



Saving Homeless Animals One at a Time!

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COVID-19 Pandemic FAQs and Preparedness for Pet Owners

Hurricane Pets Rescue Inc. (HPR) has compiled this list of frequently asked questions with regards to pets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website](https://www.cdc.gov/).

What happens if my pet needs to see a vet?

If your pet needs immediate veterinary care you should take him or her to see your vet. But if you or somebody in your family is sick, STAY HOME and make arrangements for somebody to bring your pet to the vet for you.

Do not jeopardize veterinarians and tech staff, stay home if you are sick, remember that they need to continue caring for other pets.

Regular wellness checkups and vaccination schedules you should postpone for a later time.

How do I prepare my pet for a Pandemic?

You should prepare for your pet just as you would for any natural disaster while do keep in mind that water will not be contaminated, and power will most likely will not be cut off.

Stock up on at least 4 weeks' worth of food, litter and medications.

You can check out [*Hurricane Preparedness, Safety & Emergency Planning for Pets.*](#)

Here is the direct link: <https://hurricanepetsrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Hurricane-Preparedness-Safety-and-Emergency-Planning-for-Pets.-2018-Updated-1.pdf>

- Make sure your pet's medical records and vaccines are up to date.

In the event that you are sick and cannot care you may need to board your pet at a vet clinic or boarding facility for this reason make sure your pet immunizations, and preventative fleas treatment is in order.

- Always wash your hands before and after petting or grooming your pet.

- Bathe your pet on a weekly basis if you can, if your pet is a cat that are difficult to bathe because of their own purrrsonality, just wipe them down daily with a damp towel with a mix of apple cider vinegar and water. One part of vinegar to 10 parts of lukewarm water from the faucet.

Wipe your dog's paws and body with the above mixture above after taking your pet for walks.

Keep in mind that many towelettes sold in the marked today contain essential oils such as aloe or tea tree oil that are highly toxic for cats.

- If you are infected with COVID 19 DO NOT interact with your pet at all.
- Make sure that food bowls are washed daily, and that bedding is washed at least twice a week.
- If you have a cat and your cat likes to play with or in cardboard boxes, do not disinfect the boxes you give to your cat. Many disinfectants on the market today are highly toxic to cats.

Instead keep boxes in isolation for at least 24 to 36 hours before giving them to your cat to play. While yet there is no evidence that pets can give COVID 19 to people there is one study done that shows that cats and dogs can be infected with COVID 19 themselves, therefore we must protect them. There is NO evidence whatsoever at this time that COVID 19 from pet can infect humans.

How to best “shelter in place” with my pet?

Now that you are staying at home this is the best time for you to bond with your pets.

You can work on behavior training, new tricks training and basic training. If you do not how to, there are a million of online videos and web sites that can teach you how.

This is also the ideal time to work on thing your pets are scare of and help them overcome it, things such as grooming, trimming nails, ear cleaning, etc.

Working together and with YOU a familiar face instead of a vet or groomer will build up their confidence.

How can my pet help me cope with these hard and stressful time?

Studies show that animals can lower blood pressure, heal the heart and help us human keep our stress levels in check, therefore having your pets with you in these stressful times is a real plus.

They will also help you with you being depressed and or just you being lonely.

Take advantage of these wonderful gifts our pets give us and enjoy it while you can.

No don't just go out and get a pet if you do not have already, people in hard times sometimes get an animal from the wrong reason. If you do not have a pet yet, please do not get one now just because you are lonely depressed or stressed. Keep in mind that pets are for life and once they join our family they should be treated as family and stay with us forever.

If you are however willing to make a lifelong commitment and can also financially afford to get a new pet, by all means go and adopt one, there are tons of pets that need you at the shelter.

And always remember DO NOT buy a pet, ADOPT, and yes you can find purebred animals at the county shelter or in rescue.

Can my pet feel that I am sick or stressed?

Definitely yes, our pets feel all of our emotions, this is why it is very important specially during these hard times that you remain calm and confident.

The best thing we can do for our pets right now is to keep ourselves mentally sane, yes, we know, given the situation is a bit hard to do right.

But we must try because our pets look up to us, we are their world and we are all that they have, therefore by us staying calm we provide our pets with something they can sense, which is an environment that is safe and secure.

How do I know if my pet is infected with COVID 19?

Most labs as of now are not set up for diagnostic testing of COVID 19 and neither veterinarians.

We are sure however that this will change in the near future.

My pet has a cold, could it be COVID 19?

If your pet shows any signs of a cold or respiratory distress a trip to the vet should be in order.

Your pet showing sign of an upper respiratory infection it does not mean that your pet was infected with COVID 19. Upper respiratory infections common in cats and dogs specially when they are under stress.

Can my pet contract COVID-19?

While 2 dogs in Hong Kong and 1 cat in Belgium have been reported to have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, 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.

However, there is one study done that points in the direction that cats, dogs not so much, can be infected with COVID via aerosols and droplets but that the virus stays within the cat population only and it is NOT transmitted to humans.

Here is the link to the study: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00984-8?fbclid=IwAR0QZa0OKAE_s55gIPUI6VUjHjoSX8Yf5yq7JSvUVuil-OxKq28u8IHIMMQ Once again we repeat there is no great evidence at the point that this is possible but yet of this single study.

Can pets transmit COVID-19 to people?

The only risk to animals could be if an infected person were to sneeze or cough on the animal and then the person petting the animal while the virus is still in its viable state. As of now there is NO evidence that the virus has jumped from pets to people.

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