

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Information for Pet Related Businesses

March 9, 2020

Owners/Operators of Pet Related Businesses in Seattle-King County area. We know that as a business owner, manager, employee that you have questions about COVID-19 and how it relates to animals and pets. The situation is evolving rapidly and every day we are learning more about how COVID-19 is affecting our community. Hopefully you will find the following information helpful.

Where do I find the most current information about COVID-19?

You will find the most current and up-to-date information about what's happening locally through Public Health's [Public Health-Seattle & King County's coronavirus disease website](#) and nationally through [CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 website](#).

Where do you find the most current information about COVID-19 and animals?

The CDC maintains the most current information about COVID-19 and animals. Their website hosts a frequently asked questions on [COVID-19 and Animals](#) that currently cover the following questions:

- Do animals or animal products post a risk for spreading COVID-19?
- Can you travel to the US with dogs or import dogs during the COVID-19 outbreak?
- Should you be concerned about pets or other animals and COVID-19?
- Should you avoid contact with pets or other animals if you are sick with COVID-19?
- What precautions should be taken for animals that have recently been imported (for example, by shelters, rescue groups, or as personal pets) from China?

What about protections for animal care facility employees and personal preparedness?

As the outbreak is a rapidly changing situation, the most current resources for employers and employees can be found on OSHA and CDC's webpages. It is recommended that you check back to the Public Health and CDC webpages periodically for updates. It is also a good time to review your facility's infection control plan and disinfection procedures with your staff and ensure your PPE is stocked. Templates for infection control plans and disinfection guidelines are available online at Public Health's Pet Business website.

- OSHA: [OSHA's COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- Public Health-Seattle and King County: [Planning for a Coronavirus Pandemic: A Guide for Businesses and Organizations](#)
- Infection control plan templates: [Pet Business Regulations and Permits](#)

What disinfectants and cleaning protocols are recommended for COVID-19

Products used in animal care facilities are likely adequate for control of COVID-19. Many pathogens that animal facilities are disinfecting for on a daily basis (feline calicivirus, parvo, ring worm, etc.) are more difficult to control in the environment than novel coronavirus. The Center for Biocide Chemistries is maintaining a list of products that are effective for novel coronaviruses and you may find that the product you are currently using is on this list. The EPA has opened registration for manufacturers to

submit product labels for additional endorsement specific to COVID-19. *Note: We are still learning more about this virus and if new recommendations for disinfection emerge please check the CDC guidance.*

- Center for Biocide Chemistries: [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) fighting products](#)
- CDC: [Interim Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations for Households](#)

Common Types of Disinfectants

Product type	Pros	Cons
Bleach	Common, effective, available in ready to use formulations such as spray bottles and wipes	Strong odors, some people are sensitive, can stain clothing, longer contact time, dilutions not shelf stable after mixing.
Quaternary ammonias a.k.a. "Quats"	Common, effective, available in ready to use formulations such as spray bottles and wipes	Some people may have sensitivities. May require a longer contact time.
Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxides*	Low odor, short contact time, effective, available in ready to use formulations such as spray bottles and wipes	Newer to the markets and not commonly found in household formulations.
Alcohols*	Not common, effective, short contact time, available in ready to use formulation such as spray bottles and wipes	Newer to the markets and not commonly found in household or commercially produced formulations.

* These are specifically formulated products for cleaning and disinfection. Over the counter hydrogen peroxide, or consumable alcohol are not recommended.

Guidance for animal shelters and boarding facilities

As a boarding facility or shelter you may be housing or sheltering pets whose owners are ill or hospitalized. Keeping your infection control plan current and good communication with your clients are essential. Facilities should review their emergency response plans and coordinate with their local animal control agency regarding housing abandoned animals. At this time, CDC is reporting that there is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19.

As new information is emerging daily. If you are contacted by the public to house animals that are related to a confirmed COVID-19 case you can contact your Public Health inspector for advice.

Some online resources to help you prepare your facility and planning for field staff include:

- University of Florida: [What animal shelters need to know about the new coronavirus](#)
- CDC: [What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to know about Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- CDC: [Interim guidance for public health professionals managing people with COVID-19 in home care and isolation who have pets or other animals.](#)
- Animalsheltering.org: [Coronavirus shelter kit and sheltering preparedness](#)