

# Pets and Coronavirus (COVID-19)



**Lort Smith**  
caring for animals

## Tips for pet carers

### Safety first

- ▶ There is no current evidence suggesting companion animals can infect humans with COVID-19. But they could act as a conduit
- ▶ Wash your hands thoroughly before and after petting an animal or their belongings i.e. leash, toys, bowls
- ▶ Avoid kissing, allowing licking or sharing food with your pet



Lort Smith continues to offer emergency, urgent and essential care to animals. If your pet becomes sick, phone Lort Smith on 03 9328 3021 (or your local vet) before bringing your pet in.

### Keep your distance

- ▶ Choose a time or route to walk your dog that is less congested with foot traffic
- ▶ Cross the road when you see another person, or keep at least 1.5m apart when passing
- ▶ Walk your dog on-lead instead of off-lead. This reduces the opportunity for someone else to pet your dog



Lort Smith offers telephone and online vet consultations. These remote consults apply where the pet needs a non-urgent recheck for an ongoing condition, or if the pet is well but needs rechecking or more medication. Call 03 9328 3021 to book this service.

### Self-isolation

- ▶ Food puzzles, scavenger hunts and Kongs are all great enrichment tools and boredom busters for your pet
- ▶ Teach your pets a new trick using treats and positive reinforcement – it's great mental stimulation for you both
- ▶ For pets requiring prescription medication or food, ensure you have a minimum of seven days supply. Lort Smith clients can order from our dispensary on 03 9287 6449



Lort Smith has plenty of pet food available. Our corporate supporter, Hill's Pet Nutrition, have confirmed they are not experiencing any shortage of supply.

### Lend a hand

- ▶ Purchase pet food and kitty litter for a friend or neighbour who you know has been financially impacted at this time
- ▶ Contact animal shelters to see if they need your old newspapers, towels, blankets or bedsheets
- ▶ Share social media posts to help animals find their forever homes



All animal charities will be impacted by this crisis – please consider donating to support their work.

**lortsmith.com**



Refer to the Australian Veterinary Association website for up-to-date information:

**[www.ava.com.au/coronavirus](http://www.ava.com.au/coronavirus)**

