

Animal infected with Monkeypox virus

What are the signs of monkeypox in animals?

Some mammals can be infected with *Monkeypox virus*. While we do not know all the symptoms infected animals may have, if your animal has been around a person with monkeypox, watch your animal for potential signs of illness including lethargy, lack of appetite, coughing, nasal secretions or crusts, bloating, fever, and/or a pimple- or blister-like skin rash. There is no evidence that *Monkeypox virus* can infect birds, reptiles, amphibians, or fish.

What should I do if I think my pet might have monkeypox?

Call your veterinarian if you notice that your animal appears sick within 21 days of having contact with a person who has probable or confirmed monkeypox. A veterinarian can help notify your [state public health veterinarian](#) or [state animal health official](#).

- **Get your pets tested** if they have had close contact with a person with probable or confirmed monkeypox and they have a new rash or two other clinical signs. Testing will need to be coordinated with your clinical veterinarian and state public health officials.
- **Separate your sick pet from other animals** and limit the number of people who come into contact with your sick pet until test results are known.
- **Determine who will provide care for the animal** while test results are pending and if the animal tests positive. People who are immunocompromised, pregnant, have young children present (<8 years of age), or with a history of atopic dermatitis or eczema, should not provide care for ill animals that had close contact with a person with monkeypox.
- **Do not euthanize pets with suspected monkeypox unless directed by a veterinarian.**
- **Do not wipe or bathe your pet with chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or other products**, such as hand sanitizer, counter-cleaning wipes, or other industrial or surface cleaners.

What should I do if my animal tests positive for the *Monkeypox virus*?

- **Separate the sick pet or animal from other animals** and limit the number of people who have direct contact with the sick animal for at least 21 days after becoming ill or until fully recovered. The health department will advise when it is safe for your animal to be around others again.
 - Infected animals can potentially spread monkeypox to people or [other animals](#) including companion animals, livestock or production animals, zoo animals, and wild animals (captive and free-ranging, as well as household pests such as mice and rats).
- **Keep animals with signs of illness isolated in their home and away from anyone who has not had monkeypox.** If it is not possible to keep infected animals in the home, it may be recommended to move them to an isolation facility.
- **Wash your hands often** and use personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for and cleaning up after sick animals. PPE includes wearing gloves, using eye protection (safety glasses, goggles, or face shield), wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator, and wearing a disposable gown.

- If a disposable gown is not available, wear clothing that fully covers the skin (i.e. long sleeves, long pants), and immediately remove and [launder clothing](#) after contact with the animal, animal enclosures, or animal bedding.
- Carefully remove PPE to avoid self-contamination.
- Wash hands with soap and water after PPE has been removed. An alcohol-based hand rub can be used if soap and water are not available.
- **Properly dispose of animal waste.**
 - Use a dedicated, lined trash can for all potentially contaminated waste.
 - Do not leave or dispose of waste outdoors as *Monkeypox virus* infections in wildlife may occur.
 - If appropriate for the species and your plumbing system, flush animal waste down the toilet.
 - Disposable animal housing, disposable rodent bedding, and animal waste that cannot be flushed should be sealed in a bag and disposed of properly to prevent these materials from infecting people or other animals, including wild animals and household pests like mice and rats. Follow guidelines for [Disinfecting Home and Other Non-Healthcare Settings](#).
- **Properly disinfect reusable bedding, enclosures, food dishes, and any other items in direct contact with infected animals** by following the [Disinfecting Home and Other Non-Healthcare Settings](#).
- **Handle soiled laundry and bedding** (including disposable rodent bedding) **in such a way to avoid dispersing or aerosolizing infectious virus** (such as not shaking clothing or bed sheets).
- **Follow any additional guidance provided to you by the health department.**

For more information:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/veterinarian/monkeypox-in-animals.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/about.html>