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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## The importance of our animal shelters

Tasmania has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the country and the State Government understands that for many Tasmanians, their dogs and cats are more important than ever at this critical time.

Across the state, our animal shelters, veterinarians, and pet boarding facilities are providing important services to ensure the health and wellbeing of our pets and companion animals.

The Tasmanian Government is also acting decisively, today convening its second roundtable teleconference with representatives from the RSPCA, A Paw Up, Kimberly's Pet Taxi, Just Cats, Ten Lives, Pets Now Boarding and Australian Veterinary Association to identify and address COVID-19 challenges within the sector.

All are continuing to operate in challenging times and implementing practical measures to ensure the continuity of these important services, as well as the health and welfare of staff and the animals in their care.

Common sense applies to looking after our pets, and the COVID-19 response measures recognise this. Tasmanians can still take their animals to a vet or boarding kennel if they need specialist care. If you are having difficulty looking after your animals during this time, please seek help from family, friends or registered animal shelters and kennels.

Remember when adopting a pet, it is an important decision that should be carefully considered.

Further information for animal owners, veterinary clinics, animal shelters and boarding kennels is available at [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/keeping-yourself-safe/animals](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/keeping-yourself-safe/animals)