Pandemic pets

Pets have played an important role in supporting the emotional health of people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sales of pets, particularly dogs, have soared; the increased time at home seen as the perfect opportunity to introduce a pet to the family. The ‘pet boom’ has increased the workload for many veterinarians and they have had to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 and new working practices. With the easing of lockdown restrictions, there are animal welfare concerns, such as an increase in pet relinquishment and cases of separation anxiety as owners return to offices and social activities.

VetMed Resource contains a wealth of information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pets, their owners and veterinary professionals. Coverage includes the human-animal bond, animal welfare, challenges faced by the veterinary profession and veterinary students, and the potential for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 between humans and animals.

VetMed Resource comprehensively covers hot topics that matter

VetMed Resource sources the world literature to provide the complete picture on veterinary aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including information on:

- **Human-animal bond:** pets have provided emotional support to their owners during the pandemic.

- **Animal welfare:** concerns include irresponsible breeding, lack of socialization, and post-lockdown increases in pet relinquishment and separation anxiety.
  - Locking down the impact of New Zealand’s COVID-19 alert level changes on pets. *Animals*, 2021

- **Veterinary practice:** veterinarians have adapted to new working practices.
  - Social distancing impact on companion animal practice. *Veterinary Record*, 2020

- **SARS-CoV-2 in pets:** cases have been reported in cats and dogs, but the risk of pets spreading the virus to people is considered to be low.
  - Household cases suggest that cats belonging to owners with COVID-19 have a limited role in virus transmission. *Viruses*, 2021
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