

Monkeypox virus and Pets

It is possible that people who are infected can spread Monkeypox virus to certain animals through close contact, including petting, cuddling, hugging, kissing, licking, sharing sleeping areas, and sharing food. **People with monkeypox should avoid contact with mammals, including pets, domestic animals, and wildlife to prevent spreading the virus.** There is no evidence that Monkeypox virus can infect birds, reptiles, amphibians, or fish.

What if my pet was exposed to the Monkeypox virus?

- **Pets that had close contact with a symptomatic person with monkeypox should be kept at home and away from other animals and people for 21 days after the most recent contact.**
- Do not surrender, euthanize, or abandon pets just because of a potential exposure to Monkeypox virus.
- 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.

I have monkeypox. How do I keep my pets safe?

- **If possible, infected people should not take care of exposed pets.** If you have had close contact with your pets after your symptoms began, ask another household member to care for the animals until you have fully recovered. If you did not have close contact with your pets after your symptoms began, you can ask a friend or family member living in a separate home to care for your animals.
 - If you have monkeypox and must care for your pets during home isolation, wash your hands, or use an alcohol-based hand rub, before and after caring for them. It is also important to cover any skin rash lesions (i.e. long sleeves, long pants), and wear gloves and a well-fitting mask while providing care for your animals.
- **Do not let animals come into contact with rashes and body fluids.** Ensure food, toys, bedding, or other items that you provide for your animals do not come in direct contact with your skin or uncovered rash.
- **Ensure your pet cannot come into contact with contaminated articles**, such as clothing, sheets, towels, and bandages.
- **Do not put a mask on your pet.**
- **Follow the guidelines for both [infection control in the home](#) and [home disinfection](#).**
 - While isolating at home, clean and disinfect the spaces you occupy regularly to limit household contamination. Once you have recovered and your isolation period has ended, conduct a thorough disinfection of all the spaces within the home that you have been in contact with before you allow healthy animals back into these areas.
 - Gather and launder contaminated clothing and linens before anything else is cleaned. Do not shake the linens as this could spread infectious particles.
 - Use an EPA-registered disinfectant on non-porous surfaces in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Any gloves, bandages, and other waste items that have been in direct contact with skin should be placed in a sealed plastic bag, then taken out and disposed of with other household trash.