Coronavirus — Scottish SPCA still rehoming animals but restricting access to rescue centres

The Scottish SPCA has said it will deal with coronavirus by restricting public access to its rescue centres — but it will continue to rehome rescue animals by appointment.

Any educational visits to schools will cease meantime but they point out that there are lots of online and print learning tools for schools and parents.

They will continue to rescue animals and support pet owners. Last year the SSPCA cared for over 20,000 animals. The only thing they ask is that people do not donate blankets or towels to them for the foreseeable future.

Scottish SPCA chief executive Kirsteen Campbell said: "The Scottish SPCA provides a vital service to animals in need, to vulnerable pet owners and to schools and communities across Scotland. As the coronavirus spreads, we have a duty of care to the public, our staff and the animals we help to ensure we can continue to do our job without putting anyone at risk."

"These precautionary measures are designed to make sure our dedicated animal welfare experts can still be in centres to look after animals and our committed inspectors and animal rescue officers can still be on-hand to rescue animals. We

will still be there whenever people, pets and wildlife need us."

"We have been monitoring the spread of the virus for some time and have already taken steps to ensure all of our centres are well stocked in terms of specialised food and veterinary supplies.

"I would say to anyone who has concerns about the impact of coronavirus on how they can care for their pet — give our animal helpline a call. We will give you all the advice and support we can. As Scotland's animal welfare charity, we are here to support pet owners and make sure they can maintain the strong bond with the animals in their lives during this difficult period."

The Scottish SPCA animal helpline can be reached on 03000 999 999.

