



Coronavirus and Animals— Science Update from JDPC



Important Social Distancing Recommendation for Dogs and Cats from the Centers for Disease Control – Issued 4/22/2020

We want to share some new social distancing recommendations from the CDC regarding our domestic pets—including dogs and cats. The CDC’s guidelines for our pets includes advice that dogs avoid public places where there are other people and animals.

This recommendation comes after a report that two cats in New York have been infected with the novel coronavirus—the first pets in the United States to test positive, both the CDC and the US Department of Agriculture said on Wednesday, April 22nd. Fortunately, both cats’ respiratory symptoms were mild, and both are expected to recover.

Below is a link to the entire article, but here are the most important points we thought all pet owners would want to know:

Social distancing for cats and dogs, too--

“Asked about the cats on Wednesday, Dr. Anthony Fauci said "it's not surprising" they could have been infected. But Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease specialist, emphasized that "there is no evidence whatsoever that we've seen, from an epidemiological standpoint, that pets can be transmitters within the household."

While officials are still learning more about coronavirus and pets, the CDC is recommending that people limit interactions between their pets and people or animals outside the household.

Cats should be kept indoors when possible, the CDC said, and dogs should be walked on a leash, maintaining at least six feet from other people and animals.

The agency said dogs should also avoid public places where a large number of people and animals gather, such as dog parks.

If someone is ill with Covid-19 -- whether suspected or confirmed -- officials recommend having another member of the household care for pets. If that's not possible, people should wear cloth face coverings around animals, making sure to wash their hands before and after any interactions.

And when people are sick, officials said they should refrain from petting or snuggling their pets -- and avoid being kissed or licked."

Source: Arman Azad, "Two cats in New York confirmed to have coronavirus, making them the first pets in the US known to be infected," CNN, April 23, 2020.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/22/health/cats-new-york-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>

A few other articles of interest regarding transmission of coronavirus in animals, in households, and in Iowa:

- *8 big cats have tested positive for coronavirus at the Bronx Zoo:* <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/23/us/bronx-zoo-cats-positive-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>
- *Is the Virus on My Clothes? My Shoes? My Hair? My Newspaper?* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/17/well/live/coronavirus-contagion-spread-clothes-shoes-hair-newspaper-packages-mail-infectious.html>
- *IMHE (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation) info on projected days until peak in Iowa and containment strategy recommendations based on the most recent data:* <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/iowa> The main website allows you to use a simple pull-down list to check other states and areas of the world, too: <https://covid19.healthdata.org>

All of us at JDPC hope this message finds you and your animals safe and well. We are continuing to manage projects from home and work toward a reopening strategy when it is deemed safe for all of us and our pets to gather closely again. We hope and pray that is soon!!!