

Take time now to make plans and prepare your pets in case you need help caring for them due to COVID-19.

For a downloadable guide you can complete to help with emergency planning for pets, see NYC Emergency Management's Pets page:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/pets.page>

Make a plan for your pet



If you are sick with COVID-19 (either suspected or confirmed), the CDC recommends that you restrict contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other people.

When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. Avoid contact with your pet including, petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. Wash pet bedding, leashes, collars, dishes and toys the same way you would clean other surfaces in your home. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them.

Ensure Proper Identification:

- Dogs and cats should wear a collar or harness, rabies tag, and identification tag at all times. Identification tags should include your name, address, and phone number, and the phone number of an emergency contact.
- Make sure your pet's microchip is registered and up to date.

Veterinary Care:

- Refrain from physically visiting your veterinarian for routine or non-urgent issues during this time. Call your veterinarian ahead of time to confirm if your pet is experiencing an emergency.

PET PLANNING FOR COVID-19

This advisory notice is based on text provided by the Office of the Mayor of New York City

Make a Plan - Prepare for a Human Health Emergency:

- Designate a trusted pet caregiver (family, friend, neighbor, colleague). Your identified caregiver should have a set of your house keys, be familiar with your home and pet, know your emergency plan, and have your contact information.
- Record important information about your pet so that you can easily access it during an emergency.
- Put together a Go Bag for each pet with basic food, supplies, medicine, identification, a list of emergency contacts, your veterinarian's contact information, and vaccination proof.
- Keep a collar/harness, leash, and your animal's Go Bag in a place where it can be easily found.
- Have crates, food and extra litter and other supplies on hand for quick movement of pets.
- If you have neighbors who are self-quarantined or otherwise in need of help, offer to walk their dog or take pets for routine visits.
- Talk with your local veterinarian, kennel, grooming facility, or other potential boarding facilities to see if they can offer safe shelter for your pet during a health emergency.
- Update animal vaccines (Rabies, Bordetella) in the event boarding becomes necessary.
- If your pet is on medication, ask your veterinarian for an extra supply.
- Ensure all medications are documented with dosages and administering instructions.
- If you do not have a yard, be sure to have extra cleaning products and newspaper/puppy pads on hand if you cannot leave your home to walk your dog.

