

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PETS and COVID: *(updated info as of 4/13/20)*

It is recommended that animal owners keep an emergency supply of food and medications for their pets, with two weeks being the typical recommendation.

Pets can be infected with their own species specific coronavirus which are not transmitted to people. The World Health Organization says currently, there is no evidence that pets may become sick from COVID-19 or transmit this virus to humans but more investigation is underway. We do not have a clear answer as to whether SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 can infect pets at this time and scientists believe this to be a low risk. There have been two dogs in Hong Kong, China which have tested “weak” positive for the virus but they did not become ill. As of March 18, 2020, it is reported that one of these dog’s, a 17 year old, has died but the exact cause is undetermined and it is speculated that stress and anxiety of being away from its family and underlying conditions may have contributed this elderly pet’s death. According to Reuters World News Report, animal health experts examining the Hong Kong case have said that pet owners should not be overly concerned and should not abandon their pets. There have since been reports of two domestic cats from COVID affected homes testing positive for the COVID virus (one in Belgium, one in Hong Kong). One of the cats had diarrhea, vomiting and difficulty breathing. The other cat, had no symptoms. One Tiger from the Bronx Zoo had respiratory symptoms and tested positive with other tigers showing symptoms believed to be related to the virus. The tiger was believed to be exposed to an asymptomatic zookeeper. It is believed that felines and ferrets may be more susceptible to these types of viruses. These species are not believed to be able to transmit the virus to humans. **See more related to these cases, current information and recommendations as of April 12, 2020 at:**

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/sars-cov-2-animals-including-pets>

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wcm/connect/APHIS_Content_Library/SA_Newsroom/SA_News/SA_By_Date/SA-2020/ny-zoo-covid-19?presentationtemplate=APHIS_Design_Library%2FPT_Print_Friendly_News_release

The widely used veterinary laboratory, Idexx, has tested now over a thousand dogs and cats for the COVID-19 virus and thus far the test results have been negative. More studies and information are needed and pending.

As a precaution, because in general animals can spread other diseases to people and people to animals, the AVMA recommends that you wash your hands before and after interacting with animals. Do not allow your pet to kiss or lick you and to wash your hands after handling your pet or their food or water bowls. Wash and sanitize feeding bowls, bedding materials and toys regularly. Keep your pet clean and bathed. If you or a family member are ill or have tested positive for the virus or are immune compromised, it is recommended that another well family member care for your pet. If this is not possible, please keep your pet indoors. It is not necessary to have your pet tested for COVID but do call your veterinarian if your pet is showing any symptoms of illness. Please refrain from petting other clients’ pets as it is still unclear but possible that the virus may temporarily be carried on the pet if exposed to an infected person or asymptomatic/pre-symptomatic person who has been exposed to COVID.

Please contact your primary care veterinarian if you have questions or concerns regarding your pet’s health and see the CDC and AVMA resources for pet parents:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/covid-19-faq-pet-owners_031620.pdf

Please follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PawRehab/> as we will be posting COVID-19 info and updates from time to time as well as on our website link <https://www.pawrehab.com/cvirus-update> for what you need to know for your visits should anything change.

If you have questions about human health, you can refer to the following resources: the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), The WHO (World Health Organization) and your medical doctor.

Responses to the pandemic may rapidly evolve as the situation does. We are closely monitoring information from local, state, and national public health authorities regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Be well and thank you!

Your PAW REHAB family