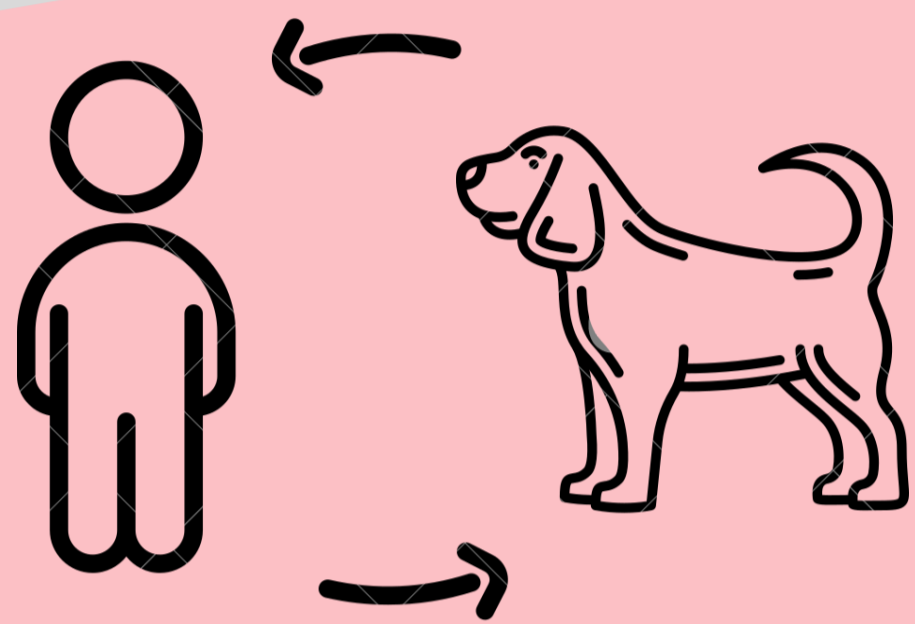


# CAN PETS TRANSMIT COVID-19 TO HUMANS?

## WILL FLUFFY GET ME SICK?



According to the CDC, there is **NO** evidence that animals play a role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. The CDC is aware that dogs and cats can be infected with the virus after close contact with people with COVID-19. The first infections were linked to the live animal market, but the virus is now primarily spread from person to person through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, and talking.

## IN THE NEWS: POSITIVE COVID-19 PET CASES

On April 22, 2020, the CDC announced the first COVID-19 positive cases in two pet cats from New York. Both cats exhibited respiratory symptoms, but are expected to make a full recovery. One cat lived in a household that had no confirmed cases of the virus, suggesting that the cat was infected by someone outside of the house. The other cat lived with an owner who tested positive for COVID-19. Globally, there has been a total of five COVID-19 positive pets--two dogs and one cat in Hong Kong, and two cats in the US (New York).

SOURCE: CDC, "IF YOU HAVE ANIMALS"



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## HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD WITH YOUR PET

In order to protect and prevent the spread of the virus, it is best to not let your pet interact with other animals or people outside the household. Cats should be kept indoors. Walking your dog is important for both animal and human health, but make sure to keep your dogs on a leash, maintain at least six feet from other people and animals, and try not to let other people pet your dog. Avoid dog parks or public places where there are large gatherings.

There is no evidence that the virus can spread to people from the skin, fur, or hair of pets. However, they can still carry bacteria, so owners should continue practicing healthy habits, such as washing your hands before and after interacting with them.

Make sure to prepare an emergency kit with at least two weeks of food and medication in case you get sick. You also want to have a caretaker on-call. If you think your pet is sick, the CDC recommends that you do not go to the veterinary clinic, but instead, call their office and let them know your pet was in contact with a person infected with COVID-19. Some veterinarians may offer virtual consultations.



SOURCE: AVMA, "SARS-COV-2 IN ANIMALS". CNN, "TWO CATS IN NEW YORK ARE FIRST PETS KNOWN TO HAVE CORONAVIRUS IN THE US"