

COVID-19 and Pets

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE



Army Veterinary Services (VS) is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and planning for all animal health contingencies. This is a rapidly evolving situation, and information will be updated as necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Can I get COVID-19 from my pets?

A. Although the virus is believed to have emerged from an animal source, the greater threat is from person-to-person spread. At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. However, based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low. Pet owners should continue to practice good hygiene during interactions with animals. This includes washing hands before and after touching or handling pets, animal food, waste, bedding, or supplies. Refrain from kissing and sharing food.

Q2: Can my pet get COVID-19?

A. We are aware of a growing number of animals in several countries, including the U.S, reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. To date, the virus has been detected in ferrets, tigers and other large cats, non-human primates, deer, and other livestock and wildlife. Further studies are needed to understand whether different animals could be affected by COVID-19. If your animal appears to be ill, it is most likely not the result of infection with COVID-19. Contact your veterinarian just like you would for any health concern. Call ahead to ensure the veterinary clinic is prepared for your pet. Some veterinarians may offer telemedicine consultations or other plans for seeing sick pets. Your veterinarian can evaluate your pet and determine the next steps for your pet's treatment and care. If your animal has been in close contact with someone sick with COVID-19, you should tell the clinic when making an appointment.

Q3: If I am ill with COVID-19, are there special precautions I should take for caring for my pet?

A. Basic hygiene measures should always be implemented when handling and caring for pets. Wash hands before and after touching or handling pets, animal food, waste, bedding, or supplies. Out of an abundance of caution as we learn more about the dynamics of this virus, if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 you should try to limit close contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other household members and other people. Limiting close contact and avoiding direct contact with pets includes petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, sleeping in the same location, and sharing food or bedding. When possible, another member of the household (or a designated pet-care provider) should assume routine care. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands before and after you interact with them. If you are not able to care for your pet, alternatives such as Family, friends, or boarding facilities should be considered.

Download the milPetED app to learn more and to locate the clinic nearest you:



For current COVID-19 information:
<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/covid19> • <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

The Military Health System Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7:
Call 1-800-874-2273 option #1
or visit <https://www.health.mil/I-Am-A/Media/Media-Center/NAL-Day-at-a-glance>

For more information, contact your installation's Department of Public Health.



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