

**With the 2 most recent felines in NY testing positive for COVID-19, I am trying to prepare our clinic for the onslaught of questions and concerns from clients. Does the GVMA have any talking points formulated to help receptionists, technicians and veterinarians communicate to clients about felines and their risk for COVID-19?**

Based on recommendations from the USDA/CDC/AVMA and our state officials:

- Routine testing is still not recommended at this time. Since supplies (chemical reagents) are limited within the human health field, testing of animals should not be routine practice. Also, a large majority of the reagents come from China—so the logistics regarding supply chain has become a problem as well.
- At this time, there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Our state officials are not changing their protocol that a collaborative effort between the state veterinarian and state PH veterinarian is needed to determine if an animal warrants testing. This is with the understanding that the animal came from a household with a confirmed COVID-19 owner.
- If an animal is suspected of being infected with COVID-19, upon request by the attending veterinarian, the decision to test will be made jointly by the State Animal Health Veterinarian's office and the Public Health State Veterinarians office.
- The State Veterinarian's office can be contacted at 404-656-3671.

**Are there any specific guidelines as to how veterinarians should be handling felines with or without respiratory signs?**

- The CDC just published guidelines yesterday for veterinary facilities.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html>  
This has a chart with precautionary measures and how to deal with patients from healthy or suspected COVID-19 households.