



COVID-19: Advice for owned & Community Cats

1. **Include pets in your emergency plan.**

Find someone your pet trusts to take care of them if you get sick. Have your pet's toys, food, medicine, and more ready to go at a moment's notice. Have a back-up for your back-up. Your animals will be happier and healthier lounging on someone else's couch, rather than sitting in a shelter.

2. **Pets and COVID-19.**

According to the CDC and WHO, there is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19.

A recent report that a tiger tested positive at the Bronx Zoo. There is no change to current strategies being applied to manage COVID-19, and the main concern remains human to human transmission. To see the statement regarding the Bronx Zoo go to:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/285036f>

Humane Canada 6th April, 2020

3. **Responsibly stock up on pet supplies.**

Make sure to have at least a two-week supply of pet food, treats, and cat litter on hand, as well as a 30-day supply of your pet's medications.

4. **Protect your pets if you are sick.**

The best place for your animal is inside the home they know and love. If you aren't feeling well but are still able to provide care for your pet, please keep them at home with you where they're most comfortable.

If you are sick with COVID-19, you should restrict contact with pets, just like you would around other people. Have another member of your household take care of your pet. If you have a service animal, or you must care for your pet, wear a facemask, and wash your hands before and after any contact with them.

5. **Enjoy your new coworkers.**

If you are not ill, you can interact with your pet as you normally would, including walking, feeding, cuddling, and playing. Continue to practice good hygiene during those interactions. For those housebound, revel in the fact that you're able to bond with your pets like never before. Soak it up.

6. **Leave stray cats alone**

Healthy stray and community cats and kittens should stay in the community and should not be taken into the shelter at this time. Animal shelters, with limited staffing and scarce resources, are focused on providing critical care to animals in emergency situations. Healthy cats are also more likely to find their way back home if they are left alone; only 2.8% of cats are reunited with their families through the sheltering system, whereas 25% of lost cats return home on their own.