COVID-19 AND YOUR PETS

frequently asked questions

Can my pets get COVID-19?

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association, there is no evidence to suggest pets can contract or transmit coronavirus (COVID-19). Investigations are ongoing at this time.

Can my pets give me COVID-19?

Not directly. Pets cannot contract the virus and therefore can't infect you. However, if a person with the virus touches your pet, it is possible for you to pick up the virus when you touch your pet. According to the AVMA, this is very unlikely. It is best practice for you and your pet to practice social distancing. This means maintaining a 6 foot distance from others, avoiding group activities like dog parks, and washing your hands thoroughly before and after touching your pet.

I have COVID-19. How can I protect my pet?

We understand this is difficult, but limit contact with your pet and wash your hands thoroughly before and after you touch them to protect other people. Avoid making contact with your pet with your face. If possible, a healthy household member should care for your pet while you are sick.
How can I make sure I have pet supplies if I must stay home?

Take an inventory of your pet's supplies (food, medication, cat litter, etc.) to see what you may need to purchase. Stocking up on your pet's supplies is recommended, but avoid excessive purchasing of products to allow others access to the items their pets need. If shopping in public is not an option, ask a healthy friend or family member for assistance. If you are facing financial hardship and cannot access food for your dog or cat, please call Dakin at 413-781-4000 and leave a message referencing our Pet Food Aid Program. Your call will be returned as soon as possible by a staff member who can help (within 48 hours).

How can I arrange pet care if I become hospitalized?

Make arrangements now. Family, friends and professional pet care services are most likely to provide the best assistance to you and your pet, especially when you plan with them in advance. Now is also a good time to update or create your emergency preparedness kit and plan for your pet. Having supplies and clear care instructions in one location will make it much easier for someone else to care for your pet and ensure your pet has their familiar items.

Where do I get more information about COVID-19?

The circumstances surrounding coronavirus (COVID-19) are evolving rapidly. To best avoid incorrect or invalid information, avoid getting information from social media and word of mouth. To stay current with the rapidly-changing circumstances, regularly visit the website for The Centers of Disease Control at www.CDC.gov.

Sources:
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The Association for the Advancement of Animal Welfare Shelter Toolkit
Ready.gov
The American Veterinary Medical Association