



## **PETS AND COVID-19: WHAT TO KNOW AND HOW TO PLAN**

Though a select few domestic dogs and cats have tested positive in other countries, infectious disease experts and multiple international and domestic human and animal health organizations agree there is no evidence at this point to indicate that pets spread COVID-19 to other animals, including people.

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

Limit contact with your pet if you are ill. If your health is not greatly diminished and you are able, keep your pet in your home and have family and friends assist you in caring for your pet, if needed.

### **How can I help pets in my neighborhood?**

If you are able, let your neighbors know you are able to provide temporary help with their pets 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, minimize contact with the pet for the first few days and wash hands immediately after handling.

### **Emergency Preparedness Planning for Pets**

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.

