



TO OUR VALUED CLIENTS

And our beloved patients

SARS-COV-2 AND YOUR PET: FAQ'S

Can my pet get ill with the COVID-19 Virus?

A very small number of companion animals have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus overseas, with no cases reported in America, the UK or Australia. The few cases that were reported all occurred after the pet had very close contact with a person infected with the virus. Human and veterinary health officials continue to work in partnership to monitor this around the world.

Can my pet transmit the COVID-19 virus to me or other people?

The good news is that currently there is no evidence that dogs and cats can be a source of infection of the SARS-Cov-2 virus to other animals or to humans. The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads mostly from person to person through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that the very few animals that have been infected by humans are playing a role in the spread of COVID-19. Human outbreaks are driven by person to person contact.

If I fall ill with the virus, should I avoid contact with my pets?

Current recommendations are to restrict contact with your pet and other animals if you become sick with COVID-19. As there is still so much to learn about this disease, this is a precautionary measure. In addition, if you become sick with COVID-19, it is important that you engage in some additional hygiene measures.



Wash your hands before and after handling your pet, their food and their other belongings.



Limit the amount of direct contact as much as possible, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked and sharing food.



Have another member of the household care for your pet if you are unwell or undergoing treatment for COVID-19.

What do I do if my pet becomes sick with an unexplained illness, and has been around someone who has been infected with COVID-19?

If your pet becomes unwell with an unknown health issue after being in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact our clinic and let us know. Please do not bring your pet to us without first phoning us for advice. We will work with you to find out more information, and can then provide you with the next steps, specific to your pet's needs.



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What other precautionary measures could I take to protect my pet?

While there is no evidence of pet to pet transmission of the SARS-Cov-2 virus, we recommend taking some additional precautionary measures while more information about the virus is being researched.



Avoid socialising your pet with other pets you are unfamiliar with.



Practice good hygiene measures in cleaning your pet's toys and bowls.



Thoroughly wash your hands after interacting with other animals before interacting with your pet.

What do I do if my pet needs to see the vet, but I am self-isolating or in quarantine?

If your pet needs medical assistance while you are self-isolating or in quarantine, please give our clinic a call. Our friendly team will ask you some questions and develop a plan with you that is specific to your pet and their needs. This may include having a friend or relative bring your pet into the clinic for us to see, while we do a video or telephone consult with you. Please ensure you have spoken with one of our wonderful team members before your appointment.

I heard that there is a vaccination for dogs, protecting against coronavirus. Should I get my dog vaccinated?

Yes, there is a vaccination against the coronavirus for dogs, however there is no evidence to indicate that this vaccination protects against the SARS-Cov-2 virus. The vaccination protects dogs against a coronavirus that affects the intestinal tract, whereas the SARS-Cov-2 virus is a respiratory illness. The two viruses are distinctly different variants of the coronavirus. Unless your pet is in an area at risk of contracting the canine coronavirus, we do not recommend vaccination for your pet. Please call our team to find out more information, and we can provide advice specific to your pet's needs.

The bottom line:

The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human to human transmission. To date, there is no evidence that companion animals have spread the disease. Therefore, there is no justification in taking measures against companion animals which may compromise their welfare. We recommend basic hygiene measures as a precaution, and our wonderful team are available for you to call to get further specific advice.

The advice contained in this document is based on current recommendations from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), at the time of publishing. The COVID-19 crisis is fast moving, and we reserve the right to update our advice at any time.