



How to Keep Pets Safe at Home During COVID-19

Include pets in your emergency plan

Find someone your pet trusts to take care of them if you get sick. Have your pet's toys, food, medicine, and more ready to go at a moment's notice. Have a back-up for your back-up. Your animal will be happier and healthier lounging on someone else's couch, rather than sitting in a shelter.

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Pets and COVID-19

According to the US CDC, Public Health Agency of Canada, the WHO and the OIE, there is **no evidence** that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19.

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Responsibly stock up on pet supplies

Make sure to have at least a two-week supply of pet food, treats, and cat litter on hand, as well as a 30-day supply of your pet's medications.

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Protect your pets if you are sick

The best place for your animal is inside the home they know and love. If you aren't feeling well but are still able to provide care for your pet, please keep them at home with you where they're most comfortable.

If you are sick with COVID-19, you should restrict contact with pets, just like you would around other people. Have another member of your household take care of your pet. If you have a service animal, or you must care for your pet, wear a facemask, and wash your hands before and after any contact with them.



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Enjoy your new coworkers

If you are not ill, you can interact with your pet as you normally would, including walking, feeding, cuddling, and playing. Continue to practice good hygiene during those interactions. For those housebound, revel in the fact that you're able to bond with your pets like never before. Soak it up.

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Leave stray cats alone

Healthy stray and community cats and kittens should stay in the community and should not be taken into the shelter at this time. Animal shelters, with limited staffing and scarce resources, are focused on providing critical care to animals in emergency situations.

Healthy cats are also more likely to find their way back home if they are left alone; only 2.8% of cats are reunited with their families through the sheltering system, whereas 25% of lost cats return home on their own.

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Reunite dogs if you can

If you find a stray dog, please attempt to reunite them with their families before bringing them to your local animal control agency. If they have tags, call the owner immediately. Other great tools include Facebook, Nextdoor, or Craigslist.

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