COVID-19 and Pets Q&A

Q: Can my pet catch the Corona Virus?
   A: People may be able to transmit the virus to their pets. If you’re infected with COVID-19, don’t cuddle with your pets. There’s a risk they could get COVID-19 from you.

Q: Can I catch the Corona Virus from my pet?
   A: Cats and dogs may test positive for COVID-19, but we don’t believe that they can give it to people.

Q: Can the Corona Virus be transmitted on my pet’s fur?
   A: Practice proper Social Distancing with your pet. For their health as well as yours, don’t let anyone outside of your household touch your cat or dog.

Here is the advice from the USDA & CDC regarding pets and COVID-19:

You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would with other people. Although there have not been reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19 in the United States, it is still recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. If you are sick with COVID-19, avoid contact with your pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets. More information is available on how to keep people and animals safe at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html.
What to do if you are temporarily unable to care for your pet:

1. Identify someone who can care for your pet
   This may be a family member, friend, co-worker or neighbor. Whoever you decide on, discuss your plan with them so that know what to do in the event that you are unable to.

2. Prepare a supply kit
   - Your contact information – your cell phone number and the phone number of a family member.
   - Name and contact information for the person who can care for your pets
   - Name and contact information for your back-up in case your go-to is no longer able to help
   - Contact information for your veterinary clinic
   - Food, treats, a leash, a couple of toys, and any other supplies necessary to care for your pet for at least two weeks
   - A crate or carrier to transport your pet
   - Vaccination records
   - Collars with ID tags (and don’t forget to make sure your pet’s microchip information is up to date)
   - Medications and prescriptions, along with a list of instructions
   - Daily care instructions