



**Maddie's Shelter  
Medicine Program  
Cornell University**

***FAQ: Should I be worried about contracting COVID-19 from my outdoor cat?***

- There is no evidence at this point to indicate that pets spread COVID-19 to other animals, including people. This is according to infectious disease experts and multiple international and domestic human and animal health organizations.

Although cats may be considered an intermediate host for COVID-19, it is still predominantly considered a human virus and dogs and cats are considered a potential “dead end host”. This means while it is theoretically possible for your pet to be temporarily carrying COVID-19 on their coat or in their mucous membranes, it is unlikely for them to pass the virus to another cat, dog, or you.

Since cats typically are more challenging to bathe, and tend to groom themselves quite often, it is not recommended at this time to bathe your cat to minimize or eliminate virus on their fur coat.

Source:

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/covid-19-social-tools>

[https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/covid-19-faq-pet-owners\\_031520.pdf](https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/covid-19-faq-pet-owners_031520.pdf)

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fanimals.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fanimals.html)



#ThanksToMaddie