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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

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El Paso, Texas

## City to Close Animal Services, Recreation Centers, Libraries, Museums and Zoo *Action to Slow the Spread of COVID-19*

In an effort to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the well-being of the public and City of El Paso employees, the City will close all recreation centers, aquatic facilities, libraries, museums and the El Paso Zoo at 5 p.m. today, until further notice.

El Paso Animal Services will also close its doors to the public beginning tomorrow, March 19.

While these facilities remain closed, residents are encouraged to use a variety of activities and community services available online. The following City Department have online services:

- **El Paso Public Library** – The library offers online services 24/7 from home for all its library cardholders. Resources include online books, music, movies and TV shows. The library is offering story-time, crafts and tutorials on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. For more information visit [elpasopubliclibrary.org](http://elpasopubliclibrary.org).
- **El Paso Museums** (Archaeology, Art and History)
  - The Museum of Art's more than 7,000 American, European, Latin American, and Modern & Contemporary art can be viewed at [epma.art](http://epma.art).
  - The Museum of History has access and opportunities to explore El Paso History through time periods, neighborhoods, or themes on the digital wall archive by visiting [digie.org](http://digie.org). Additional activities including recipes and coloring pages inspired by exhibits can be printed and completed from home.
  - The Museum of Archaeology has engaging pictures, lectures, discussions and unique posts on its Facebook page.
- **El Paso Zoo** – "Sofa Safari" launches on March 19, every weekday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on its Facebook page. Sofa Safari gives everyone a chance to virtually meet a zoo animal and ask the zookeeper questions about the amazing creatures they care for.

**---MORE---**



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### **El Paso Animal Services Impact**

The Animal Services facilities affected by the closure include the Animal Services Center (5001 Fred Wilson), Mission Valley Adoption Center (9068 Socorro), and Field Services Building (4501 Hondo Pass). The public closure will result in several operational changes that will allow Animal Services to provide certain services on a limited or emergency basis:

#### Operational Changes:

- Animal Protection Officers will only respond to high-priority calls. This includes: EPPD/EPFD assistance calls, sick and/or injured animals, cruelty, neglect, rabies, quarantine/bite investigations, traffic hazards, and aggressive animals.
- The department will not accept any stray animals from the public that are brought to the shelter or reported to 311.
- Owner reclaims, adoptions, fosters and pet pantry services will be facilitated by phone only and fulfilled by curbside service or home delivery:
  - For owner reclaims, dial 915-212-8741
  - For adoptions, dial 915-212-8705
  - For foster, dial 915-212-8732
  - For pet pantry, dial 915-212-8735
  - Phone lines will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m

During this closure, the community is encouraged to help reunite lost pets with their owners by taking these steps:

- Submit a "Found Animal Report" by calling 311.
- Take the animal to any El Paso fire station, veterinarian, or emergency animal hospital to have the pet scanned for a microchip.
- Post the pet as found on sites like Nextdoor, Craigslist and Lost and Found Pet pages on Facebook.
- Hang flyers where the pet was found, as most pets are found less than a mile or two from their home.
- For any updates related to the department's closure or services, please visit [www.elpasoanimalservices.org](http://www.elpasoanimalservices.org)

A complete list of closures, cancellations, and suspensions can be found on the COVID-19 banner at [elpasotexas.gov](http://elpasotexas.gov). In addition, for more information on COVID-19, visit [elpasotexas.gov](http://elpasotexas.gov), [EPHealth.com](http://EPHealth.com), [EPSalud.com](http://EPSalud.com). Additionally the 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Center is available 24/7. Caller can dial 2-1-1 and select option 6.

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