

Animals with coronavirus

It is rare for an animal to contract coronavirus, and they may show only mild clinical signs and recover within a few days.

Limited evidence available at present suggests that coronavirus:

- may pass from infected humans to certain pets such as dogs, cats and ferrets following close contact
- does not easily pass between cats or most other pets, but this cannot be ruled out
- may pass between ferrets and humans based on the evidence from mink infections

Dog walking

You may leave your house to walk your dog:

- by yourself
- with the people you live with
- with your support bubble (if you're legally permitted to form one)
- or, when on your own in a public outdoor space, with one person from another household

This is covered by the exemptions for animal welfare and exercise.

Although the government generally advises you should exercise once a day, you can go out more often if you need to walk your dog but should limit this where possible.

You should stay 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household or support bubble.

When walking your dog in areas used by other people, you should consider putting your dog on a lead to ensure you can stay 2 metres away from others.

You should wash your hands before and after handling your dog

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-people-with-animals>

'We're also advising the public to keep dogs on leads at this time - to help ensure social distancing and avoid owners having to come into close contact with one another should they have to go and retrieve their dog.'

Source: <https://www.rspca.org.uk/-/news-councils-urged-to-relax-pspos-covid>

You should keep two metres apart from anyone you don't live with, so if your dog is likely to go up to other people or dogs, you may need to keep them on a lead. There may also be local restrictions which limit off lead walking. Don't be afraid to ask people not to pet your dog.

Source: <https://www.dogtrust.org.uk/help-advice/dog-care/dog-advice-during-coronavirus-lockdown>