

Pet Preparedness

During Covid19 Pandemic

What is pet preparedness?

When families create their emergency plans prior to a disaster, the plans must include pets. If you must evacuate your home during a disaster, preparing a specific pet to-go kit is vital in the event you have to evacuate quickly. If families can't make it home, they should choose an appropriate caregiver for their pets a head of time.

How is pet preparedness related to Covid19 Pandemic?

In addition to preparations typically recommended for natural disasters, everyone should follow their emergency plans if you need to shelter in place or become ill and need to be hospitalized. Sheltering in place requires families to have plentiful supplies of pet food. If family members require hospitalization, choose the appropriate caregiver ahead of time and practice your plans.

What happens to my pet if I get sick?

If you are NOT hospitalized:

Keep your pet home with you, avoid close contact with them, and follow good hygiene. Do not bring your pet to the dog park, groomer, or other publicly shared facilities. Do not bring your pet to the Veterinary Hospital unless it is an urgent emergency. Call ahead for instructions.

The [CDC](#) recommends the following: "You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would around other people. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. If you are sick with COVID-19, avoid contact with your pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets and wear a facemask."

If you are hospitalized:

Choose the appropriate person who can care for your pet and provide them supplies needed. (see pet to-go kit contents)

How can I prepare now, in case I get sick?

Please review the [Pet Preparedness to-go kit checklist](#) below and think through what provisions you would need for you and your pet if you were quarantined for an extended period of time in your home and if have to go into a hospital. Plan temporary alternate housing for your pet should you become unable to care for them.

Can I catch the Covid19 virus from my pet or can I give it to my pet?

Both the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) as well as the [World Organization for Animal Health](#) have issued advisories. To date, CDC has not received any reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19 in the United States. Pets have other types of coronaviruses that can make them sick, like canine and feline coronaviruses. These other coronaviruses cannot infect people and are not related to the current COVID-19 outbreak.

As always, contact your veterinarian and your physician if you suspect that you or your pet has been exposed to the virus. For more information, visit: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>

Pet Preparedness Checklist for Pandemic

Plan Ahead

- Create a plan on what to do with your pet if you get sick and have to go into a hospital. Figure out what is best for your pet, based on age and other factors.
 - If possible, let your cat shelter at home and have someone come in and provide feeding and support.
- Assemble your pets and anticipate. Secure appropriate lodging in advance.
- Confirm family or friends willing to take your pets if you are hospitalized or not home.
- Make an emergency pet to-go kit in advanced.

Pet to-go kit

- Food: Wet with easy open lid & dry vacuum packed. Bowls. Supplies will need to be longer than a week.
- Water in non-breakable containers
- Re-sealable plastic bag with: Pet License, microchip # and updated information, ID, photos of pet with owners, proof of up-to date vaccinations and name/phone of their veterinarian
- Proper size metal or plastic pet carrier = CRATE
- Medications with instructions
- Special needs items for exotic pets, such as a heat source, diet, housing
- Newspapers, paper towels, handy-wipes, blankets, litter, littler pan, bag for waste

GSART is deeply concerned for pets and people during this COVID-19 crisis. Here are some resources for ensuring the health and safety of pets during the Covid19 pandemic.

Emergency Boarding

All Star Pet Resort

169 S Cologne Avenue
Egg Harbor City, NJ
609-798-2194

Free daycare and boarding to first responders, hospital workers, army corps of engineers and mobilized national guard.

www.allstarresort.net

Father John's Animal House

50 Father John's Lane
Lafayette, NJ 07848
(973) 300-5909

Father John's wants to support the medical or emergency workers on the front lines.

We are offering to board their pets should they be dealing with extended hours, shifts, and an inability to return home. We will house their pets in our facility for just \$20/day and provide them with the highest quality of care, attention, and affection so that their owners can be fully focused while caring for sick patients.

<https://www.fatherjohns.org/services/animalBoarding.php>

Relief Emergency Boarding Grants

The RedRover Relief Emergency Boarding grant program helps animals who need temporary boarding while their owners are hospitalized due to the COVID-19 virus. This grant will cover the cost of up to two (2) weeks of boarding while a pet owner is hospitalized.

<https://redrover.org/relief/emergency-boarding-grants/>

For information regarding pet preparedness during Covid19 Pandemic, contact the Garden State Animal Resource Team (GSART) for educational information and assistance.



gsart.exec.board@gmail.com