



FAQ on Companion Animal Coronavirus Testing

*Note: The scientific name of the new strain of coronavirus is SARS-CoV-2. In people, the disease caused by the virus is commonly referred to as COVID-19. Because we are addressing the virus itself in the context of animal health, we refer to it as SARS-CoV-2.

Can companion animals (dogs, cats, etc.) or livestock get the new coronavirus?

There is no evidence to support that domestic animals including pets might be a source of infection with SARS-CoV-2. To date, there have not been any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick, and there is no evidence that domestic animals including pets can spread SARS-CoV-2.

Will animals be tested for coronavirus?

There are no known cases of active infection with SARS-CoV-2 in domestic animals including pets at this time. Because the situation is ever-evolving, public and animal health officials may decide to test certain animals out of an abundance of caution. The decision to test will be made collaboratively between local, state or federal public and animal health officials.

At this time, testing for companion animals will only be done if animal and public health officials agree testing should occur due to a link to a known human case of COVID-19. We will not be testing the general companion animal population.

Who will collect the samples from animals?

After the decision is made to test, the state animal health officials will designate a state-appointed veterinarian, USDA accredited veterinarian, or Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) to collect the sample [using appropriate personal protective equipment and sample collection methods](#).

State animal health laboratories can/will conduct animal testing, but any positive samples would need to be confirmed through additional testing by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

What should I do if I think my animal has the new strain of coronavirus?

Consult your veterinarian with any questions about your animal's health. Make sure to tell your veterinarian if your animal was exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and if your animal is experiencing or displaying any symptoms. Veterinarians who believe an animal should be tested will contact state animal health officials, who will work with public and animal health authorities to decide whether samples should be collected and tested.

Additional resources:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

World Organization for Animal Health: <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/>