



## COVID-19 and the “Stay-at-Home” Order

With the current pandemic becoming more serious daily, GRRACE is making changes to our operations. Currently, we feel it is prudent to suspend all routine activity and respond only to emergency situations. The way we respond to emergency situations is as follows:

If it is deemed necessary to perform a home visit to place a dog in an emergency situation, this will be done via phone, Facetime, Skype, etc. and may be coupled with a drive by of the home to check the status of fencing and general characteristics of the neighborhood in question. In looking to place an emergency dog, we will not consider this method of home visit in situations with numerous red flags or questionable responses to questions.

One-on-one dog evaluations will be suspended. We may be able to rely on evaluations provided by shelters, or for owner turn in's, we may conduct a phone interview getting as much information as possible about the dog in question. If there is any doubt about the temperament of a particular dog, based on a voice interview or information provided in the owner surrender application, that dog will need to be passed on until a more thorough evaluation can be done at a later date. At this time, we believe that hand-offs of dogs can be made reasonably safely between transporters and foster/adoption homes, and transporters and surrendering homes, if done outside with 6' social distancing between the people involved. It is our understanding that dogs cannot contract or be a carrier of this virus; however, they are fomites. A fomite is any inanimate object that, when contaminated with or exposed to infectious agents (such as pathogenic bacteria, viruses or fungi), can transfer disease to a new host. For humans, skin cells, hair, clothing, and bedding are common fomites. If petted or handled by an infected person, a dog or cat may temporarily carry the virus on their coats to a new host. This is considered to be a rare occurrence but is possible. It is therefore recommended that any new animal brought into the home should be bathed as soon as possible to help reduce risks of contamination.

Depending on the progression of this virus, GRRACE may be forced to temporarily suspend even emergency situations for the sake of the safety of our GRRACE volunteers and the general public with whom we may need to interact. We are getting to the point where many of us know people who are directly affected by this virus and it appears that the situation will worsen for the foreseeable future.

Everyone with pets should consider planning on the care of their animals in the event they are more intimately affected with this virus. The Allen County SPCA has put out an excellent video addressing this issue. This video is on Facebook and can be accessed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/allencountyspca/videos/2901976569884588/?t=0>

We hope each of you stay safe, practice social distancing, and stay home. We are all #INThisTogether.

*The GRRACE Board of Directors*

*GRRACE, Inc. is an Indiana non-profit corporation and is tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.  
GRRACE, Inc. is dedicated to rescuing and rehoming Golden Retrievers throughout the State of Indiana.*

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