

Novel Coronavirus: COVID-19 & Pets

What is COVID-19?

- Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious respiratory illness spread from person to person by a recently discovered novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China.
- Common symptoms of people with COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.



How can I protect my pet?

- Since there's no vaccine for the new coronavirus, preventive steps and preparation are the best ways to protect yourself and your pet.



Practice good hygiene

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds and get the back of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Always wash your hands after interacting with animals.
- When you don't have access to soap and water, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Keep hand sanitizer away from pets – although licking your sanitized palm isn't likely to cause problems for your pet, consuming large quantities can cause alcohol poisoning.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Try to maintain a six-foot distance from people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces you touch often.



Create an emergency plan for your pet

- Have a two-week supply of your pet's food on hand in case you're not able to get to the store.
- Create a list of the medications your pet takes, including dosages and administration instructions. Make sure you have enough medication for at least two weeks.
- Identify a trusted relative, friend, or sitter who will help care for your pet if you become ill and cannot care for your pet for a period of time.
- Make sure your pet is microchipped and wearing an up-to-date identification tag.



If you contract COVID-19

- Restrict contact with your pet, just as you would other people.
- Avoid direct contact with pets, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food.
- Avoid sneezing or coughing near your pet.
- If you must care for your pet while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact and wear a face mask.

