



COVID-19: Protect animals by planning for their care

The biggest risk to your animals may be lack of planning for those animals in the event you become ill and can no longer care for them.

Animal and human health experts agree there is no evidence that domesticated animals spread COVID-19 to people. Person-to-person is still believed to be the primary means of spread for COVID-19.

The biggest risk to your animals may be lack of planning if you become ill and can no longer care for them.

Make sure you've made arrangements in advance to have someone care for your animals in case you contract COVID-19. It's best for this to be another member of your household who isn't sick with COVID-19. Animals should stay in their current home, separated from the ill person, unless there is no other choice.

Even if you have other household members, it's best to have a backup plan in case no one in your home is able to continue caring for your animals.

- Identify a person who is willing and able to care for your animals if you contract COVID-19 or have any other health emergency.
- If you can't identify someone to care for your animals, pre-identify several boarding facilities that can accept them if needed. Know what vaccinations are required, and make sure your animals are up to date. Some local animal shelters or animal control facilities may also be able to provide temporary emergency sheltering.
- Assemble an emergency kit, with at least two weeks' supply of your animals' food and medications.
- Properly identify animals, including ID tags, microchips, brands, and rabies and license tags, if applicable.
- Obtain a copy of your animal's medical record from your veterinarian and include it in your emergency kit.
- Have appropriate crates/carriers and/or trailers identified and available in case your animals need to be transported.
- Make a list of people authorized to make medical decisions for your animals, if different from the caregiver. Make sure to communicate your instructions for different levels of emergency medical care your animals may need in your absence.

Veterinary facilities may only be providing non-elective services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please call ahead before taking your animal to the veterinarian.

For more information visit: avma.org/Coronavirus