



Statement on COVID-19 Coronavirus Precautions

March 14, 2020

Dear Friends:

In light of rapidly evolving news pertaining to the COVID-19 virus and containment recommendations, GREYHOUND FRIENDS IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY until further notice. As always, we are committed to the health and safety of everyone in our community. This includes our staff and volunteers, visitors to the kennel, and the dogs in our care.

We are paying close attention to evolving guidance from the CDC, the NIH, the State of Massachusetts, and our local Hopkinton authorities. Consistent with that guidance, including the guidelines found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>, we are currently taking the following precautions to limit risk:

- **GREYHOUND FRIENDS IS NOW OPEN FOR VISITS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** We are suspending “drop in” visits until further notice. This will enable us to accommodate visits in our limited space without increased risk to staff, volunteers, or visitors. Anyone interested in adopting is welcome to contact us by phone at (508) 435-5969 or email info@greyhound.org to schedule an appointment.
- We ask that you postpone your visit if you are ill, or if in the past 14 days you traveled to an area with “community spread” or have other reason to believe that you have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus.
- We will of course continue to provide excellent care to the greyhounds in our kennel. Staff and volunteers will continue to report for scheduled shifts, provided they are not displaying symptoms, have not been exposed to an infected person or place, and have no conditions that put them at heightened risk. No staff or volunteers have reported exposure, symptoms, or a positive diagnosis at this time.
- The good news is that we already follow a rigorous cleaning and sanitizing regimen for the kennel. In addition, we have increased the frequency of cleaning, particularly with high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs and kennel latches. Hand washing facilities are available and well stocked with soap, and sanitizer is available at the entrance and throughout our kennel facility.
- We are following recommendations from public health authorities regarding hygiene, such as frequent hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and staying home while sick or falling ill.

You may also be interested in the following information regarding the novel coronavirus and dogs:
<https://www.idexx.com/en/about-idexx/news/no-covid-19-cases-pets/>
<https://www.rover.com/blog/can-dogs-get-the-coronavirus/>

Please continue to follow our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for further information. We appreciate your support and understanding.

Well wishes,

Terri Shepard, CDT
Kennel & Operations Manager