

Pets and COVID-19: *What to know and how to plan*



denver animal shelter



**ANIMAL
PROTECTION**
DENVER PUBLIC HEALTH
& ENVIRONMENT

Please be aware that the World Small Animal Veterinary Association states that there is no evidence that companion animals can be infected with or spread COVID-19. This is also the view of the World Health Organization. As this is a rapidly evolving situation, people with confirmed COVID-19 should avoid contact with other people as well as pets

What should I do with my pet if I or someone in my family gets COVID-19?

Love on your pet and enjoy their company! If your health is not greatly diminished and you are able, keep your pet in your home and give them plenty of love! Your pet is not going to get sick from COVID-19, and they will be incredibly comforting during this turbulent time.

How can I help pets in my neighborhood?

Let your neighbors know if you are able to provide temporary help with their pet if they are unable to do so due to hospitalization, illness or housing challenges. What a great opportunity for our communities to come together and support one another and our animals. If accepting a pet from someone that is sick, it is prudent to give the pet a bath or wipe the pet with a damp towel as soon as possible.

How do I create an emergency preparedness plan for my pet?

In addition to preparations typically recommended for any natural disaster threat, individuals with pets should identify family members or friends to care for pets if someone in the household falls ill and is hospitalized. By creating a preparedness plan ahead of time, pet owners can do their part to ensure animal service resources do not become overwhelmed and their pets are spared unnecessary stress.



To make a preparedness plan for your pets:

- Identify a trusted family member or friend to care for your pets if someone in your household becomes ill or is hospitalized.
- Have crates, food and extra supplies for your pet on hand in case moving them becomes necessary or if the virus spreads in the community and it becomes necessary to reduce social exposure.
- Protect pets with current identification, including a collar with current identification tags and a registered microchip.
- Keep all animal vaccines up to date in the event boarding becomes necessary.
- Research potential boarding facilities to utilize in the event boarding your pet becomes necessary.
- Ensure all medications are documented with dosages and administering instructions. Including the prescription from the prescribing veterinarian is also helpful.