

Guidance for Pet Owners Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Should I be concerned about being around my pets or other animals?

In the United States, there is no evidence to suggest that any animals, including pets, livestock, or wildlife, might be a source of COVID-19 infection at this time. However, because all animals can carry germs that can make people sick, it's always a good idea to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals.

- Wash your hands after handling animals, their food, waste, or supplies.
- Practice good pet hygiene and clean up after pets properly.
- Take pets to the veterinarian regularly and talk to your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet's health.

For more information, visit CDC's [Healthy Pets, Healthy People website](#).

Should I avoid contact with pets or other animals if I am 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. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus.

- When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick.
- If you are sick with COVID-19, avoid contact with your pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food.
- If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets and wear a facemask.

What can I do to plan ahead?

- As always, have a plan in place for pets as part of your family preparedness plan.
- Identify a family member/friend who can care for pets if needed.
- Have crates, food, and extra supplies on hand for quick movement of pets.
- Keep all animal vaccines up to date and document all medications and dosing
- Pets should have ID: collar with ID tag and microchip (best practice is microchipping).

For more information about COVID-19, go to: www.kdhe.ks.gov/coronavirus.

For guidance related to animals and agriculture, go to: www.agriculture.ks.gov/coronavirus.