

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is NFSAW closing?

NFSAW will be temporarily shut down effective 5/6/25 while we assess what it will take to continue the Shelter's mission of finding homes for adoptable dogs and cats.

2. What is the reason for this temporary shutdown? How long will the temporary shut down last?

NFSAW has just undertaken a massive effort to address a huge cat hoard that existed in New Fairfield; this has put significant strain on the staff as well as our financial resources. Shutting down temporarily will allow us to determine how best to address this strain, re-assess resources, and determine the best path forward.

This is not a decision to close NFSAW permanently, and we will communicate our next steps once we have determined them.

3. Will NFSAW continue its rescue efforts while it's closed to the public?

Though NFSAW will suspend our animal intake during the temporary shutdown, we will continue adoption efforts for all animals that are presently in our care – whether they are at the shelter or in foster care.

4. What will happen to the animals that you have in-residence?

We will continue to serve our mission to find loving homes for our adoptable animals, and the dogs and cats at our shelter today will continue to receive the care and attention they need – and deserve – daily until we can find them homes.

5. I volunteer at NFSAW; does this mean that my volunteer service is not needed?

No! We will continue to need – and rely on – our current group of dedicated volunteers. Individuals who presently volunteer at NFSAW in animal care activities (cleaning, dog-walking) are still needed!

6. NFSAW provides trap/neuter/spay support in the community for feral cats and kittens; will this continue during the temporary shutdown?

This program, like others that NFSAW offers (e.g. Pet Assistance, Pet Pantry), must be suspended during the temporary shutdown.

7. Doesn't the Town of New Fairfield support NFSAW? Why is a temporary shutdown necessary?

NFSAW is a separate and private entity and not a part of the Town of New Fairfield. As a private 501(c)(3) non-profit, we have always been funded exclusively by private donations and our own fundraising activities, as well as staffed by our own NFSAW employees.

The temporary shutdown will allow us to assess what is needed both financially and from a staffing perspective – our two most vital resources – to continue our mission.

8. Does NFSAW still want – or need – donations during the temporary shutdown?

Yes! Monetary donations are still vital – and donations of certain goods may still be needed during the temporary shutdown. Though the office will be closed to walk-ins during this time, you may continue to reach NFSAW by calling and leaving a message or by email. We will return your calls and messages!

We appreciate your continued support and will provide you with updates and additional information when it's available. Thank you!