

There is no evidence at this time that dogs or cats could be a source of infection to other animals or humans, according to the [World Health Organization](#).

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### CAN DOGS GET CORONAVIRUS?

We are aware of a handful of dogs that have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. In these cases, the dogs typically did not have any illness symptoms and experts continue to believe there is no evidence that dogs can transmit the coronavirus to humans. Our team at Dogtopia continues to stay up to date on the latest information.

### CAN DOGS SPREAD CORONAVIRUS?

Veterinary professionals all agree that there is no evidence that dogs can be a source of infection at this time. This is a rapidly evolving situation and we are deeply committed to providing updates as the latest information becomes available.

### WHAT ABOUT DOGS IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH SOMEONE THAT HAS CORONAVIRUS?

That's a good question. Experts think it's best for all pets in households with a person who has a confirmed coronavirus infection to treat them the same way you would a human family member; keep your distance, wash your hands before and after petting your pup, and do not let your dog kiss you. If you or a family member have been diagnosed with the coronavirus, we ask that you keep your dog home at this time.

### THE CDC RECOMMENDS PEOPLE SHOULD NOT LET OTHERS INTERACT WITH THEIR PETS

At Dogtopia, we have been deemed essential services (just like veterinarians) and continue to offer daily care and boarding service to many people to who are essential workers. The CDC also states that there are no known cases of pets transmitting the virus to people. The main reason for the conservative wording from the CDC is to discourage people from being close enough to each other to pet each other's dogs. At Dogtopia, we maintain strict social distancing guidelines of 6 feet and will be wearing a mask when transitioning your pups' care.

## CAN I GET COVID-19 FROM PET HAIR?

COVID-19 appears to be primarily transmitted by contact with an infected person's bodily secretions, such as saliva or mucus droplets in a cough or sneeze. COVID-19 might be able to be transmitted by touching a contaminated surface or object (i.e., a fomite) and then touching the mouth, nose, or possibly eyes, but this appears to be a secondary route. Smooth (non-porous) surfaces (e.g., countertops, doorknobs) transmit viruses better than porous materials (e.g., paper money, pet fur), because porous, and especially fibrous, materials absorb and trap the pathogen (virus), making it harder to contract through simple touch.

### COVID-19 FAQs

**Q: CAN PETS TRANSMIT THE COVID-19 VIRUS THE WAY OTHER CONTAMINATED OBJECTS OR SURFACES MIGHT?**

**A: Because your pet's hair is porous and also fibrous, it is very unlikely that you would contract COVID-19 by petting or playing with your pet. However, because animals can spread other diseases to people and people can also spread diseases to animals, it's always a good idea to wash your hands before and after interacting with animals; ensure your pet is kept well groomed; and regularly clean your pet's food and water bowls, bedding material, and toys.**



#COVID19

 AVMA

## CAN CATS SPREAD CORONAVIRUS?

Cats are susceptible to natural infection with several strains of feline coronavirus. Previous studies of SARS-CoV, the related coronavirus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), showed that cats can be infected and pass it on to other cats. Thankfully, there was no indication during the SARS pandemic that SARS-CoV became widespread in domestic cats or that they could transmit the virus to humans. Scientists expect that to continue to be true with the emerging SARS-CoV-2.

Scientists continue to research and monitor the newer coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2 in cats. Currently, there have been wild cats at the Bronx Zoo who fell ill and one tiger that was confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2. The tigers and African lions are expected to make a full recovery.

## CAN YOU CLEAN MY DOG BEFORE I PICK HER UP?

Yes! We'd be happy to clean your pup with a spa treatment before you pick up this afternoon. Cleaning is the removal of visible dirt and body oil. Cleaning does wash away germs!

## IF I BRING MY PUP TO DOGTOPIA, WILL YOU DISINFECT HER BEFORE I PICK UP?

While, its technically not possible to disinfect a dog's coat because there is no such thing as a dog safe disinfectant, we are taking all recommended precautions from the American Veterinary Medical Association. We are happy to report that experts do not believe this virus is transmitted by pets or from their fur. We are making sure all our staff are wearing masks around people, washing hands often, and not touching our faces! As you know we are practicing safe social distancing with pet parents and other team members. We take the health and safety of the pups in our care very seriously as well as our team members and pet parents! We want to make sure you feel comfortable bringing us your pup to care for.

## SHOULD WE TEST OUR DOG FOR SARS-COV-2?

You're right, there are a few veterinary diagnostic labs that have a SARS-CoV-2 test. Currently, veterinarians are not recommending routine testing of animals, even if they are displaying signs of illness. *Why?* There is no health benefit for that individual animal. A positive vs negative result will not change how a sick animal is treated and there is no specific treatment for animals. Testing more animals means an increase in people to people direct contact which is riskier to veterinarians and pet parents than having the benefit of testing results. Veterinarians are encouraged to rule out other illnesses due to the incredibly low possibility of a pet having the virus.

## I HEARD MINKS CAN BE INFECTED WITH COVID-19

There have been several mink farms that have reported mink with symptoms. Tests show that some mink did contract COVID-19. Recently, there have been inconclusive reports that two farm workers have contracted the virus from the mink.

Minks are related to ferrets and it is known that ferrets can also contract COVID-19. Ferrets can get the same respiratory infections as humans and that same viral vulnerability can make them an asset as researchers work to understand treatments and potentially a vaccine for COVID-19. The receptor that is used for the virus to enter the cells in ferrets, is closely related to humans. Because of this similarity, and close relation to mink, it is understandable how mink may also be able to become infected. The good news is members of the ferret family are aiding researchers in discovering a treatment and vaccine research.

## I'M STILL FEELING CONCERNED ABOUT TAKING SCRUFFY TO DAYCARE

We understand! We know that the health and safety of you and your family are your #1 priority. It is ours too! We are taking this situation very seriously and we are here to answer questions for you anytime. We are committed to keeping our Dogtopia family well-informed with regular check-ins and communications.

We are committed to truthful, timely communications. Right now, we are open to care for Scruffy with our highly trained staff. If anything changes, we will let our Dogtopia family know right away.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS?

We have a comprehensive coronavirus response plan in place for our daycare center. This means we are doing the following:

1. Staying informed by local, state and national public health departments
2. We require team members to wash their hands routinely and discourage face touching. Information on proper hand washing for employees has been provided to each daycare center.
3. We require all team members to stay home if they are feeling sick.
4. We are cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, including our lobby. This includes door handles, countertops, keyboards, phones, light switches, faucets, sinks and other things that our employees and pet parents frequently touch.
5. Because people are frequently touching dog collars and slip leads, we are disinfecting before each use.
6. We are limiting on-site restrooms at our daycare centers to Dogtopia team members only.
7. We are also expanding our concierge drop-off and pick-up services for your health and safety. Using the Dogtopia app, you're able to notify the front desk that you're on your way. A Dogtopia team member will then greet you outside to either retrieve your pup or return your dog after a day of play, you don't even need to exit your vehicle. If you have questions about this service, please call your daycare center.

### Concierge Safety Precautions:

- Staff members are required to follow social distancing of 6' from each other and maintain a safe distance from our pet parents.
- Payments will be processed electronically to ensure we are not touching shared items like pens or debit cards.
- Staff members will be washing hands very frequently and applying hand sanitizer before and after pup hand offs.

- Experts do not believe that dog fur transmits coronavirus due to the porous and fibrous nature of the fur. We have always and will continue to perform Wellness Checks on all dogs as they enter and exit our daycare center. These checks include a complete nose to tail check as well as a wipe down using an approved dog-friendly wipe. Please let us know if you would like additional spa services.