TAKING CARE OF OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

WCT COVID-19 Task Force
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CAN SARS-COV-2 VIRUS INFECT PETS?

- This is unlikely, even though there have been reports of sporadic human to animal transmissions in Hong Kong and Europe, and a tiger in a zoo in the US that tested positive for Covid-19.

World Health Organisation (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believe that it is unlikely that pets will play a role in transmission of COVID-19.
CAN I GET INFECTED BY MY PET?

• So far, no instance of animal to human transmission of the virus has been recorded.

But that does not mean we should become complacent. We need to keep ourselves and our pets healthy. Do not let your pets touch or lick your face.
IS IT SAFE TO TAKE MY DOG OUT FOR A WALK?

• Yes. As long as you follow local administrative guidelines and rules around social distancing, it is safe.

• Dogs taken out for a walk can potentially act as channels of infection if you pause to interact with other dog walkers and breach the social distancing guidelines.

Important suggestions :-

b) Clean your dog’s paws with soap and water before letting them enter the house after a walk.

C) Cats tend to wander a lot and it is a good idea to keep your cat indoors during this time.
HOW TO WALK YOUR DOG

• Ideally in your backyard, terrace or compound premises.
• Ensure the following-
  a) Your dog must be on leash at all times
  b) Do not let your dog or cat rub against any surfaces
  c) Do not let anyone outside your household come in contact with your pet
  d) Do not stay out for longer than absolutely necessary
  e) Prepare a lukewarm soap solution and place it in a tub at the entry of your house. Thoroughly wash your dog’s paws after a walk.
• You should always wash your hands before and after touching your pet.
HOW TO KEEP YOUR PET HAPPY AND HEALTHY AMID LOCKDOWN

- Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds before and after you interact with your pet.
- Spend quality time with them. You could use toys and other forms of enrichment.
- Avoid hugging, kissing, or cuddling your pet.
- Do not share food utensils with your pet.
- Consult your vet to adjust the pet’s diet based on the extent of its activity.
- Ensure you have all the medicines and food stocked up for your pet.
IF YOU ARE SELF-ISOLATING:

- Enlist someone else at home to take care of your pet. If you live alone, request a friend or neighbor to help with feeding and walking.
- Cease any form of contact or interaction with your pet.
- Avoid potentially spreading the virus by taking your dog out for a walk.
IS TESTING FOR SARS-COV-2 VIRUS AVAILABLE FOR ANIMALS IN INDIA?

NO
- Situation is changing rapidly based on where you live and what the local guidelines are.
- Make sure you are not violating any local health advisory or guidelines for the sake of taking your pet out.
- If in doubt, call your vet before making a visit to the clinic as several simple issues can be resolved over the phone.
Pets don’t see imperfection, only love. Protect them.

Ramdas Athwaleg