



## **CAN MY PET GET COVID-19?**

Please see the AVMA update on the following page for the most recent updated information regarding COVID-19 and animal patients.

## **WHAT IF I AM ILL, OR I HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?**

Start by contacting your physician or health care provider to receive recommendations regarding your own care.

We recommend that when possible, increase personal hygiene practice and decrease interaction with your animal patients while at home. There are additional recommendations on the following page from the AVMA.

## **WHAT IF I AM ILL, AND MY PATIENT NEEDS TO BE SEEN?**

Start by contacting your physician or health care provider to receive recommendations regarding your own care.

Then, contact our facility for our most recent protocols regarding COVID-19 patient and caregiver handling. If possible, have a non-ill friend or family member transport your patient and be sure that our staff is informed your patient is coming from an at-risk household.

## **WHAT IF MY PATIENT HAS RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS?**

It is improbable that your patient has respiratory symptoms due to COVID-19

As of April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the CDC has not received any reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19 in the United States. Infectious disease experts and multiple international and domestic human and animal health organizations continue to agree there is no evidence at this point to indicate that, under natural conditions, pets spread COVID-19 to people.

## **ARE THERE TESTS IN ANIMAL PATIENTS FOR COVID-19?**

Routine testing of animal patients remains unavailable.

It has been reported in some states that if animal patient is showing respiratory signs and the caregiver is a known COVID positive, the state may request / facilitate testing the animal patient.

## **ARE THERE ANY TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR COVID-19?**

Currently, there are no approved treatments specifically for COVID-19 in either human patients or animal patients, other than supportive therapy.



### AVMA, AS OF APRIL 5, 2020

While two dogs (*Hong Kong*) and two cats (*one in Belgium and one in Hong Kong*) living with people diagnosed with COVID-19 have been reported to have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, other dogs and cats also living with infected people remain uninfected. New research articles have been posted to open-access sites on an almost daily basis that describe preliminary results suggesting some domestic animals can be experimentally infected with SARS-CoV-2 and may transmit the virus to other animals in an experimental setting or mount a viral-specific immune response when exposed to SARS-CoV-2. However, caution should be taken to not over interpret results described in such articles, some of which may report on data from a very small number of animals or provide only preliminary results, and not extrapolate those results to the potential for SARS-CoV-2 to naturally infect or be transmitted by companion animals kept as pets. To date the CDC has not received any reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19 in the United States. Infectious disease experts and multiple international and domestic human and animal health organizations continue to agree there is no evidence at this point to indicate that, under natural conditions, pets spread COVID-19 to people.

The USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories has also confirmed the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in one tiger at a zoo in New York. This is the first instance of a tiger being infected with COVID-19. Several lions and tigers at the zoo showed clinical signs of respiratory illness and this tiger was tested accordingly. Public health employees believe the large cats became ill after being exposed to a zoo employee who was actively shedding virus. All of the large cats are expected to recover. No other animals in other areas of the zoo are exhibiting similar clinical signs. USDA and CDC are monitoring this situation and the OIE will be notified of the finding.

If you are not ill with COVID-19, you can interact with your animals as you normally would, including feeding and otherwise caring for them. You should continue to practice good hygiene during those interactions (e.g., wash hands before and after interacting with your animals, including handling of food, supplies, and waste; keep feed, water, and any supplies used to deliver them clean; remove soiled bedding and replace as appropriate).

Out of an abundance of caution and until more is known about this virus, if you are ill with COVID-19 you should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just as you would restrict your contact with other people. When possible, have another member of your household or business take care of feeding and otherwise caring for any animals, including pets. If you have a service animal or you must care for your animals, including pets, wear a cloth facemask; don't share food, kiss, or hug them; and wash your hands before and after any contact with them.

There have been no reports of pets or livestock becoming ill with COVID-19 in the United States. At this point in time, there is also no evidence that domestic animals, including pets and livestock, can spread COVID-19 to people.



### **AVMA, AS OF APRIL 23, 2020**

On April 22, the CDC announced the first National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL)-confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection in two pet cats. These are the first pets in the United States to test positive for SARS-CoV-2. Currently we have no information that suggests that pets might be a source of infection for people with the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

To date, globally, the only pets incidentally exposed to COVID-19 that have tested positive, with confirmation, for SARS-CoV-2 are two pet dogs and a pet cat in Hong Kong, and two pet cats in the United States. The two pet cats in the United States both had signs of mild respiratory illness and are expected to make a full recovery. The pet cat in Hong Kong did not exhibit clinical signs of disease. Another pet cat in Belgium tested positive, but details around that case are less clear. The dogs and cats in Hong Kong were each in the care of and had close contact with a person who had been confirmed to have COVID-19. In the case of the cat in Belgium, other diseases and conditions that could have caused those same signs of illness were not ruled out and there are also questions about how samples demonstrating the presence of SARS-CoV-2 were collected and evaluated. That cat recovered.

Until more is known about this virus, if you are ill with COVID-19 you should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just as you would restrict your contact with other people. When possible, have another member of your household or business care for any animals, including pets while you are sick. If you have a service animal or you must care for your animals, including pets, wear a cloth face covering; don't pet, share food, kiss, or hug them; and wash your hands before and after any contact with your pet, service animal, or other animals. You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home.