



## Taking Care of Pets at Shelters

### FEEDING PETS

- Separate pet food from human food.
- Refrigerate or discard leftover wet pet food.
- Use scooping tool (not pet dish) to scoop dry food.
- Wash pet food dishes and scooping utensils with soap and hot water after each use.
- Do not overfeed the animals.



### CLEANING UP AFTER ANIMALS

- Clean cat litter boxes at least once every 24 hours.
- Clean and disinfect cages/crates between uses.
- Wear gloves when cleaning cages and litter boxes.
- Pregnant women should not handle pet rodents such as gerbils, hamster, mice, and guinea pigs and should not clean cat litter boxes.
- In indoor pet relief areas, pick up soiled newspapers and dispose of them in a specially designated plastic-lined waste bin with lid. Lay down fresh newspapers.
- In outdoor pet relief areas, use animal waste bags to pick up waste, secure bag with tie, and properly dispose of bag.
- Empty waste bins in a timely manner.

### SAFETY AND HEALTH FOR HUMANS AND PETS

- Keep pets leashed and under complete control by owner or caretaker when removed from cages.
- Refer pets showing signs of illness to shelter animal care providers onsite or take to the closest animal hospital.
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer after handling pet food and pets, cleaning cages and before eating.
- Do not eat in the animal care area.
- Do not share human food with pets.
- Refer anyone who is bitten, scratched, or otherwise hurt by an animal to a health care provider.
- Supervise young children arounds pets (even their own pets).

**Remember: Animals need to social distance too! Keep animals apart by 6 feet at all times including while walking and exercising. And no face masks on animals!**

5/3/2021

