



Community
Veterinary
Outreach

Client Info Sheet Pets and COVID-19

FACTS

- **At this time, there is no proof that pets, including dogs and cats, spread COVID-19 to people.**¹⁻³
- Animals that have tested positive got the virus from people.⁵
- Animals have not been shown to spread COVID-19.³
- It's always good to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after touching and handling pets.^{1-3,5}
- It is NOT likely that you would get sick from touching your pet because pet hair is not smooth and is fibrous, which makes it harder to contact the virus through touching pet fur.²
- If your pet needs vet care, please call ahead to the vet clinic before you go to find out their policies right now.

STAY WELL...

- By not going to crowded places (keep 2 arms' lengths between people) and staying home.
- By washing your hands often. Soap of any kind and water and good hand washing (20 seconds).
- By using hand sanitizer if you don't have soap and water. See this idea for homemade sanitizer (picture to right).
- By cleaning areas that are touched often. If you don't have wipes you can also use⁴:
 - a) Diluted bleach: 4 tsp bleach per litre of water. Let sit for several minutes before wiping. Wear gloves. Make fresh solution every 2 days.
 - b) At least 70% rubbing alcohol can be used to spray or wipe on surfaces and leave to dry. (Note that vodka and other alcohols that are used for drinking, are not strong enough to kill the virus)
 - c) 3% hydrogen peroxide (e.g. for wounds) can be sprayed or wiped and left for several minutes to let dry.



PET CARE

- It's ok to walk your dog outside. Try to use a short leash and stay away from the dog park or groups of other dogs and owners. Keep your pet away from other people.
- If you are ill and are with your pet, or if you are asked to self-isolate at home by public health, you can do so with your pet. Here are some things you should do:
 - Wear a facemask (if available).
 - Ask for help from other people to help care for your pet if you can.
 - Wash your hands before and after touching your pet and after touching their food or supplies.
 - Do not cough or sneeze on or close to your pet. Try to keep your pet away from your face.
 - Don't share food with your pet.
 - Keep your pet away from other people.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control. March 16, 2020. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/animals.html>
2. American Veterinary Medical Association. <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>
3. Public Health Agency of Canada. March 17, 2020. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Prevention and risks." Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html#animal-canada>
4. Consumer Reports. March 17, 2020. "These Common Household Products Can Destroy the Novel Coronavirus." Available at: <https://www.consumerreports.org/cleaning/common-household-products-that-can-destroy-novel-coronavirus/>
5. Worms & Germs Blog: Promoting Safe Pet Ownership: Available at: <https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/?s=COVID>