

All,

There have been several questions pertaining to COVID-19 and any potential interactions with animals. I believe our job is to ensure people are getting directed to the proper sources to answer these questions.

Here are the key points directly from the CDC:

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people and others cause illness in certain types of animals.
- Coronaviruses that infect animals can become able to infect people, but this is rare.
- We do not know the exact source of the current outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- We do not have evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19.
- We do not have evidence to suggest that imported animals or animal products imported pose a risk for spreading the 2019 novel coronavirus in the United States.

Please direct people the following CDC links below for more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/animals.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#animals>

If there are specific questions pertaining to COVID-19 and livestock, please direct them to this link:

<https://extension.sdstate.edu/novel-coronavirus-and-livestock-ther-connection>

As a reminder, we are still learning about this novel virus and its interactions with hosts. The links to the CDC are constantly being updated as we learn more, and as recommendations are made. It is important that we do not spread assumptions or personal biases during this time. Instead, please share the most relevant information from these links.

Thank you

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