

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Two Pet Cats in New York Test Positive for COVID-19

Animal Rescue League of Boston Response

This afternoon the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) learned that two pet cats in New York have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) and are currently discussing the new development in the on-going pandemic that continues to impact us all.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratories, the cases occurred in two separate areas of New York State and are the first pets in the United States to test positive.

The CDC also states the cats have mild respiratory illness and are expected to make a full recovery.

Given this news and the fact that there are still many unknowns about the virus, ARL concurs with, and recommends that pet owners heed the following CDC recommendations:

- Do not let pets with people or other animals outside the home
- Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people
- Walk dogs on leash, maintaining at least 6 feet from other people or animals
- Avoid dog parks or public places where people with animals may gather

For those who are suspected to carry the illness or have already tested positive, the CDC recommends:

- When possible, have another member of your household care for your pets while you are sick
- Avoid contact with your pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food or bedding
- If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands before and after you interact with them

QUOTE?

While public health officials are still learning about SARS-CoV-2, there remains no evidence that pets play a role in spreading the virus in the United States. While this news is startling to many, further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals, including pets, could be affected by COVID-19.

At this time ARL has not altered its approach to supporting animals in need or the people who care for them during this time of uncertainty.

For more information on ARL's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, click [here](#).

For more information about testing in animals, see:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/one_health/downloads/faq-public-on-companion-animal-testing.pdf

ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes. Founded in 1899, ARL provides high-quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2019, ARL served more than 20,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive no government grants or public funding and rely solely on the generosity of individuals to support programs and services that help animals in need.

For more information please visit us online at www.arlboston.org; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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