



# VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**For and on behalf of Chief Veterinary Officer, South Australia**

## COVID-19 AND DOMESTIC PETS

**There is currently no evidence that dogs or other domestic animals play a significant role in the transmission of the virus responsible for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) or that they become sick.**

In Hong Kong, following reported close exposure to people infected with COVID-19, a dog living in the same household tested positive for the presence of COVID-19 virus fragments. The dog did not show any signs of disease. This may represent a case of human-to-animal (reverse zoonotic) transmission of the virus.

It is important to note that whilst there has been a possible case of person-to-animal transmission in Hong Kong, there is currently no evidence that the virus can be transmitted from a domestic animal to a person, or between domestic animals. The primary source of transmission of COVID-19 remains human-to-human contact.

**The COVID-19 virus has not been reported in domestic animals or wildlife in Australia.**

For any concerned owners, it may also be important to reassure them that the current outbreak of canine enteric coronavirus in greyhounds is a different virus and not associated with the COVID-19 outbreak in humans.

### Current Recommendations

**The recommendation is for veterinary practices and pet owners to continue to use good hygiene and biosecurity measures to prevent spread of any disease, including washing their hands after contact with animals.**

The Australian Veterinary Association provides thorough guidelines for veterinary personal biosecurity, which can be downloaded [via this link](#).

A fact sheet providing information for pet owners on COVID-19 is also available from the Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia [website](#).

Currently there is no recommendation to test any domestic animals for COVID-19 infection in Australia.



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Biosecurity SA will be in touch again with advice if any further important information becomes available during this outbreak.

If you observe any unexplained or unusual clinical signs in domestic animals or wildlife you can contact the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline** on **1800 675 888** (available 24/7).