



Veterinary Health Advisory Network (VHAN) **July 10, 2020**

Confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Pet Dog in Texas

From the Texas Animal Health Commission:

A Tarrant County dog was confirmed to be infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans, on July 7, 2020 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) are working together using a One Health approach by providing guidance in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The private veterinarian chose to test the dog for SARS-CoV-2 as a precautionary measure after its owners were confirmed to have COVID-19. All veterinary clinic staff reported wearing personal protective equipment including face masks when in contact with the owner and handling the dog to limit any potential spread of the virus. The veterinarian reports the two-year-old dog is healthy at this time.

“Based on current knowledge, there is no evidence that pets play a significant role in spreading SARS-CoV-2 to people,” said Dr. Andy Schwartz, State Veterinarian. “It’s always important to restrict contact with your pets and other animals, just like you would other people, if you are infected with COVID-19 in order to protect them from infection.”

Until more is known, the CDC recommends veterinarians to:

- Advise veterinary clinic staff who are sick to stay home
- Consider postponing non-urgent visits and elective procedures until regular business operations resume in your community
- Ask if the pet has had exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 before or upon arrival
- Know actions to take if a pet owner has suspected or confirmed COVID-19
 - [CDC recommendations](#)
- Know the potential clinical signs in animals
 - Fever
 - Coughing
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - Lethargy
 - Sneezing
 - Nasal discharge
 - Ocular discharge
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Use the recommended personal protective equipment based on companion animal history

- [CDC recommendations](#)
- [CDC strategies to optimize supply](#)
- Ensure that PPE is donned and doffed correctly
 - [CDC guide](#)
- Advise clients who are sick with COVID-19 to:
 - When possible, have another member of their household care for their pets while they are sick.
 - Avoid contact with their pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food or bedding.
 - If they must care for their pet or be around animals while they are sick, advise them to wear a cloth face covering and wash their hands before and after they interact with their pet.

Testing Reminder:

- State animal health and public health officials will take the lead in making determinations about whether animals should be tested for SARS-CoV-2.
- If you are a veterinarian who would like to request approval to test a pet for SARS-CoV-2, please call Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) at **800-550-8242**.
- For questions or concerns regarding testing animals in Texas, contact the Texas Animal Health Commission at **800-550-8242**.

Resources:

- TAHC Website: <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/covid-19.html>
- Texas DSHS Website: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- CDC Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets-other-animals.html>
- AVMA Website: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>
- TVMA Website: <https://www.tvma.org/Resources/COVID-19-Resources>
- USDA Confirmed (+): https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_one_health/sars-cov-2-animals-us

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