

COVID-19 and domestic animals

This letter is hopefully to help you with appropriate information in this fast-evolving situation. According to the CDC, **no animals in the US have been identified with the virus, and there is no evidence that dogs or other pets can spread COVID-19.** The CDC recommends that people who are sick with COVID-19 restrict with pets and other animals, just like you would restrict your contact with other people.

On Thursday, February 27, 2020, a pet dog in Hong Kong tested “weak positive” for the virus that causes COVID-19. Its owner also tested positive for coronavirus. On Wednesday, March 4, another report was issued by the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) indicating that a second test on that same pet dog had come back positive. According to the report, another dog quarantined at the same facility (but in a separate room) was also tested, but the results were negative for the virus.

The precise meaning of the positive test result from the one dog remains unclear and further evaluation is ongoing. Hong Kong officials said that dog continues to show no clinical signs of illness, remains under quarantine and is being cared for, and will continue to be monitored and tested.

We will keep you updated you as we learn more. **At this time, the CDC, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) say there is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, spread COVID-19.**

As always, it’s a good idea to wash your hands after being around animals, and animal owners should continue to include pets and other animals in their emergency preparedness planning, including keeping a two-week supply of food and medications on hand.

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