

Companion Animals and COVID-19

What do we know about COVID-19 and companion animals?

- At this time, there is no evidence that pets play a role in spreading COVID-19 to people. However, there are reports of cats who have tested positive for the virus. Therefore, it is important to isolate ill pets from healthy people and pets when possible, just as ill people should be isolated from healthy people and pets.
- It is always a good idea to practice good hand hygiene after normal interactions with your pet and keep your animal's environment clean.
- Please see CDC's [COVID-19 If You Have Animals \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html) and the [Healthy Animals, Healthy People \(www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index.html) webpages for additional information.

Can I bring my animal into the veterinarian for care?

- If you are healthy and your pet needs to see a veterinarian, please call before bringing them in to the vet. Veterinary clinics are taking precautions and may have a special operating procedure that you will be asked to follow.
- If you are ill with COVID-19 and your animal needs emergency care, ask a healthy family member or friend bring your animal in to be seen.

Can I have contact with my animal if I am ill with COVID-19?

- If you are ill with COVID-19 it is recommended to limit contact with your pet. If possible, have another member of the household care for your animal.
- If you are the only caretaker for your animal or you have a service dog; do not kiss, hug or have "face-to-face" contact with them. When in contact with your animal's items (toys, food dishes, etc.) always wash your hands with soap and water before and after handling.

Should my animal be tested for COVID-19?

- At this time, routine testing of animals for the virus that causes COVID-19 is not currently recommended.
- If your animal is displaying signs of respiratory illness, please consult your veterinarian who can check for more common respiratory problems. If your pet has been exposed to COVID-19 and tests negative for other illnesses, testing for the virus that causes COVID-19 could be considered.

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414