

If you have pets, plan ahead during COVID-19

The pet (or pets) you love give you everything they've got, every day. As COVID-19 continues to add stress and uncertainty to our lives, we encourage you to prepare and plan for pet care in case you need help.

CHECK OUT THESE HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

Almost all state and town websites offer information, tips, and support for planning, and these sites are also especially helpful:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/pets.page>

<https://adata.org/emergency-preparedness>

<https://www.ready.gov/>

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>

FOLLOW OFFICIAL GUIDANCE IF YOU BECOME SICK BECAUSE OF COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control recommends if you test positive for COVID-19 or suspect that that you may be sick, you should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just as you would restrict contact with people. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. Avoid contact with your pet including, petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. Wash pet bedding, leashes, collars, dishes and toys the same way you would clean other surfaces in your home. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them.

For more information, refer to the "Pets and coronavirus" guide at banfield.com or visit www.cdc.gov and search "what do to if you are sick."

PLAN AND PREPARE FOR A HUMAN HEALTH EMERGENCY, JUST IN CASE

- Designate a trusted pet caregiver (family, friend, neighbor, or colleague) and make sure they have a set of your house keys, are familiar with your home and pet, know your emergency plan, and have your contact information.
- Add your trusted pet caregiver to your Banfield medical record as an Authorized Contact.
- Document important information about your pet so that you can easily access it during an emergency. Call your Banfield hospital to have medical records on hand for when they are needed.
- Pack a "Go Bag" for each pet, including food, supplies, medicine, identification, a list of emergency contacts, your veterinarian's contact information, medical records, and preventive care history.
- Keep all pets' "Go Bags" and collars/harnesses and leashes in a convenient place where they can be easily found.
- Have crates, food, extra litter, and other supplies on hand for quick movement of pets.
- If you have neighbors who are self-quarantined or otherwise in need of help, offer to walk their dog or take pets for routine visits.
- Talk with your Banfield hospital to identify other local resources that can help if needed.
- Update animal vaccines (Rabies, Bordetella) in the event boarding becomes necessary.

MAKE SURE YOUR PET HAS PROPER IDENTIFICATION

- Dogs and cats should wear a collar or harness, rabies tag, and identification tag at all times. Identification tags should include your name, address, and phone number, and the phone number of an emergency contact.
- Make sure your pet's microchip is registered and up to date.
- If your pet does not have a microchip, your Banfield veterinary team can implant one for you.