



Guidance for Companion Animal Quarantine after Exposure to a Human with Confirmed COVID-19 Virus As of March 12, 2020

If a person with a confirmed case of Covid-19 infection had contact with a companion animal, either in the patient's home or elsewhere, a risk assessment will need to be conducted in corporation with human and animal health officials to determine how to handle the companion animal(s) and whether quarantine of the animal is warranted. To facilitate the risk assessment, local or state public health officials should collect the following information below. Once the information is collected, a determination will be made between state and local public and animal health authorities and CDC to determine if the animal has had an exposure to Covid-19 and whether quarantine is warranted. All staff members must follow OSHA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standards (in general industry, 29 CFR 1910 Subpart I), which require using gloves, eye and face protection, and respiratory protection.

When respirators are necessary to protect workers, employers must implement a comprehensive respiratory protection program in accordance with the Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

Information to Collect for Risk analysis

Veterinarian in collaboration with public health officials should collect the information on identification and medical history of the animal, assessment of risk of exposure and infection, and assessment of contacts of the exposed animal with other animals and people.

Medical History and complete identification:

Owner Contact Information and Back-up Contact

Breed

Sex

Age

Markings

Mircochip number/tattoo number

Photographs of the animals all views

Vaccination history

If owner is available

Diet, including brand, type, variety of pet food

Any other information specifically required by the state/jurisdiction where the animal is located or to be confined

Assessment of Risk Exposure and Infection

All information should be collected to help evaluate the animal's history of exposure to the patient with COVID-19. Types of contact and interactions with a human COVID-19 patient should include the following questions that should be asked for the time period since the COVID-19 patient's symptoms began. Examples (Sitting in the lap of patient, Being cuddled or kissed by patient, Licking the patient, including the face or mouth, Sleeping in the same bed as the patient, Sharing food with the patient, Any other types of contact or interactions, Travel history of the animal, particularly outside of the United States, or known regions with high infection rates. Any additional information that might be helpful to evaluate the animal's history of exposure to the patient and the animal's interactions with other humans or animals in the household.)

Assessment of the animal's Activities

All information should be collected to help assess the contact with other humans and animals following exposure to the COVID-19 infected patient. This information will be used to help develop any potentially necessary hazard public communication messages to advise where the animal may have been. Information on timing and nature of interactions; should be asked for the time period since the COVID-19 patient's symptoms began. Examples Walks, Visits to dog parks, Visits to groomer, Visits to animal clinic. Any additional information that might be helpful to evaluate potential contacts of this animal with other humans or animals.

Quarantine Guidance for companion animals

When a quarantine is required, a local or state public or animal health official should be designated as the point of contact during the quarantine of an animal. Animal exposure will be assessed based on nature of interactions and symptom onset of human COVID-19 virus patient.

In the event that quarantine of an animal is indicated because of contact with a confirmed COVID-19 virus patient, the following minimum criteria should be met:

Transportation of an animal to Quarantine Facility

All animal handlers should be appropriately trained on and fitted for personal protective equipment (PPE).

When removing an animal from a home you must follow the guidance listed below:

Only the animal is to be removed from premises. Do not bring food, dishes, crate, bedding, toys, or other pet items from the home since these items could be contaminated. A barrier (i.e., temporary fence) should be in place around the exit of the home to prevent escape of the animal during crating process. Collar, clothing, etc., should be removed from the animal so all possibly contaminated objects are left in the home. Put new collar on animal, preferably after it is removed from premises and proper decontamination has taken place. Place the animal in a new crate once removed from the home. Transport in vehicle with back area closed off from driver. Lock crate securely to ensure that animal does not escape during transportation. Remove PPE after animal is placed into transport vehicle; use hand hygiene (hand washing preferred over hand sanitizer if hands are visibly soiled) after PPE is removed. Clean and disinfect vehicle after arrival at quarantine facility.

Criteria for Quarantine Facility or Enclosure

Minimum of two physical containment levels (i.e., crate/kennel housed in secured facility). Secure primary enclosure. to prevent escape (for example, no climbing over or digging out)

Facility should:

Exclude access by other animals (domestic or wild) or unauthorized personnel

Allow animal to remain clean and dry

Protect animal from harm

Provide place for eating, drinking, urinating, and defecating

Enclosure guidance should consider space requirements in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations and allow animals to make normal postural adjustments

There should be free access to drinking water

The same brand, type, variety of pet food the animal typically eats should be obtained to feed the animal during the quarantine period in order to avoid gastrointestinal episodes that could confuse the clinical picture

Quarantine may be subject to additional conditions specified by the designated official to protect the public health and animal welfare. While pets moved and confined due to COVID-19

may not be a regulatory issue, further guidance on transport and housing animals may be found in local, state, and Federal Animal Welfare Regulations.

At the end of quarantine period, clean and disinfect the facility

Criteria for Caretakers/Shelter Staff

Limit entry to as few individuals as possible (insure there is a backup available in the event the primary caretaker is not available).

Have experienced animal handlers with the appropriate animal species.

All responders are required to be appropriately trained on and fitted for PPE. Personal Protective Equipment standards (in general industry 29 CFR 1910 Subpart I) and other applicable OSHA chemical standards.

All staff working with the quarantined animals must wear PPE when caring for the animal, while in its enclosure, or when handling waste material. PPE shall consist of, at a minimum: double gloves, with the outer glove taped to the suit with waterproof tape, foot covers impervious to fluids, eye protection (goggles or face shield), air purifying respirator (N-95, N-100, or equivalent level of protection). Additional protective equipment may be required in certain situations.

Follow other general guidance for putting on (donning) and taking off (doffing) PPE and hand hygiene. Taking off PPE is the step during which a responder is most likely to become contaminated, so training and attention to that process is critical. Apply an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to gloves before removing PPE and perform proper hand hygiene after removing each item of PPE.

Record keeping

Maintain an animal caretaker/kennel log, including name, date, time animal attended, and any notes on the animal's appearance or behavior.

Health Monitoring of Shelter Staff/Caretakers

Caretakers/shelter staff should voluntarily self-monitor for fever twice daily. Report a fever (any elevated temperature) to designated official immediately. Report any symptoms of illness immediately to the designated official for further evaluation.

Health Monitoring of Animal

Direct contact with the animal's body fluids and waste must be avoided during the quarantine period. A veterinarian must be designated for the oversight of the animal's care and quarantine. The veterinarian will be appropriately trained on and fitted for PPE (as above) and

wear PPE when caring for the animal, when in its enclosure or handling waste material (as above). The veterinarian will be on call and available throughout the quarantine period. The exposed companion animal will be monitored, in collaboration with a public health veterinarian as outlined for a minimum of 14 days following the last date of exposure to the symptomatic COVID-19 patient. This is a precaution based on what we know about the incubation period in humans for COVID-19. The quarantine period may need to be extended based on the situation. Quarantined animals will be monitored for general signs of illness. Other potential signs of illness, including decreased appetite, lethargy, vomiting, and diarrhea should be closely monitored. During the quarantine period, the animal's caretaker must monitor the animal's behavior and health status. Health status will be evaluated by observation unless apparent illness indicates the need for further assessment. Only if the animal appears to be ill, outside of its normal health status, use a digital thermometer with a probe cover to take a rectal temperature to monitor for fever (fever in dog or cat is >102.5 F). The caretaker will immediately notify the designated veterinarian of any abnormalities in the animal's health or behavior. The veterinarian will determine if the designated official should be notified. If the dog or cat has a fever or other concerning signs or symptoms, contact the designated official immediately. Caretakers/Shelter Staff will provide daily updates to the designated official who will provide updates to the animal's owner.

Waste Disposal

Primary containment (e.g. crate or kennel) should be cleaned at least once daily to remove waste. The animal should be moved to another crate or kennel during the cleaning process. Avoid aerosol-generating procedures such as spraying the floor to clean up animal waste. Animals waste and soiled pads/linens should be collected in a plastic biohazard bag that is secured in a rigid plastic tub. Reusable items, such as crate or kennel, should also be cleaned and disinfected prior to additional use. Transportation (disposal) of feces, urine, and soiled linens or other potentially hazardous materials may be considered category A infectious substances and fall under the Department of Transportations (DOT's) hazardous materials regulation (HMR; 49 CFR, Parts 171-180). Individual(s) handling waste disposal should be trained to use PPE as outlined above and trained on how to securely handle potentially hazardous waste. At the end of the quarantine period, all linens, pet beds, and other textiles used in the quarantine facility must be discarded as medical waste.

Minimum Criteria to Release Animal from Quarantine

The animal will be considered releasable and able to move out of quarantine after all three criteria listed below are met: 1. A minimum of 14 days in quarantine. 2. ONLY if animal testing was pre-authorized by CDC, a confirmed negative test for COVID-19 virus based on all appropriate specimens. 3. Evaluation by the designated veterinarian to ensure the animal is

healthy upon release or to determine the appropriate course of action for an animal exhibiting any signs of illness. It is recommended, before release of a animal from quarantine, to bathe the animal so it will be clean when returned to the owner. This should be done after all testing results have been confirmed.

Continued research, training, and response acknowledgements to Brett Huff with Huff Technical Training and ASAR Training and Response in cooperation with bio-security consultant Dr. Charlotte Robinson DVM . For more information on hybrid decon training for your facility or agency please contact Brett Huff at bhuff@asartraining.com or info@asartraining.com. Follow additional responder and animal advancements at www.asartraining.com, Facebook: ASAR Training and Response, Instagram: #asartraining, Twitter: @asartraining. Youtube: ASAR Training and Response channel, Podcasts available on your favorite player app.

Supporting information

VETERINARY DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES Wayne E. Wingfield, MS, DVM Diplomate, ACVS, ACVECC Emeritus Professor, Colorado State University Veterinary Medical Officer and Squad Leader, National Medical Response Team - Central USA

<http://virginiasart.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/veterinary-decontamination-triage-Wingfield-20091.pdf>

Interim Guidance for Dog or Cat Quarantine after Exposure to a Human with Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease; Released November 10, 2014, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Ebola Companion Animal Response Plan Working Group:

OSHA's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standards (in general industry, 29 CFR 1910 Subpart I), which require using gloves, eye and face protection, and respiratory protection.

When respirators are necessary to protect workers, employers must implement a comprehensive respiratory protection program in accordance with the Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

The General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act of 1970, 29 USC 654(a)(1), which requires employers to furnish to each worker "employment and a place of employment, which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm."

OSHA's Blood borne Pathogens standard (29 CFR 1910.1030) applies to occupational exposure to human blood and other potentially infectious materials that typically do not include respiratory secretions that may transmit COVID-19. However, the provisions of the standard offer a framework that may help control some sources of the virus, including exposures to body fluids (e.g., respiratory secretions) not covered by the standard.