

RiverDog Family,

We hope this finds you and your families healthy and safe. We wanted to follow up on our message from March 17<sup>th</sup>. Today Governor Baker issued a “stay-at-home” advisory for the state of Massachusetts as well as an order for non-essential businesses to close. RiverDog’s operations qualify as essential under two of the state’s conditions (pet supply stores are exempt, as are businesses that care for animals). That said, we take the public guidance very seriously and will continue to limit all non-essential person-to-person contact.

Based on the guidance, we currently plan to remain open in all sites for those of you who absolutely rely on us. The stories we have heard from you all about what work has been like in the past week or two has been truly inspirational and if we are safely able to help lighten the load, we absolutely want to do that for you. We know many of you have already been sheltering at home as well, and if that is the case for you, we do just want to repeat our offer that if there is literally anything we can do to be of service to you, we’d like to do it (including grocery runs, etc. if you are not safely able to). If you do need care, we would be happy to come to your car to retrieve your dog (with gloves) if you call or text ahead. Otherwise, we will continue to practice some of the procedures you all have gotten used to at each site to limit all points of contact and maintain a 6-ft space person-to-person bubble. On the pet supplies front, I just talked to someone who tried to order cat litter on amazon and was given an estimated delivery date of April 30<sup>th</sup>. We do have many basic pet supplies in stock and are typically able to get delivery of other products from our distributors within a week of a customer request. If you need something that you can’t find elsewhere, please let us know, we can get it to any of our locations or even to your house if you are strictly quarantining.

On a brighter note, we are working very hard on a project to bring you and your dog (remote) joy during these trying times. We’ve actually been developing it in our daycares for over a year (some of you may have seen the prototypes!). It is a strategy board game for dogs and cats (and their humans, of course). Mental stimulation is even more tiring for animals than physical activity, and we know many of you have dogs (and maybe kids) who are bouncing off the walls right now, so although we had originally planned to have more professional prototypes made before we announced our game publicly, we are accelerating the process and are working hard to have an announcement for you on this by the end of the week (plus a version of the game you can actually use while you’re quarantining!).

In the meantime, we’d love to crowd-source in this community for the following (remote) skills:

- a) Are you or do you know a graphic designer who’d be willing to help us mock up some renderings of the game based on our current prototypes?
- b) Are you an expert on how Kickstarter referral codes work / would you be willing to consult with us briefly to help us set up a system so we can work with other pet care partners on this project?
- c) Are you a video editing whiz who knows how to cut footage to make a (short) fun compelling video for a Kickstarter project?

If you are able to help on any of the above, we’d be happy to barter for future daycare/boarding services or work out any other arrangement that works for you.

Wishing all of you and your pups health, safety, and sanity in these crazy times.

Best,  
Greg & The RiverDog Team