

The Board of Supervisors met on 4/17/20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Story County Administration Building. Members present: Linda Murken, Lisa Heddens (via conference call), and Lauris Olson (via conference call), with Murken presiding. (all audio of meetings available at [storycountyiowa.gov](http://storycountyiowa.gov)). Murken read the special note to the public: due to recommendations to limit gatherings to no more than ten (10) people in order to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, public access to the meeting will be provided via conference call originating from the Story County Administration Building. Murken took roll call.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Heddens moved, Olson seconded adopting the agenda with as presented. Motion carried unanimously (MCU) on a roll call vote.

**STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A MEETING IN PERSON IS IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPRACTICAL, PER CODE OF IOWA §21.8.1** – In order to slow community spread of COVID-19, no more than ten people can attend a Board meeting; anyone may join via conference call.

**STATEMENT OF NECESSITY OF MEETING TO BE HELD ON LESS THAN 24 HOUR'S NOTICE PER CODE OF IOWA §21.4.2(b) (IF NECESSARY)** – Murken reported on relevant sections of the *Code of Iowa*. The County did give 24-hour notice for this meeting so statement is not necessary for this meeting.

**UPDATES ON COVID-19** – Olson stated she has a question for legal counsel. She asked Ethan Anderson, Assistant County Attorney, what takes precedence in matters of authority for elected officials: the Continuity of Operations Plan/Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) or the normal operations. The example given was a general change in services. Anderson stated very generally, elected officials have broad autonomy in how they run their offices. Anderson asked clarifying questions. Anderson stated, generally speaking, the COOP/COG does not change the authority of elected officials. Discussion took place. Murken stated the Board voted to activate the COOP/COG; as a plan, it contains certain actions regarding essential services that were approved with the activation of the plan. Anderson stated the Board has the authority to direct its staff and department heads. There is an element of trust placed in employees to do their assigned and delegated jobs; direction can be given without micromanaging.

**ANIMAL ADOPTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** – Sandra King, External Operations and County Services Director, reported on a change in procedure due to COVID-19. With no clarity on the transmission of the virus and mounting staff concerns, the final step of adoptions is being deferred. Adoptions will be processed as normal but animals will not be picked up. Discussion took place. Sue McCaskey, Animal Control Director, reported on current procedures and concerns about virus transmission. Heddens asked about other shelters and limitations. McCaskey provided examples. Murken asked McCaskey if the *Code of Iowa* is being followed, if essential functions are being provided, if the Animal Shelter is following COOP/COG procedures, and if the Animal Shelter has space for animals. McCaskey replied yes to all. Murken clarified alternatives for the Animal Shelter and stated Iowa is about three weeks away from its COVID-19 peak. Olson stated these are lost opportunities for animal adoptions. Murken stated while it is not ideal to delay animal adoptions, the next few weeks will be critical for Iowa and she is concerned for staff. Murken stated McCaskey made this decision based on the COOP/COG. Heddens asked what is the timeframe to suspend finalizing adoptions. McCaskey reported the response from people is they are fine with waiting to pick up the animals. Olson moved to instruct the shelter staff to process shelter adoptions as usual including visitation with up to two animals. Motion died for a lack of a second. Additional discussion took place. Olson asked questions about deactivating the COOP/COG. No action taken.

Olson moved, Heddens seconded to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Roll call vote. (MCU)

Story County Board of Supervisors  
Agenda for Special Meeting  
4/17/20

1. Originating From Administration Building, Story County Public Access Provided Via Conference Call

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: Due to recommendations to limit gatherings to no more than ten (10) people in order to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, public access to the meeting will be provided via conference call to listen to the meeting.

Members of the public who would like to call in:

- Dial 515-603-3144
- Enter 895791# when prompted for the access code

\*\*We ask that you mute your phone if possible.

Audio recordings of all Board meetings will be posted on our website

[www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov) shortly after the meeting is concluded. You may access these recordings at any time by clicking on the Meetings and Agendas button on the home page.

\*\*If you have called to listen to the Board of Supervisors meeting and you have a question or comment, You can now text us during the meeting at 515-451-7293

2. CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 A.M.
3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:
4. STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A MEETING IN PERSON IS IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPRACTICAL, PER CODE SECTION 21.8.1
5. STATEMENT OF NECESSITY OF MEETING TO BE HELD ON LESS THAN 24 HOUR'S NOTICE PER CODE SECTION 21.4.2(B) - IF NECESSARY
6. UPDATES ON COVID-19
  - a) Staff
  - b)Supervisors
7. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD WITH REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:
  - I. Discussion And Consideration Of Animal Adoptions During The COVID-19 Pandemic - Sandra King & Sue McCaskey  
  
Department Submitting Auditor
8. OTHER ITEMS:
9. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:

This comment period is for the public to address topics on today's agenda
10. ADJOURNMENT:

Story County strives to ensure that its programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Persons requiring assistance, auxiliary aids or services, or accommodation because of a disability may contact the county's ADA coordinator at (515) 382-7204.



**DATE:** April 16, 2020  
**TO:** Story County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Sandra King, Director of External Operations and County Services  
Sue McCaskey, Animal Control Director  
**SUBJECT:** Discussion and Consideration of Animal Adoptions at the Story County Animal Shelter

Along with other County buildings, the Animal Shelter is closed to the public but has continued most services, including animal adoptions. However, because we are amid an unprecedented health emergency, normal operations in a variety of areas throughout the County have significantly changed. Staff at the Animal Shelter no longer feel safe during pickup phase of the adoption process and wish to modify the practice until buildings safely reopen to the public. Adoption applications are still received and approved; however, the pickup step is temporarily deferred.

With increasing concerns about how rapidly the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is sweeping the globe, along with rising infections and deaths in the state, staff has become understandably concerned about the spread of this disease. Although health experts provide useful advice for staying healthy, much remains unknown about the virus for which there is limited testing and no vaccine. While veterinarians seem to largely believe animal to person transmission is unlikely, they do not express certainty in that belief. Statements received via email from two veterinarians are attached. They can be contacted by phone if desired.

I want to thank the Board of Supervisors for its leadership in implementing policies that support staff's and the public's health and safety and contribution to reducing the spread of the virus by significantly limiting human face to face contact. Because so much remains unknown about this new disease, I do not recommend continuing the final step of the adoptions at this time. We request the Board support the Animal Shelter's change in adoption procedures.

Attachments:

1. Statement – Dr. Elizabeth McClure
2. Statement – Dr. Sherrie Pleis
3. Fact Sheet – Center for Disease Control (CDC)

**APPROVED**      **DENIED**  
Board Member Initials: SM  
Meeting Date: 4-17-2020  
Follow-up action: No board action

To Whom It May Concern,

The question has arisen whether our animals/pets can potentially be a source of transmission of COVID-19 to people.

There is currently no evidence suggesting that a dog or cat can pass the Coronavirus to humans via respiratory droplets.

There is also no evidence either way as to whether or not the haircoat of a dog or cat can be a fomite for transmission of the virus. We do know that the virus can live two to three days on nonporous surfaces such as plastic and stainless steel. The haircoat on pets is considered semi-porous and it is assumed that the virus could potentially live on the hair for a couple to few hours. An example of transmission of the virus from person to pet would be if an infected person coughs on the pet or touches their own face then touches the pet, there is certainly going to be some virus shed on to the pet, and that virus will survive for some duration of time (again we are assuming that it is probably a couple to a few hours). As there has not been a study done to determine the length of time the virus can live on animal hair, this is definitely a theoretical risk, but we have no idea if it is a realistic risk. Because we do not have any studies looking at this type of situation, we are treating pets as though they can be a possible fomite for transmission at this time, depending on who they are interacting with.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Elizabeth M. McClure, DVM  
Boone Veterinary Hospital  
515.432.4601

Story County Animal Shelter,

This letter is to give you information about COVID-19, so you can make proper changes to protect your staff and clients from the disease.

Right now there is no evidence that animals can give COVID-19 to people. It is thought to only live on the hard surface for 4-8 hours, but there are no studies done as to how long precisely. The common passive transmission is from is on hard surfaces (the COVID-19 can live for 48 hours) like counter tops, and door knobs (A positive person touches their nose or eye and then touches a hard surface. Then someone else touches that hard surface and touches their face before washing their hands). The most common active transmission is from someone infected coughing onto another person.

To limit the exposure of COVID-19 all hard surfaces should be wiped down between clients including door knobs, chairs, pens and anything else clients touch. It is important to limit things people can touch (no magazines out, products to be sold can be looked at but not touched) Staff should wash hands after cleaning up from each client.

Animals can be wiped down with an animal wipe or baby wipe after they are touched.

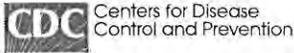
Ask people if they are having any COVID-19 signs, and if so they are not allowed into the shelter.

If you have anymore questions please call,

Sherrie Pleis, DVM

**Community Veterinary Clinic**

275 West Lincoln Highway, Nevada, Iowa, 50201 | (515) 382-1294 | info@cvcnevada.com



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## How COVID-19 Spreads

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person in respiratory droplets from someone who is infected. People who are infected often have symptoms of illness. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.

COVID-19 is a new disease and **we are still learning about how it spreads** and the severity of illness it causes.

### Person-to-person spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Maintaining good social distance (about 6 feet) is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

### Spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about this virus.

Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Also, routinely clean frequently touched surfaces.

### How easily the virus spreads

How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious, like measles, while other viruses do not spread as easily. Another factor is whether the spread is sustained, which means it goes from person-to-person without stopping.

**The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people.** Information from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic suggest that this virus is spreading more efficiently than influenza, but not as efficiently as measles, which is highly contagious.

#### More Information

- ASL Video Series: How does COVID-19 Spread?