

Arrangements for pet animals (including dogs, cats and other mammals)
whose owners are subject to quarantine due to Covid-19
as required by Department of Health

Scenario 1

If a pet owner is confirmed as infected with Covid-19 or as a close contact of a Covid-19 case and ordered to be quarantined in a quarantine centre, the pet animal concerned will be collected and delivered by AFCD to the designated animal keeping facilities for quarantine and veterinary surveillance. Samples will be collected for testing of Covid-19 virus as appropriate. The animal concerned will be returned to the owner upon the satisfactory results of veterinary surveillance and relevant testing and when the owner or his/her authorized person is ready for receiving the animal.

Scenario 2

If a pet owner and/or any of his/her family members (and none of them is a Covid-19 infected person or a close contact of a Covid-19 case) have been ordered to be quarantined at home (e.g. because he/she has travelled to an area considered to be of potential risk of Covid-19 infection), the pet animal concerned can stay at home and be taken care by its owner or the owner's family members. There is no need for the animal to be delivered to AFCD's designated animal keeping facilities for quarantine and veterinary surveillance.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can pets spread Covid-19?

At present, there is no evidence that pet animals such as dogs or cats can be infected with Covid-19 or that pet animals can be a source of infection to people. This is, however, a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

2. If I am confirmed to have contracted Covid-19 and need to be hospitalized or if I need to go into a quarantine centre, what will happen to my pet?

If your pet is a mammalian species, it will be delivered to the designated

animal keeping facilities of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for quarantine and veterinary surveillance for 14 days as a precautionary measure. Samples will be collected for testing of Covid-19 virus as appropriate. Your pet will be returned to you upon the satisfactory results of veterinary surveillance and relevant testing.

If your pet is a non-mammalian species that needs to be taken care of while you are away, you can arrange it to be looked after by a reliable friend or family member. AFCD can provide temporary care service for your pet at one of our Animal Management Centres if necessary.

No fees will be charged for the above quarantine and temporary care service.

3. Where will my pet be quarantined and will it receive any treatment?

Your pet will be put under quarantine at the AFCD's animal keeping facility at the Hong Kong Port of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge under the supervision of a Veterinary Officer. AFCD will review each case and may have special arrangements for pets with any health or medical conditions.

4. If I am put under home quarantine, what will happen to my pet?

Your pet can stay with you at home. Your pet can go to a vet if necessary. If your pet is a dog, it may still be walked. However, you should arrange a friend/family member who is not under quarantine/movement restriction to take your pet out.

For veterinary visits, you should call the clinic in advance and inform them about the situation. Your friend/family member should observe good hygiene practices including wearing a mask when they collect the pet from your home.

5. If there is no evidence that pets can be infected with Covid-19 or be a source of infection, why does my pet need to be put under quarantine by AFCD?

Although there is currently no evidence that pet animals are susceptible to Covid-19, this is a rapidly evolving situation. As a precautionary measure, we strongly advise that your mammalian pets be put under quarantine by

AFCD if they have had potential exposure to the virus for both public and animal health concerns. We will review this arrangement from time to time taking into account the latest information available.

6. What should veterinarians do?

Veterinarians should maintain a high level of vigilance and report any unusual situation detected in any animal to AFCD through 1823 hotline.

If you are asked to treat the pet of a person who is under home quarantine, please be alert and take necessary precautionary measures to mitigate the low risk that the pet and/or pet carrier etc. may act as a fomite.