



Humane Society of Greater Miami COVID-19 FAQs for Pet Owners



Information provided by Washington County Animal Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, the Association for the Advancement of Animal Welfare Shelter Toolkit and Ready.gov

1. Can my pet get COVID-19?

At this time, all available information indicates that your pet cannot contract COVID-19. As of March 10, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19.

2. Can my pet give me COVID-19?

No, not directly. Since they cannot contract the disease, your pet cannot directly infect you. However, if a person with COVID-19 sneezes on your pet and then you touch your pet, you could, in theory, get the disease that way. For this reason, it is important to wash your hands before and after touching a pet, and limit contact with pets if you are sick to help protect other people.

3. If I am sick with COVID-19 at home, what precautions should I take when caring for my pet?

Limit contact with your pet and wash your hands before and after you touch them. We understand this may be very hard on both you and your pet. When you are kissing, snuggling or touching your pet, you may leave germs on the pet that could then be picked up by another person. If possible, a healthy household member should care for the pet while the sick person avoids contact.

4. How can I make sure I have pet supplies if I must stay at home?

If you are able to, stock up now. Inventory your pet's food, litter, medication and other supplies sooner rather than later to see what you might need to purchase. If shopping in public is not an option, ask a friend or family member for assistance. Alternatively, you can utilize home delivery services and other online options for purchasing essential pet supplies and food.

5. How should I plan for pet care in case I am hospitalized due to COVID-19?

Make arrangements now. Family, friends and professional pet care services are most likely to provide the best assistance to you and your pet, especially when you plan with them in advance. Now is also a good time to update or create your emergency preparedness kit and plan for your pet. Having supplies and clear care instructions in one location will make it much easier for someone else to care for your pet and ensure your pet has their familiar items. Make sure to:

-  Have crates, food and extra supplies on hand.
-  Keep all animal vaccines up to date in the event boarding becomes necessary.
-  Ensure all medications are documented with dosages and administering directions. Including the prescription from your veterinarian is also helpful.
-  Pets should have identification: collar with ID tag and a microchip registered with current contact information.

6. What should I do if I don't have anybody to provide care for my pet if I am hospitalized?

Provide extra water, food and secure housing for your pet before you leave them alone, even if you think it will only be for a short time. If you will not be able to return home for an extended period of time, tell a trusted person that your pet is at home so they can help coordinate care. Being prepared will make it much easier for someone else to care for your pet and help your pet stay comfortable until you make other arrangements and help can arrive.

7. Where can I get more information about COVID-19?

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you to regularly visit the CDC's website. Below are some resources with helpful information.

Sources and Other Resources

Animal related FAQ: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#animals>.

Information on preventing the spread of COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>.

Guidance for managing the home care and isolation of people with COVID-19 who have pets or other animals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/interim-guidance-managing-people-in-home-care-andisolation-who-have-pets.html>.

Washington County's Health and Human Services Department information: <https://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/CommunicableDiseases/covid-19.cfm>.

Oregon Veterinary Medical Association: <https://www.oregonvma.org/care-health/zoonoticdiseases/coronavirus-faq>.

Pet emergency preparedness: <https://www.ready.gov/pets>.

Multnomah County is also providing clear, consistent and accurate information translated into multiple languages: <https://multco.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>.