

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: At this time, there is no scientific evidence indicating that any animals, including pets, play a role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to people or that they might be a source of infection for people in the United States. It appears that in some rare situations, people can spread the virus to pets. 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.

Q2: Can my pet get COVID-19?

A: We are aware of a small number of animals reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 after close contact with people with COVID-19. Further studies are needed to understand if, and how, 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. 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. If you think you have COVID-19, you should restrict close contact with pets just like you would for people. This includes avoiding kissing, licking, or sharing food with your pet. Your pet should not sleep in the same bed as you. 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:



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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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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Army Public Health

The Army COVID-19 Information Hotline:

Call 1-800-984-8523,
Overseas DSN 312-421-3700,
Stateside DSN 421-3700

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