



What is the risk of human infection from a COVID-19 positive pet?

There is little evidence that domestic pets such as cats or dogs or livestock species such as cattle, sheep or pigs can transmit infection to humans.

What should I do if I think my pet has COVID-19?

Contact your veterinarian for advice.

COVID-19 testing in pets

We currently do not have validated COVID-19 tests for pets in New Zealand. Do not test your pets using human test kits. If your veterinarian recommends a test, they will directly contact the National Animal Health Laboratory to discuss.

I have tested positive for COVID-19, how do I look after my pet?



Avoid close contact with pets, including petting, snuggling, being kissed, hugging, or letting your pets touch/lick your face, sleep on your bed. Also avoid sharing food with your pet. Include your pet in your isolation bubble so that, just like you, he/she has no contact with anyone while you are undergoing isolation.



Continue to take appropriate hygiene precautions by thoroughly washing hands before and after interacting with pets or handling food bowls/other equipment.

My pet needs a veterinary visit and I have tested positive for COVID-19 – what should I do?



Contact your veterinarian for advice. Non-urgent appointments should be deferred until you have completed your isolation. If your pet needs a more urgent vet visit, you may need to arrange for someone outside of your household to pick up your pet to take him/her to the clinic.



Let your pet's caregiver know that the pet will need to be collected from the property via contactless handover (see information below on contactless handover).

If I get sick and cannot look after my pets, what happens?



Be prepared in case you test positive for COVID-19. Ensure you have enough pet food and medication for several weeks.



You may have to arrange for someone to look after your pets if you are unable to care for them.



For pets, you could arrange for whānau, a friend, or boarding kennel or cattery to care for your pet. Your pets will need to be up to date with their vaccinations if they are to stay at a kennel or cattery.

Contactless handover of pets



Maintain 2 metre physical distancing and hygiene measures. The handover should be managed outdoors if possible, and in a designated area with minimal foot traffic.



Cardboard boxes should be destroyed after use. Cages should be cleaned after use with normal household bleach and left in the sun. Wear plastic gloves.



If your pet is larger and can be secured safely by a lead and collar, you should consider having him/her secured in the designated area for example, in front of your property, for a contactless handover.

