



AVMA and CDC recently developed COVID-19 guidance:

Considerations for food animal veterinarians during the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/considerations-food-animal-veterinarians-during-COVID-19-pandemic>

Interim recommendations for intake of companion animals from households where humans with COVID-19 are present

These recommendations were developed in collaboration with the American Veterinary Medical Association, University of Wisconsin-Madison Shelter Medicine Program, The Association of Shelter Veterinarians, University of California-Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program, University of Florida Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 One Health Team.

The intent of these recommendations is to facilitate preparedness and establish practices that can help people and companion animals stay safe and healthy. **At this time, there is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19.** States may have their own specific requirements for these circumstances. These recommendations offer a conservative approach due to the unknown risks to companion animals. These recommendations acknowledge that there is currently limited available scientific data on which to base decisions, but also draw on routine guidance for zoonotic disease infection prevention and control in shelter settings. This is a rapidly evolving situation. These recommendations will be updated as new information becomes available.

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/interim-recommendations-intake-companion-animals-households-humans-COVID-19-are-present>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fanimals.html

OIE Latest Information:

The COVID-19 OIE [Q&As](#) have been updated to include a description of the cat in Belgium, noting that infection with SARS-CoV-2 is suspected but has not been confirmed, and a [statement](#) from Belgium which references the FASFC report:

<http://www.afsca.be/scientificcommittee/opinions/2020/ documents/Urgentopinion04-2020.pdf>

http://www.afsca.be/comitescientifique/avis/2020/ documents/Conseilurgentprovisoire04-2020_SciCom2020-07 Covid-19petitsanimauxdomestiques_27-03-20_001.pdf (only some English translation)



APHIS FAQ on COVID-19 Companion Animal Testing:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_One_Health

Related OIE FAQs: [Q&As](#)

What can National Veterinary Services do with regards to companion animals?

Public Health and Veterinary Services should work together using a One Health approach to share information and conduct a risk assessment when a person with COVID-19 reports being in contact with companion or other animals.

If a decision is made as a result of a risk assessment to test a companion animal which has had close contact with a person/owner infected with COVID-19, it is recommended that RT-PCR be used to test oral, nasal and fecal/rectal samples.

While there is no evidence of a COVID-19 infection spreading from one animal to another, keeping animals that test positive for COVID-19 away from unexposed animals should be considered best practice.

What are the Veterinary Authority's international responsibilities in this event?

The detection of COVID-19 virus in animals meets the criteria for reporting to the OIE through WAHIS, in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code as an emerging disease.

Therefore, any detection of the COVID-19 virus in an animal (including information about the species, diagnostic tests, and relevant epidemiological information) should be reported to the OIE.

It is important for Veterinary Authorities to remain informed and maintain close liaison with public health authorities and those responsible for wildlife, to ensure coherent and appropriate risk communication messages and risk management.

It is important that COVID-19 does not lead to inappropriate measures being taken against domestic or wild animals which might compromise their welfare and health or have a negative impact on biodiversity.

In some countries, National Veterinary Services are supporting core functions of the public health response, such as screening and testing of surveillance and diagnostic samples from humans. Veterinary clinics in some countries are also supporting the public health response by donating essential materials such as personal protective equipment and ventilators.