



SPCA of Tompkins County
1640 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
607.257.1822 x227
spcaonline.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Please contact Jim Bouderau at director@spcaonline.com or 257-1822 ext. 227 for comment.]

Operational Changes for the SPCA of Tompkins County Amid COVID-19 Concerns

In response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation in Tompkins County the SPCA will be continuing services to the public on a more limited basis.

Bouderau commented “...*This is a very difficult time for many of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. While our obligation is first and foremost to the homeless animals who rely so heavily on our care, we must do everything that we can to ensure the safety of all of those involved especially with so much uncertainty surrounding the situation...*”

“...*as an essential service, many people forget that veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and animal care staff are health care workers, and most will continue to work through this public health crisis as long as they are healthy. Pet owners are scared, which is why having an emergency plan in place for your animal is of the utmost importance but know that we will be there for you. We love your pets too, and we are committed to helping you as best we can...*”

SPCA of Tompkins County hours of operation will be reduced. The Dorothy and Roy Park Pet Adoption Center will be facilitating adoptions by **appointment only** Sunday through Saturday. Adopters are encouraged to begin their search by visiting spcaonline.com and by emailing us at adoptions@spcaonline.com

There are still many wonderful pets desperately in need of new homes. These animals need us to come to work each and every day to care for them. The more animals we can get adopted into new loving homes means more room for new ones that may have to be surrendered during these difficult times. With many people home from school and work, now might be the perfect time to acclimate a new pet into your home

We are asking for the community’s help in limiting the number of people visiting the Pet Adoption Center for the immediate future by only contacting us if they are seriously considering adding a new pet into their homes. Members of the public who are not seriously looking for a new pet, or here to finalize an adoption for a pet, will be asked to visit when we return to normal business operations and hours.

It is imperative that all pet-owners in Tompkins County have an emergency plan in place for their pets. Make sure pets are wearing proper identification; have crates and extra food or supplies on hand; and identify a trusted family member, friend, boarding facility, or pet sitter who can care for your pet if you become ill or are hospitalized.

If you need to surrender a pet, please contact us first at intake@spcaonline.com or 607-257-1822 x237. We are requiring appointments for all pet surrenders. If you need to surrender your pet and are experiencing any flu-like or COVID-19 related symptoms, please inform us immediately and we will discuss a plan for the safe surrender of your pet.

All weekly spay/neuter clinics, humane education events and tours, dog socialization classes, and volunteer events and meetings are cancelled until further notice.

We are currently suspending low priority/non-emergency animal control activity. This includes leash law and licensing complaints, barking and nuisance complaints, trapping and transport of community cats, and conflict resolution. We will continue to provide stray dog control, injured or sick stray cat pick up, cruelty and neglect complaints, bite complaints, law enforcement and health department assistance, and dangerous and aggressive dog complaints. We are also moving all calls to our emergency line 607-592-6773