

Animal Health Alert: Confirmation of COVID-19 in Two Pet Cats in New York
4.23.2020

Dear Colleagues,

Today, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories announced the first confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection in two pet cats in the United States. The cats live in two separate areas of New York state. Both cats had symptoms of mild respiratory illness. More details are available in the [press release](#).

We want to emphasize that there is still no evidence that pets play a role in spreading the virus in the United States. At this time, routine testing of animals for SARS-CoV-2 is not recommended and there is no justification in taking measures against animals or pets that may compromise their welfare. As always, we are learning more about COVID-19 each day and further studies will help us better understand how pets and other animals may be affected. Please see the links below for updated information.

Information on SARS-CoV-2 animal cases in the United States:

- [USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Confirmation of COVID-19 in Two Pet Cats in New York](#)
- [USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 in Animals in the United States](#)

Information on SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals](#)
- [USDA FAQ on Animal Coronavirus Testing](#)

Guidance from Los Angeles County Public Health:

- [Los Angeles County Veterinary Public Health, Pets and Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Los Angeles County COVID-19 Guidance for Veterinary Practice Personnel](#)
- [Los Angeles County COVID-19 FAQ for Animal Care and Control Staff](#)
- [Los Angeles County COVID-19 FAQ for Pet Owners](#)

This situation is constantly changing, and we encourage you to check for updates regularly. Please call (213-288-7060) or email (vet@ph.lacounty.gov) if you have specific questions about SARS-CoV-2 testing in animals or other questions related to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

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