

COVID-19: The prepared pet checklist

Here's a guide to ensure your pet is well cared for if you need to be hospitalised or placed in quarantine due to COVID-19.

- Ensure you have adequate supplies of food and medication** – at least enough for the intended length of your stay in hospital. 

- Ensure that your pet is up to date with their vaccinations**, in case they need to go to a boarding facility or to someone else's home. 

- Have appropriate carriers or collars/leads/harnesses available**, in case your pet needs to be transported or walked. 

- Make sure you leave clear instructions for all medications**, including dosages, how to administer them, and how often they need to be given. 

- Make sure that you have a contact list** for whoever is looking after your pet. This should include: 

- Your pet's usual veterinarian.**

- Your pet insurance company**, and policy number (if relevant).

- Your pet's microchip number**, and contact details for the *NZ Companion Animal Register*, in case they go missing.

- Contact details for somebody you trust** to make decisions about your pet's welfare (e.g. if your pet gets ill or injured), if you are not able to do so. Make sure you have talked this through with that person first! Ideally make a written plan.

- Options available for pet care** if you need to leave your home: 

- Leaving your animals at your home with others** from your social bubble (best option if possible).

- Having family or friends take care of your animals** at their own home - i.e. your animal joins their bubble.

- Boarding kennels/catteries or pet sitters** – however access to these may be limited, depending on the Alert Level. Keep informed on the availability of these services in your area.

- As a precaution**, pets coming from a home where they may have been in contact with infectious people can be washed thoroughly, using warm animal –friendly soap and water before entering a home that has not had COVID-19. 

- An alternative to washing** (especially for cats!) is to limit contact, wear gloves when interacting with them, and practice good hygiene (handwashing, no kissing/cuddling) for the first three days. 

For up-to-date NZVA information and resources
www.nzva.org.nz