

Guidance for Animal Boarding and Daycare Facilities Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The statewide “stay home” Executive Order No. 20-16 issued by Governor Laura Kelly on March 28 established that only those individuals or entities which are performing essential activities are exempt from the order. Animal boarding and daycare facilities provide care for animals in the community, which can include providing service to customers who are considered essential personnel and for any persons who must make alternative arrangements for their pets due to illness, COVID-19 related or otherwise.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture recognizes the critical role that these facilities play in our communities. **However, managers of animal boarding and daycare facilities must — to the extent possible without significant disruption to essential functions — make operational changes to protect staff and clients.** At this time, the decision whether to stay open or to close — and details about how to limit the services you are providing — is up to each individual business.

Those that do remain open should scrutinize their activities and staffing and limit them to those which are essential to the protection of animal health, safety and welfare.

- Care, training, and services provided for service or law enforcement dogs may continue as necessary.
- Services that are provided incidental to caring for animals from essential personnel or those who are sick may also be continued, so long as proper social distancing can be maintained during the performance of non-essential services.
- Businesses should discontinue offering services to customers who are not exempt from the stay home order, including training sessions, grooming, and daycare services. Boarding services should be provided in cases where necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the animal.
- Proper social distancing, such as retrieving animals from vehicles should be put in place and interactions with customers should be limited as much as possible.
- Limit staff to essential employees only, to minimize human-to-human interaction.
- Practice cleaning and disinfection protocols, and provide handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, and cleaning wipes throughout the facility
 - As much as possible, limit human-to-human contact. This may include curbside service, online histories, phone/online check-in procedures, telemedicine, and other practices.
 - Employees who are sick or who have been exposed to COVID-19 should not work.

For current information about COVID-19, and to sign up for updates, go to www.kdhe.ks.gov/coronavirus.