

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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### BULLETIN 2020-06

To: Owners of Pets and Livestock

From: Division of Animal Health

Date: March 23, 2020

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Guidance for Owners of Domestic Animals (pets and livestock)

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There are different corona viruses that affect domestic animals. Most of them are species specific and they generally cause either respiratory or gastrointestinal disease primarily affecting young animals. They can cause high morbidity (a significant number of affected animals) and in some cases high mortality (many affected will die). The greatest losses are usually in the young animals naïve to the virus. Judicial use of vaccination (where one has been developed) has greatly mitigated these losses.

At this time, there is no scientific evidence that domestic animals get or transmit Covid-19. There is also no evidence that the virus can spread from the fur or skin of pets to people. However, because all animals can carry germs that can make people sick, it's always a good idea to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals.

- Wash your hands after handling animals, their food, waste, or supplies.
- Practice good pet hygiene and clean up after pets properly.
- Take pets to the veterinarian regularly and talk to your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet's health.

If you have any questions about this Bulletin, please contact Michael Cahill, Director of Animal Health, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, at 617-626-1794 or [michael.cahill@mass.gov](mailto:michael.cahill@mass.gov).