



Can the *SARS-CoV-2* virus (virus that causes COVID-19) infect dogs? Likely. We obtained this information from a relatively healthy household dog who belonged to an infected person and had a series of positive tests. This suggests that the dog was infected rather than simply contaminated by its owner. Viral replication, avoiding the host immune response, etc. are also necessary components of infection and potential transmission, and replication is not a factor observed in animals as of yet. We are unsure if cats can be infected, and currently none have been identified.

*Can I infect*/be infected by my pet? The answer is currently, no. COVID-19 is predominantly transmitted by humans to humans, and is not replicating among pets at this time.

*Can I test* my pet for SARS-CoV-2? Not yet (easily). Some animal diagnostic laboratories may possibly be set up to test for this particular virus, but most aren't. The best way to handle a potential case is to quarantine the pet, alert your veterinarian, and the veterinarian will contact the CDC.

*Is it safe* to visit the veterinarian/make appointments during time of quarantine? At Animal Care Veterinary Center, the answer is yes. We have a gold standard sanitation protocol that we employ on a regular basis, and will continue with our stringent efforts. However, if you are immune compromised, elderly, in the position to infect a compromised person, or are any other at risk person that requires extra safety measures, we implore you to stay in your vehicle and let us deliver to you any food or medicine/perform transactions with as little contact as necessary. If you are an at risk person and you are picking up/dropping off a pet during this time, call ahead of time so that we may retrieve/fetch them for you. This will keep our lobby clear of close contact and allow us to clean/sanitize more readily.

For up to date veterinary perspectives on COVID-19, we recommend this informative blog, <https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/> or to visit the AVMA website!

