

Veterinary Health Advisory Network (VHAN)

March 2, 2020

Detection of low level of COVID-19 (formerly known as 2019-nCoV) virus in a pet dog

A press release from Hong Kong's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) stated that a pet dog has tested weak positive for the COVID-19 virus on Friday, February 28, 2020.

The dog belonged to a patient with diagnosed with COVID-19. The dog did not have any visible symptoms. Oral, nasal, and rectal samples were collected for testing, and the nasal and oral cavity samples were tested weak positive to COVID-19 virus. The AFCD has quarantined and is closely monitoring the animal. Additional samples are being collected to determine whether the animal is infected or if the results were due to environmental contamination.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **no animals in the United States have been identified with the virus, and there is no evidence that dogs or other pets can contract or spread COVID-19.**

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 take precautions. Current CDC recommendations state, if a person is sick with COVID-19:

- Restrict contact with pets and other animals while sick
 - 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.
 - 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.

Supply chain concerns

The FDA has investigated supply chain concerns of animal drugs and reported that there are 32 animal drug firms that make finished drugs or source active pharmaceutical ingredients in China. The FDA has reached out and have established that there are no shortages at this time. However, six of those firms have indicated that they are seeing disruptions in the supply chain that soon could lead to shortages in the future. The FDA is working with these animal drug firms to help identify a solution.

For more information

Public health entities at the local, state, and national levels have been tracking this constant developing situation. Please refer to the following sites for more information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)
- Harris County Public Health (<http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>)

If you suspect someone may be infected with coronavirus, please contact a physician and Harris County Public Health at 713-439-6000 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (713-755-5050 afterhours). For any further questions on this developing situation, please contact Harris County Veterinary Public Health at 832-927-1106 or karen.wu@phs.hctx.net.

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