



Humane Animal Welfare Society  
of Waukesha County, Inc.  
701 Northview Rd  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-542-8851  
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[hawspets.org](http://hawspets.org)

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## HAWS COVID-19 UPDATE

*Waukesha animal resource center limiting access to shelter, suspending activities*

**WAUKESHA - March 17, 2020.** The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has prohibited Mass Gatherings of 50 people or more effective March 17, 2020.

Large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities. Therefore, DHS, under the authority of Wis. Stat § 252.02(3) and at the direction of Governor Tony Evers, has ordered a moratorium on mass gatherings of 50 or more people to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The order took effect on Tuesday, March 17 at 12:01am.

A “mass gathering” is any “planned or spontaneous, public or private convening that brings together or is likely to bring together 50 or more people in a single room or single confined space at the same time.”

In response to this order from Governor Tony Evers, the [Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County \(HAWS\)](http://www.hawspets.org) will be further limiting access to the facility at 701 Northview Road in Waukesha.

As all of HAWS’ education, training and fundraising activities have already been suspended, the traffic in the facility has been reduced substantially. HAWS will be implementing additional limitations:

- Adoption services will continue in an online format and will require appointments. Viewing in other capacities, without an appointment, will not be available. We sincerely hope our animals will have the opportunity to find homes, as many families are homebound, it may be an excellent time to start with an adoption candidate.
- Stray services will continue. We do not anticipate any disruption in this service.
- Surrendering of pets should be well thought out. We ask that you call for an appointment and to discuss what problems you are experiencing with your pets prior to choosing surrender. We have additional services and resources that may help you be able to retain your pet though this tough time. These things can be discussed at length with HAWS’ Behavior Department staff, our Adoption and Kennel staff.

“HAWS is here to serve the animals and people of the community. Should you have any questions, please contact 262-542-8851 or [office@hawspets.org](mailto:office@hawspets.org),” states Lynn Olenik, HAWS Executive Director. “We thank you in advance for your compliance and for your understanding. Be well, be kind. Do what’s right.”

*A non-profit organization established in 1965, each year HAWS assists over 8,000 animals and welcomes more than 35,000 human visitors. As an open admission, no-kill animal shelter and full service humane society, HAWS assures sanctuary for animals in need while offering many diverse programs and services to promote responsible pet ownership and prevent animal abuse.*

*The Humane Animal Welfare Society is located at 701 Northview Road in Waukesha, Wisconsin.*

*For more information call (262) 542-8851 or log onto [hawspets.org](http://hawspets.org).*

*Follow HAWS on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube!*

*HAWS: Growing Our Humane Community.*

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