



COVID - 19 You & Your Pets December 11th 2020

As case counts in our communities continue to rise, we are all trying our best to keep those we love safe. We know that the concerns you have for your family are shared for your pets as well. It feels like there can be more questions than answers at times, but we want to help guide preventive care and set up every household with certainty that they are doing all they can.

We are dedicated to providing the best care possible to you and your families.

Below are some guidelines adapted from the CDC and the AVMA to further protect you and your families as we continue to adapt challenges together.

What can you do to protect your pets:

Until we learn more about how this virus affects household pets, you should treat them as you would any other family members. These steps are your best defense to protect them from any possible infection.

- As you and your loved ones limit direct contact with others outside of your household, your pets should do the same.
- Cats should be kept indoors when possible. This will help to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people that would be unknown to you and your family.
- Walk dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet from other people and animals.
- Avoid dog parks or public places where you are both in direct contact with others and unable to maintain recommended social distancing guidelines.

There are a small number of animals around the world with documented cases of COVID - 19. Most documented cases are due to the animal having had contact with a human contracting COVID-19.

If you are concerned about your pet's health and wellbeing, please do not hesitate to call the office. We will talk through any concerns and issues, answering questions to help guide you to provide the best care.

What to do if YOU are sick:

If you find yourself or others in your household have tested positive, are presumed positive, or experiencing symptoms of COVID - 19 you should restrict contact with your pets. Until we know more about this virus, and it's direct impact on your pets health it is imperative to take all necessary precautions.

- When possible, have another member of your household care for your pets while you are sick.
- Avoid contact with your pet including, petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food or bedding.
- If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands before and after you interact with them.

If you or anyone in your household have positively tested for COVID-19 and your pet becomes sick for any reason, do not take your pet to the veterinary clinic yourself. Please call us and let us know about your current situation, and we will help determine the best course to provide needed care.

Please remember Old York Veterinary Hospital is here to help with any questions or concerns you may have.

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>