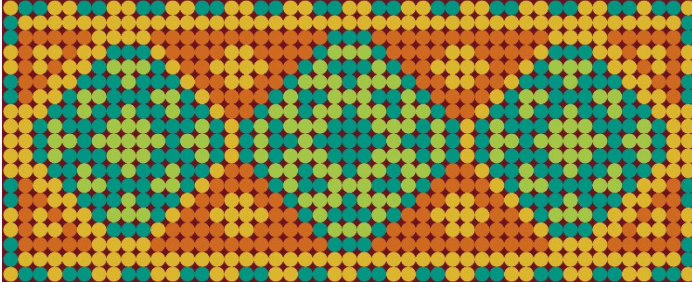


COVID-19 (2019 Novel Coronavirus)

My Rez Dog and COVID-19



Only a small number of pets have tested positive for COVID-19 worldwide and the risk of animals spreading the disease to humans is extremely low (CDC, 2020). However, even though the risk is low, it is still important to take the necessary precautions to keep you, your pet, and others healthy.

How can I keep my pets safe during the COVID-19 outbreak?

Because we are still learning how COVID-19 affects pets, it is recommended to protect your pet from infection in some of the same ways we protect our human family members. However, your pet **does not** need to wear a mask. A mask may harm your pet. **Instead try to limit your pet's interactions with people and animals outside of your household by taking the following steps** (CDC, 2020):

Try to keep pets indoors and not roaming freely outside.

When walking dogs, keep them on a leash at least six feet away from others.

Try to avoid crowded public places, like dog parks and beaches.

If you or a family member have confirmed or suspected COVID-19, here are some helpful tips to take care of yourself and your pets (CDC, 2020):

Try to restrict contact with pets and other animals while sick.

When possible, have another person care for your animals while you are sick.

If you must care for your pet, wear gloves and a mask and wash your hands before and after you interact with them.

What do I do if I think my pet may be infected with COVID-19?

Only a small number of pets have tested positive for COVID-19, usually after they had been in close contact with a human with COVID-19. Most pets have either had very mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. There is **no** reason to abandon or surrender a pet positive for COVID-19 (CDC, 2020).

Contact a veterinarian if you see new, concerning illness in pets that have been in close contact with someone that tested positive for COVID-19.

- If you are sick with COVID-19, do not take your pet to the vet yourself. Call ahead and let your vet know you are also sick.

Keep your pet at home, except to get medical care.

Try to separate your pet from other people and pets in your home.

Monitor your pet's symptoms and stay in contact with your veterinarian.

Protect yourself when caring for a sick pet in the same way you would with a human.

- Always wear a mask and gloves when handling your pet or their waste and maintain a six-foot distance.

Follow your veterinarian's instruction on when your pet can end home isolation.

Everyday healthy pet care suggestions (CDC, 2020)



Feed pets on a set schedule and make sure they have access to water, shelter, and exercise



Clean pet food and water bowls daily



Do not allow pets in food preparation or eating areas



Do not feed pets human food, raw pet food, or treats that aren't fully cooked (e.g. pig ears)



Store pet food in rodent-proof containers and use a scoop (not your hands) to fill bowls



Wash your hands with soap and warm water after petting, feeding, and cleaning up after your pet

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, September 9). *If you have pets*. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/pets.html>