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# Covid-19 Social Distancing Advice for Businesses – **Dog/Cat Boarding and Day Care Establishments & Professional Dog Walkers**

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This advice is intended to assist those that operate licensed dog/cat boarding establishments and professional dog walkers to maintain the health and welfare of their animals, their customers and themselves during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Scottish Government has advised that there is limited evidence that animals, such as dogs and cats, can be infected with COVID-19 or of animals being involved in the transmission of the virus to humans.

In line with general advice, you should wash your hands regularly with soap, including before and after contact with animals and animal products. You should avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth until hands have been thoroughly washed.

Boarding establishments and dog walkers can provide a valuable service, caring for pets of essential workers and those who become seriously ill and have no-one else to look after their pet.

They may remain open for these purposes, if they follow the guidance on social distancing for their staff and owners when animals arrive or are collected or when they are exercising animals on behalf of an owner.

## Guidance on social distancing includes:

- Remaining at least 2 metres from the owner at pick up and drop off (you should not enter other people's homes); and you should remain at least 2 metres from other walkers when out.
- Practicing good hygiene at all times, with regular handwashing both before and after contact.
- Dogs from infected households being kept on a lead to avoid contact with other walkers or their dogs, and you may need to review walking groups of dogs together to achieve this.
- If caring for a pet because the owner is self-isolating, where possible the pet should be cared for away from the person's home for the whole isolation period to avoid repeat visits or handovers.
- If walking dogs – abide by park closures

Please check with your insurance provider before implementing any changes to your business.

Further advice is available from:

**The Scottish Government** [Coronavirus \(Covid-19\): advice for animal owners.](#)

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