

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do**

**Stay at home**

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

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Guidance

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for people with animals**

Advice for pet owners and livestock keepers on maintaining the welfare of their animals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Published 27 March 2020

Last updated 31 March 2020 — [see all updates](#)

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)

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We all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of coronavirus. The single most important action we can all take in fighting coronavirus is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.

You should follow the current [guidance](#) and must stay at home, except for very limited purposes.

The following advice provides further detail for pet owners and livestock keepers on maintaining the welfare of their animals during the coronavirus pandemic.

There is no evidence of coronavirus circulating in pets or other animals in the UK and there is nothing to suggest animals may transmit the disease to humans. In line with the general advice on fighting coronavirus, you should wash your hands regularly, including before and after contact with animals.

**Dogs**

**Advice if you have symptoms of coronavirus and must remain at home for 7 days, or 14 days as a household**

If your dog cannot exercise at home, you should ask someone outside of your household to walk your dog for you.

All non-essential trips to vets should be avoided. If your pet needs urgent treatment, you must phone the vet to arrange the best approach to meet your pets' needs.

**Advice if you do not have symptoms of coronavirus**

You may leave your house to exercise once a day and you should combine this with walking your dog. In doing so, it is important that you minimise the time spent outside of the home and remain 2 metres away from anyone outside of your household.

All non-essential trips to vets should be avoided. If your pet needs urgent treatment, you may take them, but must remember to wash your hands and remain 2 metres away from anyone outside your household. You must call the vet before going to see them.

**Advice for those walking dogs on behalf of someone not able to**

You may also leave your house to provide care or help a vulnerable person. This includes walking a dog for someone who is unable to leave their house because they are self isolating or being shielded. You should remember to wash your hands before and after handling the dog and keep 2 metres away from other people and animals, including when handing over the dog to the owner.

**General advice for all cat owners**

You should wash your hands before and after any contact with your cat.

**Horses, livestock and other animals**

**Advice if you have symptoms of coronavirus and must remain at home for 7 days, or 14 as a household**

If you have a horse in livery, you must not visit them whilst you are self-isolating. You should contact your yard manager or vet to make suitable welfare arrangements.

If you have livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, or any other types of livestock you should arrange for someone else who is not self-isolating to care for your animals.

Where this is not possible you should ensure the basic needs of your animals are met. You must make sure you wash your hands before and after handling your animals and ensure you remain 2 metres away from other people.

If you are too unwell to care for your animals and there is no one to help, you should call your local authority.

**Advice if you do not have symptoms of coronavirus**

You may leave your house to exercise once a day and you should combine this with leaving your house to provide care for your horse or livestock.

It is essential that you minimise the time spent outside of the home and remain 2 metres away from others. You should remember to wash your hands before and after contact with any animals.

**If your horse needs urgent attention from a farrier**

If your horse requires urgent attention from a farrier, you should phone the farrier to arrange the best approach to meet your horses' needs. You and the farrier must ensure that you keep 2 metres apart and wash your hands before and after contact with the horse.

**Further advice**

If you have any queries, email the APHA Customer Advice team: [customeradvice@apha.gov.uk](mailto:customeradvice@apha.gov.uk).

For commercial transporter related enquiries, email the APHA Welfare in Transport team: [WIT@apha.gov.uk](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk).

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