

# COVID-19 AND ANIMALS

## IS CORONAVIRUS A CONCERN FOR PETS?

A message from CDC: There is no reason at this time to think that any animals, including pets, in the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus that causes COVID-19. To date, CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19 in the United States.

Source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Disease 3-27-2020

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html/#COVID19animals](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html/#COVID19animals)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### ARE ANIMALS AT RISK FOR CONTRACTING COVID-19?

CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19.

#### CAN ANIMALS CARRY COVID-19 ON THEIR SKIN AND FUR?

At this time, there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread to people from the skin or fur of pets.

#### DO I NEED TO GET MY PET TESTED?

No. At this time, routine testing of animals for COVID-19 is not recommended.

#### SHOULD YOU AVOID CONTACT WITH PETS IF YOU ARE SICK WITH COVID-19?

You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would around other people.

#### ARE FELINE AND CANINE CORONAVIRUSES THE SAME AS COVID-19?

Pets have other types of coronaviruses that can make them sick, like canine and feline coronaviruses. These cannot infect people and aren't related to the current COVID-19 outbreak.

Source: NCIRD, Division of Viral Disease 3-27-2020

### HOW TO STAY HEALTHY AROUND ANIMALS

- Wash your hands before and after interacting with animals.
- Wash your hands before and after handling your animal's food or bowls, and after cleaning cages or litter boxes.
- Children that have been around animals should be prevented from sucking their thumbs or using pacifiers until they have washed their hands.
- Do not eat, drink, bite your nails, touch your face, or smoke around animals.
- Don't put your face in an animal's face or let your dog/cat lick your face.

Source: Sara Tomis and Mary Ellen Welch, UConn Extension

