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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2020

WHO: Central California Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals/Fresno County Humane Society (CCSPCA)

WHAT: COVID-19 and Pet Cats Update

WHEN: Thursday, April 23, 2020

WHERE: CCSPCA, 103 S. Hughes Ave., Fresno, CA 93706

WHY: Yesterday the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) announced the first confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) infection in two pet cats.

Public health officials are still learning about SARS-CoV-2, but there is no evidence in the United States that pets can spread it. The best possible place for humans and animals during this pandemic is at home, and there is no justification in taking measures that may compromise your pet's welfare.

The CDC recommends the following guidelines:

- If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect that you are, do not cuddle with your pets and have others care for it while you are sick.
- If you must care for your pet while sick, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands before and after you interact with them.
- Just like humans, make sure your pets are also practicing social distancing from other people and pets. As hard as it may be, do not let anyone outside of your home pet your cat or dog at this time.
- Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent them from interacting with other animals and people.
- Walk dogs on a leash while maintaining feet from other animals and people.

The CDC does not recommend routine testing of animals at this time. As more information becomes available, CCSPCA will share it.

For more information on pets and Covid-19, visit our website: ccspca.com/pets-and-coronavirus

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"Be a Life Saver - Be a Hero - Save a Life" by adopting a shelter animal.

#SaveALifeFresno

For more information please contact

CCSPCA at 559.233.7722 ext 116 or visit ccspca.com

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