



Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Animal Preparedness Topics

# COVID-19 Emergency Pet Preparedness

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## Prepare Your Pet for the Unexpected

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### Plan for Your Pet

✓ **Emergency Caregiver**

Keeping companion animals with their family in the home is the best option. Should you become too ill to care for your pet and there is no one else in the home:

- Identify a trusted family member or friend outside the home who can provide temporary care.
- Research and identify potential kennels or boarding facilities
- Plan for permanent placement should your illness worsen

✓ **Pet Identification**

Be sure that your pet's microchip registration and contact information is up to date. Each pet should also have a collar and up-to-date ID tag.

✓ **Emergency Kit**

- Name and contact information for emergency caregiver
- Veterinarian's contact information
- Vaccination Records
- Medication – 14-day supply clearly labelled with instructions
- Food – 14-day supply with feeding instructions
- Crate/carrier, leash and collar
- Food/Water Bowls
- Dogs – Yard waste bags
- Cats – Litter/litter pan & scoop
- Pocket/Exotic – Bedding supplies

### COVID-19 & Pets

- There is no evidence that people can get COVID-19 from their pets
- If your family is healthy follow some general best practices:
  - Treat your pets like other family members to protect them
  - Do not let them interact with other people/animals outside the home
  - Keep cats indoors
  - Walk dogs on a leash, maintain 6ft distance from other people/animals
  - Avoid dog parks
- If you are sick with COVID-19:
  - Restrict contact with pets
  - Have someone else in the home care for pets
  - Avoid contact with pets including petting, kissing, snuggling
  - If caring for your pets, wear a cloth face mask and gloves
- Call your veterinarian if your pet becomes ill

Website Resources for More Information:

[Illinois Department of Agriculture](#)

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

[RedRover](#) – Urgent care and emergency boarding grants