

# Commonly Asked Questions about Pets & COVID-19



Can cats and dogs get infected with COVID-19 or spread it to their owners?

There is currently **no evidence that cats and dogs can become ill with this particular strain of coronavirus or transmit it to people.** However, until more research is performed, **it is best to be cautious by washing your hands before and after playing with your pets and by keeping their bowls clean.**

What should pet owners do if they test positive for COVID-19?

It is recommended to **avoid contact with your pets if you test positive for COVID-19 until more research has been conducted to see whether animals can get infected by ill humans.** If you are ill, have someone in mind who is able to take care of your pet and have supplies ready for them for two weeks.

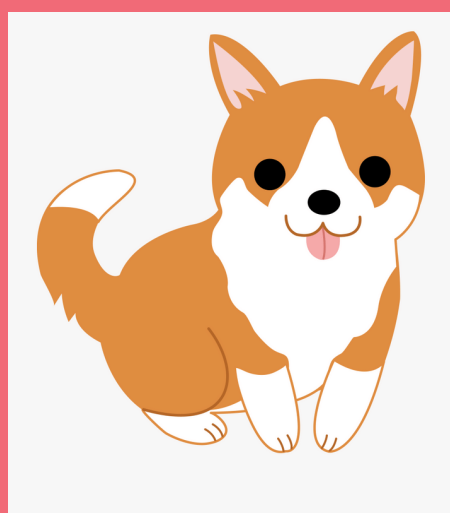


But don't animals get vaccinated against coronavirus?

Yes, there are **species-specific coronaviruses that can infect animals but they are not transmissible to humans.** These are a different strain from **coronavirus-19** that is currently causing a pandemic.

What should I do if a household pet of a positive COVID-19 owner gets sick?

**Contact your local veterinarian** and they will help take care of your pet. COVID-19 has been classified as a notifiable animal disease by the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE).



**\*Remember to wash your hands and practice good hygiene!**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/animals.html>  
<https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus/>  
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>  
<https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/covid-19-faq-vet-clinics.pdf>  
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/covid-19-social-tools>  
<https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>