

# CENTRAL HOSPITAL IS OPEN AND SEEING PATIENTS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

**Based on what we know currently there is limited evidence to support risk of COVID-19 to your pet and no evidence that you are at risk from your pet.**

During this important time of public health concern, we are dedicated to providing excellent care to your animals. Our goal is to provide this needed care to your pet while also keeping you and our staff safe. Therefore, we have implemented policy changes that will continually remain fluid.

-In order to reduce exposure to humans, you will not be able to accompany your pet in the hospital. When you arrive in the waiting room, a staff member will take your information and escort your pet into the hospital. Examinations will be performed while you wait safely in your vehicle, and most, if not all, communications will be accomplished via phone, discharge paperwork, and e-mail

-Dogs must have a leash securely attached at all times, and cats must be in a carrier.

-Routine examinations, non-urgent visits and elective procedures will be rescheduled to a later date.

-If your pet does require hospitalization or urgent surgery, visitation will not be allowed.

-Once we can be certain that person-to-person contact and close proximity is safe, we will resume scheduling re-evaluations and non-urgent examinations.

-While in the waiting area, please maintain a six foot distance from other people and utilize available hand sanitizers.

-We are asking that pet owners who are experiencing symptoms, who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are in quarantine do not visit Central Hospital. Please seek out someone to bring in your sick pet.

-If you need to pick up medication, please call us when you arrive and we will organize your prescription and take payment over the phone.

Thank you for your understanding during this time.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY

If your pet is sick and needs emergency care, we are open and fully operational. We recommend you follow these steps:

- While in the waiting room maintain safe distances between yourself, other pet owners and our staff.
- Limit the number of people accompanying your pet to the hospital.
- If you need to pick up food or medication we can process payment over the phone with a credit card and deliver your purchase to your car when you get here. 203-865-0878

With cooperation from all, we will minimize viral transmission and allow us to be here for all sick pets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19 YOU MAY VISIT THESE WEBSITES:

- WSAVA Global Veterinary Community: Coronavirus & Companion Animals Advice
- World Organization on Animal Health: Questions and Answers on the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): About Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Can pets at home spread the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

At present, there is **no evidence that companion animals / pets such as dogs or cats can be infected with the new coronavirus.** However, it is always a good idea to **wash your hands with soap and water after contact with pets.** This protects you against various common bacteria such as E. coli and Salmonella that can pass between pets and humans.

