms are spread through mosquito bites.
- Keep an eye out for hot asphalt. Concrete and asphalt get hot quickly. Test it by placing your palm on the ground. Too hot? Its too hot for their paws then too.
- Know the signs of overheating, including excessive drooling, weakness, excessive panting, and lethargy.



ANIMALS IN HOT CARS

Just Don't Do It!

Leaving animals in hot cars is not only a problem - it's a lethal one. It's also considered animal cruelty and punishable by law.

During warm months, cars average 20 degrees warmer than the outside temperature. Because dogs & cats cannot sweat, they cannot cool down their internal body temperature, leading to organ damage and death.

In 70° weather, the inside of an average car left outside is 90°. That temperature can double in 20 minutes. Cracking the windows doesn't provide enough air flow to cool the temperature, so if your animal cannot accompany you inside on all errands, leave them at home.

If you see something, **say something**. **Call 911**. Notify nearby businesses where the owner might be. Stay until help arrives and take pictures as documentation of the animal and the license plate.

vehicle temperature		
outside F°	inside F°	
	10 mins	30 mins
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°



HURRICANES & NATURAL DISASTERS

Hurricane season in the southeast can be rough. Not only is our area prone to storms, but we're not immune to snow storms, tornados, and more!

Preparation is key for disaster response.

- **Get a rescue alert sticker**

- Let people and rescue workers know that pets are inside your home. Place it near your front door and include the types and number of pets in your home. If you must evacuate write **EVACUATED** across the sticker.

- **Contact and Arrange a Safe Haven**

- **NEVER** leave your pets behind. Rescuing pets creates more work for rescue teams in an emergency. Pets can become trapped and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards.
 - Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
 - Ask your local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter for pets. Reach out to shelters in your evacuation destination area too.
 - Identify hotels or motels in your evacuation destination area that allows pets.
 - Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet temporarily.

HURRICANES & NATURAL DISASTERS CONT.

- **Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits**
 - Prep as if you are not going to be allowed to return for several weeks.
 - Make sure all pets are wearing collars and tags with up-to-date identification information. Write your pet's name, your name, telephone number, and any urgent medical details and store in a ziplock bag inside your pet's carrier.
 - Update microchip information.
 - Can't remember where your microchip is registered? Look up their microchip number at <http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org/>
- **Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm**
 - Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home in an emergency
 - Store an emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible. Make sure that everyone in the family knows where these items are
 - Place in a bag or container that is easy to carry
 - Items to include:
 - Pet first aid kit
 - 3-7 days worth of bottled water and food (Dry or wet)
 - Disposable litter trays (for cats)
 - Liquid dish soap or disinfectant
 - Disposable garbage bags & poopy bags
 - Extra collars/harnesses or leashes
 - Photocopies and/or USB of medical records and license
 - Waterproof container with a 2-week supply of medicine your pet might need
 - Flashlight



PANDEMICS & PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES

A global pandemic is a new and stressful experience for us all and adjusting to pet needs the needs of their owners is of vital importance.

In the case of pandemics or a public health crisis, its important to follow the guidance put forth by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in regards to protecting your pet and yourself.

Pet-Only Health Crisis

During a pet-only health crisis, such as the Canine Influenza outbreak in recent years, its important to adhere to the following advice.

- Follow only your veterinarian's health suggestions.
- Make sure your pet is up to date on standard medications and
- Determine if you pet can be protected with existing vaccinations/medications.
- Refrain from taking your pet to public places such as dog parks, public parks, hiking trails, restaurants, and breweries.
- Limit your dogs interaction with other dogs
- Always consult a licensed veterinarian if you suspect illness or notice symptoms such as lethargy, lack of appetite, excessive drooling, panting or trouble breathing.

Human Pandemics & Health Crises

Pandemics and health crises for humans can be especially difficult for pet owners.

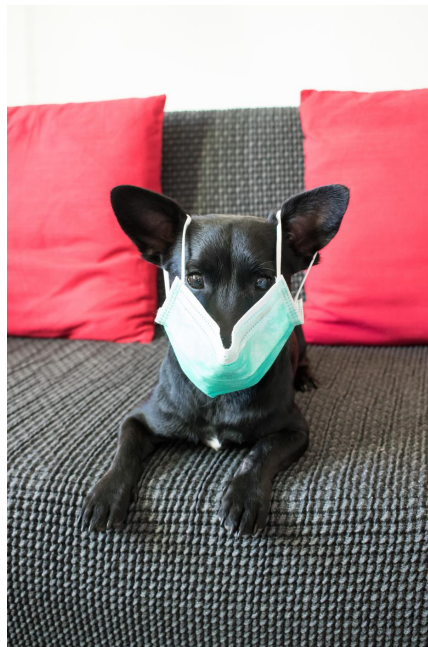
- Have a designated person to care for your animal in the event that you can't or are hospitalized.
- Always have a plan. Much like in the event of a natural disaster, have a "go bag" for your animal that is ready in the event that you are unable to care for your pet.
- In the event of a disease that is zoonotic (able to pass between animals and pets), be sure to quarantine all humans that have come into contact with your animal, as well as the animal itself



PANDEMICS & PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES

Human Pandemics & Health Crises cont.

- Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits
 - Prep as if you may not be able to care for your pet for several weeks.
 - Make sure all pets identification are up to date, have functional collars/leashes, tags with correct information and are up to date on all medications and vaccinations.
 - Prepare instructions that explain daily care for you animal. This will help a caretaker care for your pet in the event that you're unable to prepare them or share instructions.
 - Update microchip information - just in case.
 - **Worst-Case Scenario:** make sure that you have in writing your final wishes for your pet. This will help determine permanent care for your pet going forward if you are unable to do so.





ABANDONED ANIMALS

In the state of North Carolina, according to article 14.361.1, any person being the owner or having charge or custody of an animal, who willfully abandons the animal is guilty of a **Class 2 misdemeanor**. This includes leaving animals at municipal shelters, humane societies, or independent rescue organizations without the knowledge of staff.

Abandoning animals is not only illegal and considering animal cruelty, but it also makes it much more difficult for these animals to be re-homed. Without background information, behavior histories, and medical histories, rescue organizations are unable to determine the needs of the animal(s) and therefore, they inevitably spend more time in the shelter system while this is discovered.

There is no shame in knowing that you are unable to best care for an animal. Both the Humane Society of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Animal Care and Control (CMACC) always reserve judgement to citizens needing to surrender an animal and try to follow a "no-questions asked" policy other than to determine pertinent information about the animal's medical and/or behavior history.

Tips If You're Unable to Care for an Animal

1. Visit humanecharlotte.org and click on the Surrender An Animal page.
 - a. Fill out the form located on the page
 - b. HSC's intake team will reach out and determine your needs and the best course of action
 - c. If an animal is not eligible for our adoption program, we will provide resources to you to find another alternative.

Need To Surrender A Pet Immediately or Have An Emergency Situation?

- Let the staff of either the Humane Society of Charlotte or CMACC know the urgency of the situation and why. Both organizations will do their best to accommodate the situation.



PET HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Pet health emergencies are scary and require quick action. These can range to anything from an attack from another animal, ingestion of a poisonous or dangerous substance, blockages, injuries and more.

Preparation is key. When you adopt an animal, it's important to have a standard veterinarian and emergency veterinarian identified in your area.

If you suspect that your pet's health is threatened, call your veterinarian immediately or take them to an emergency after-hours veterinarian immediately.

Tip To Prevent Accidents

- Keep food that can harm a pet out of reach and inaccessible. For dogs and cats, some of these foods include:
 - Grapes/Raisins
 - Chocolate
 - Sugar-Free foods (contains Xylitol) or any artificial sweeteners (Sweet n' Low, Splenda, Swerve, etc.)
- Keep all medications away and out of reach of pets
- Remove toys that have been destroyed with the "fluff" coming out or detached pieces to prevent toy blockages
- Keep pets away from pools, grills, and open flames to prevent accidents
- Always keep pets on leashes when outside of fenced-in areas and always supervise pets while they are outside.



RESOURCES

When crisis situations arise, The Humane Society of Charlotte and Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control stand united in providing as much help as possible to our community.

The Humane Society of Charlotte Community Outreach is available for assistance, but is not monitored 24-hours per day.. If you are experiencing an **true animal-related emergency**, please dial 911.

To contact and get in touch with Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control, please dial 311. If you are experiencing an emergency and are not sure whether to contact 311 vs. 911, dial 911. The emergency line can always de-escalate the call to 311 if needed.

The HSC Outreach Team operates on a **Tuesday-Saturday schedule**. Please call and leave your name, phone number, and a detailed message and we will return your call within 48 hours. For information about additional HSC services, please visit humanecharlotte.org

Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control (311) is monitored 24/7 and CMPD Emergency (911) is monitored 24/7.

For non-emergency or crisis situations, The Humane Society of Charlotte and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control can be reached at the following locations:

Humane Society of Charlotte
704-377-0534
Facebook: @humanecharlotte
Instagram: @humanecharlotte
Twitter: @humanecharlotte

Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care & Control
(704) 336-7600
Facebook: @animalscmpd
Instagram: @animalscmpd
Twitter: @CMPD_ACC