

- **“Stay at Home” and “Shelter in Place” Mandates**
- **Is Veterinary Medicine an Essential Business?**
- **Essential vs. Non-essential Procedures and Services**

Wake County is expected to announce on Thursday March 26th, 2020 a “shelter in place” mandate. This mandate is expected to mirror mandates currently in effect for both Mecklenberg and Pitt counties. These mandates both included the following statement in regards to essential businesses/services ***“Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all urgent healthcare services provided to animals”***. The Governor has not yet issued a statewide mandate.

Veterinarians are reminded that under recommended COVID-19 “shelter in place” protocols, visits should be limited only to those patients requiring frequent follow-up care, and sick or emergency patients. It is up to the DVM in charge of the case to determine if treatment and services are essential for that animal.

Non-essential visits (those that can be reasonably postponed given the health of the patient) and elective procedures should be delayed.