



**Maddie's Shelter
Medicine Program
Cornell University**

FAQ: If animal shelters are considered “essential businesses” in my state (eg. NY), why is my animal shelter going to adoptions and other services by appointment? Aren't they required to be open for business?

Shelters remain open for business, although they must conduct their business in compliance with the state and federal laws put in place during this time of COVID-19. Shelters, along other essential businesses, are required to adhere to state regulations and advised to follow social distancing recommendations to protect their staff. Most have made operational changes to minimize human exposure, as it is the primary means of reducing the severity of the pandemic. Adoptions and services by appointment allows the shelter and its remaining staff some level of protection for people by minimizing contact and providing the ability to clean between each appointment. It also allows life-saving outcomes and services to continue.

Source:

https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/protecting-your-veterinary-team-during-pandemic?fbclid=IwAROGMudTbjMIhMcHY009yjjZkbpX2EHpPSRhFcnOU9u9PL6Vvl_yhJqmpdc

<https://www.nacanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NACA-Statement-on-Essential-Animal-Services-During-COVID-19.pdf>



#ThanksToMaddie