



COVID-19 and our animals

Can cats & dogs become infected with COVID-19?



There is **no evidence** that animals in your home or community can spread COVID-19 to people. The main risk of infection is by human-to-human contact with someone who has COVID-19.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19:
wash your hands often with soap and water.

Why is hand hygiene around animals so important?

- Animals can pass us **OTHER** germs that may make us feel unwell and parasites such as worms and mites.
- It is always best to avoid close contact like kissing, cuddling or sharing your bed with animals.
- Young, old and already unwell people are most at risk of getting sick.
- Washing your hands when handling animals will help stop the spread of these common illnesses within your family and community.

How do I practice good hygiene around my animals?

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- Always wash your hands before and after you touch animals and when you eat or use the toilet.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, make sure the lather covers your whole hand for at least 20 seconds. Rinse your hands under running water and dry them with a disposable towel, if possible.
- Where available, use alcohol-based hand sanitisers regularly during the day.
- Avoid touching your face & cover your coughs or sneezes with your elbow or a tissue.
- Stay at home if you are unwell, always stay 1.5 metres away from other people & keep your animals outside, in your yard.
- It's best not to have visitors or their animals in your home. If you do have visitors, ask them to wash their hands before they come inside.
- Your animals should be regularly treated for worms, fleas and ticks.
- Clean & disinfect your home regularly, especially in the areas your animals sleep and eat.



How can I keep my animals healthy?

- *Continue to give them food, water, play and love*
- *If possible, give them regular worming and tick treatments.*
- *If you become unwell, ask a family member or neighbour to help look after your animals and call the health clinic to let them know.*
- *If you have any worries about your animals, please call AMRRIC on 08 8948 1768 or your local Vet.*



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