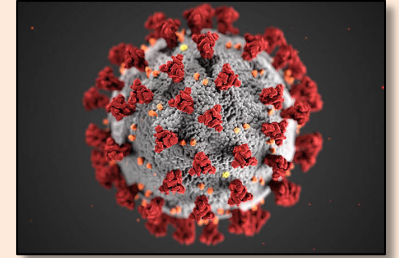


Featured Article: Coronavirus in Companion Animals

If there is any certain thing during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's that it has raised a lot of questions. Naturally, some of those questions concern our pets. Can they get it? Can they pass it to us? What do I do if I notice symptoms in my cat or dog?

Though many of the details need to be studied further, early hypotheses suggest that the virus originated in animals, specifically in bats. That does not, however, mean that pets, livestock, or even other wild animals are necessarily at risk. There are currently a handful of positive tests for the disease in dogs and cats (including big cats) across the world, but most of these animals had contact with people that had the virus. Also, though there are types of coronaviruses that *can* make pets sick, such viruses aren't capable of infecting humans and are different from the particular coronavirus causing the current pandemic.



At this time, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is not recommending routine testing for animals, but instead is encouraging veterinarians to first rule out other, more likely causes for symptoms that may be reminiscent of those from COVID-19.

Importantly, there are still some precautionary steps we should take to help minimize risk. Coronavirus spread is driven by person-to-person contact or through surfaces (fomites), so try to limit contact between your pets and those of other households. Avoid dog parks and try to keep outdoor cats inside as much as possible.

If you or someone you know contracts COVID-19, isolation – including from pets – is important. If you must care for your pet yourself, wear a mask, avoid kissing or hugging them (however tempting it may be), and frequently wash your hands, especially before and after contact with your pet. It is not necessary, however, to remove the animals from the home, as long as they can be cared for.

Whatever the risk to our pets right now, the best thing we as owners can do is remain vigilant. If your pet displays symptoms – of any kind – a consultation with your veterinarian can help narrow down the possibilities and identify the right treatment.

Flea/Tick Medicine

'Tis the season...for fleas and ticks. It's important to be mindful of your pet's medication schedule.

Like so many things, prevention is the best medicine, so if you need a resupply of your flea and tick medication, ask your veterinarian about our Credelio® and Simparica™ options.

<https://www.avma.org>

Main Street Policy Changes

Main Street Animal Hospital has implemented several changes to help protect clients and staff, while still caring for our furry friends:

- We request that clients remain in their cars. Call us when you arrive, and we will meet you and your pet outside.
- We are temporarily closed on Saturdays (weekday hours are unchanged).
- Medication or prescription food refills require 24 hours' notice.

These policies are subject to change as the situation evolves, so call ahead or keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.