



Life during COVID: Finding a new normal

It may be a bit more complicated... but we're making it work in 2020.

How exactly does an animal charity protect the region's animals during a pandemic? How does it prepare for increased community need when donors are themselves facing increased hardship? These are the questions that SAS has been grappling with since March.

Running a shelter while following strict safety guidelines has been complicated--but manageable with careful planning. For example, by increasing the number of foster families we rely upon, we've lowered the number of pets in the shelter. We've also transitioned to *solo* volunteer caregiver shifts 4 times a day to replace the 4-person, twice daily volunteer teams of the past.

By rotating employee hours and creating an intermittent work-from-home schedule for all staff, we've been able to accommodate social distancing while carrying on operations more or less as normal.

Our annual Gala had to be postponed until Spring of 2021, so we've had to be creative with our fundraising, introducing our first ever virtual 'walk' with a social media component, and launching an on-line silent auction and scavenger hunt.

Through it all, we've continued our core mission of helping the region's pets and the people who care about them, opening a 24/7 free pet food pantry from March through August, finding homes for close to 300 animals since January, and carrying out TNR programs to help vulnerable feral cats in our region.



As of press time, 5-year-old beagle Dasher is the only dog currently living in the shelter.



Speaking of Fundraisers...

Our 2021 calendars are on sale now? You might see a familiar face or two.

ScituateAnimalShelter.org/calendar