

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 22, 2020**

**RE: AWSOM announces emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic**

*Stroudsburg, PA* – The Animal Welfare Society of Monroe (AWSOM) Board of Directors announces the following operational changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of Sunday, March 22, 2020 the AWSOM Animal Shelter will be closed to the public until further notice. This is to allow shelter staff to care for the 83 needy animals in our care without fear of exposure. AWSOM's top priority is the health and well-being of our shelter animals and the people who care for them.

The community may call the shelter at 570-421-DOGS (3647), 11AM to 4PM, 7 days a week for advice on animal-related matters.

>ADOPTION—AWSOM is still processing pre-adoption applications for our shelter animals. Please visit [www.AwsomAnimals.org](http://www.AwsomAnimals.org) to see a complete and updated list of animals available for adoption. Meet and greets and adoptions will commence once our emergency status is lifted.

>STRAY ANIMALS—With the community sheltering in place it is likely that stray animals are not far from home and their families are searching nearby. First, post a found pet photo on your Facebook page and share with AWSOM on Facebook: A.W.S.O.M. We will then share with our local network of lost animal pages. Facebook is one of the most effective tools for returning lost animals safely. Also, call the shelter with a description at 570-421-DOGS (3647). If at all possible we encourage finders to hold stray pets in their home or garage, as long as it is safe to do so. Be on the lookout for potential pet owners and verify ownership through a recent pet photo or veterinary records.

>SURRENDERS—Under our current emergency status the AWSOM shelter is not accepting animal surrenders at this time. Please hold your animal until emergency status is lifted.

>WELLNESS CENTER—As per Pennsylvania state emergency rules governing veterinary facilities, the AWSOM Animal Wellness Center is still open to the public for appointments at this time. Those with a scheduled appointment are encouraged to confirm with the Wellness Center the day before. Upon arrival clients are directed to stay in their car and call the Wellness Center to announce their arrival at 570-424-1060. A staff member will meet you at your car and provide detailed instructions to maintain social distancing. We thank you in advance for your patience.

>DONATIONS—Donations are needed and are greatly appreciated at this challenging time. Most needed are Purina Cat Chow (dry) and canned cat food. Monetary donations are also accepted as adoptions and fundraising events are currently on hold. Secure giving is available through Paypal on our website: [AwsomAnimals.org](http://AwsomAnimals.org)

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support.

The AWSOM Animal Shelter is located at 3129 Godfrey Ridge Drive in Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 13, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Visit our website at [www.AwsomAnimals.org](http://www.AwsomAnimals.org) - Facebook: A.W.S.O.M.

Email: [info@awsomanimals.org](mailto:info@awsomanimals.org)