



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

***FAQ: I heard two dogs in Hong Kong tested positive for SARS-CoV2. Should I be worried about contracting this virus from my dog?***

- 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.
- If you are not ill with COVID-19, you can interact with your pet as you normally would, including walking, feeding, and playing.
- It is recommended that people who are ill with COVID-19 limit their interactions with their pets, just as with other family members. If possible, find another member of your household who is not ill to care for your pet. If this is not an option, wear a facemask, limit contact with your pet, and wash your hands before and after every interaction with your pet.

Details: Although the two dogs tested positive in Hong Kong, COVID-19 is still predominantly considered a human virus as dogs and cats are considered a “dead end host”. This means while it is possible for your pet to have COVID-19 on their coat or in their mucous membranes temporarily, it is unlikely for them to pass the virus to another dog, cat, or you. It is recommended to practice proper hygiene and social distancing for you and your pet: do not let them socialize in public/community outings, do not let strangers “love” on your pet, keep them away from possible infected humans/households. Do NOT wipe your animal down with Clorox or Lysol wipes as these wipes can be considered toxic to your pet.

Sources:

<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)

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