

Eco Dog Home Boarding Covid 19 Policies and Procedures



Covid 19 – our pets and humans

“There is currently no evidence of COVID-19 circulating in pets in the UK and nothing to suggest that pets might transmit the disease to humans. However, **pets could act as fomite (carrier) of the virus on their fur for short periods in the same way that other surfaces can carry the virus from one place to another.**”

(British Small Animals Veterinary Association)

Eco Dog Home Boarding has procedures in place to minimise the potential for Covid 19 transmission.

My services are provided in a manner that supports social distancing, including avoiding all unnecessary in-person contact with clients, always maintaining a safe physical distance with humans whilst also avoiding the potential transmission of the virus from both the pet’s fur and any equipment.

My disease prevention and control policy includes:

- Health checking of pets (and their owners) both before and on arrival.
 - Regulating and minimising the movement and interactions between people, animals, and equipment.
 - Practising good hygiene at all times.
 - Clear procedures for cleaning and disinfecting ourselves, our premises and the equipment.
-

Health checking of pets (and their owners)

The safety and well-being of you, your pet(s), our own pet(s), family members are vitally important to me. The following are examples as to how I endeavour to minimise any risks and are comprehensively covered in my approach:

Advance information to Prospects and Clients

- Providing a clear statement of our policy, processes and criteria for accepting pets into Eco Dog Home Boarding care – provided to potential customers, and as a reminder for our existing customers.

- I require that every customer has read this important note, acknowledges it as such and consents to help us both play our parts in adopting a safe environment for us all.

Pre-screening pet's households

- Require every customer to be provide a Heath Declaration Form prior to any pet care service.
- Are you or is anyone in your household currently sick or unwell?
- Are you self-isolating because you or a member of your household, has been diagnosed with, or is displaying symptoms of Covid 19, or, might have been exposed to someone with Covid 19?
- Are you classed as a 'vulnerable' person?
- Are you or is a member of your household classed as an 'essential' worker?

Pre-screening pets

- Is your pet showing signs (including changes in the pet's behaviour) or symptoms currently?
- Has your pet been sick or unwell within the last 48 hours?
- Are you pet's veterinary vaccinations, flea and parasite treatments up to date? (Please ensure you forward copies prior to arrival)

Checks on arrival

- Physical health check your pet on arrival at the premises
- Check vaccination certificates

Visitors and staff

- Control of visitors and customers on-site by restricting access. For example, until we have a globally available vaccination for Covid 19, we regret pet owners will only be allowed to view videos and Whatsapp live feeds.
- No pet owner's leads, harnesses, equipment or bedding can be permitted during the Covid 19 pandemic. I will use my own.

Cleaning and disinfection

- Storage of cleaning material and equipment is stored in a designated area
- Regular and specified cleaning of kitchen area, animal accommodation, food and water dishes/bottles
- Choice of safe and effective detergents and disinfectants
- When dealing with soiled bedding, towels
 - Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, eg gloves, eye protection, apron, closed shoes with PPE disposable shoe cover before touching any soiled linen – as a minimum
 - Never carry soiled linen against body; place soiled linen in a clearly labelled, leak-proof container (e.g. bag, bucket)
 - If there is any solid excrement on the linen, such as faeces or vomit, scrape it off carefully with a flat, firm object and put it in the designated toilet before putting

linen in the designated container. If the toilet is not in the same room as the pet, place soiled excrement in covered bucket to dispose of in the toilet;

- Wash and disinfect linen: washing by machine with warm water (60-90°C) and laundry detergent (ideally using Defra recommended products) is recommended for cleaning and disinfection of linens.

I use a broad-spectrum product. These are designed to kill bacteria, viruses and fungi and most are approved by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

I always check the product labels, manufacturers' instructions and obtain a Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) sheet.

Some disinfectants can be harmful to pets. For example, those based on phenolic compounds (which turn water cloudy) are especially hazardous to cats.

Waste disposal

- Refuse storage and collection is placed in sealed bags or bins, that are not accessible by dogs.
- Arrangements will be made with the Waste Collection Authority or waste management contractor authorised for the purposes of the duty of care, for removal of other wastes from the establishment under the Environmental, or as mandated by the local authority.
- Foul waste-water must be disposed of by discharge to the approved drainage system. Measures must be taken to minimise the risks from rodents, insects and other pests within the establishment.

Social distancing, hygiene & handover protocols

- 'Continuation of trade should comply with social distancing precautions and hand washing guidance that have been set out as part of the coronavirus guidance.' (Defra)
- I will consider each individual situation and how to safeguard the person we are assisting.
- I will avoid any contact with the occupants of the pet's home and maintaining at least 2 m distance at all times.
- I will agree the pet care process in advance including the time and duration of pet care service.
- We will maintain our social distance while walking, keeping to quiet areas and not allowing other people or pets to come into contact with dogs in our care.
- I will wash my hands for 20 seconds using soap and water before leaving our home and on return, and before and after every interaction with dogs.
- When it is not possible to wash my hands, I will use our own hand sanitiser.
- Whenever disposable gloves are not available, kitchen gloves will be worn, washed in boiling hot soapy water and pet safe disinfectant after every service and left to air dry between service rotations.

- I will wipe your pet with a disposable pet safe wipe or clean, soapy damp cloth before the pet care service commences, before placing your pet in our transport (which will have already been cleaned and disinfected), and on completion of our service, prior to your pet's return.
- I will use a different lead (one of our own) to the owner's. I will bag and then wash the lead with soap and water once the dog has been returned.

When walking a dog from a 'vulnerable person' or shielded household

Particular emphasis...

- I will avoid any contact with the occupants of the pet's home - maintaining at least 2 m distance at all times.
- I will keep the dog on a lead to avoid them coming into contact with anyone or other pets.
- I will wipe the dog with a disposable pet-safe wipe or clean, soapy damp cloth before returning to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus to the owner.

When walking a dog from a household where people have, or are suspected of having coronavirus

Particular emphasis...

- It is especially important to protect ourselves and others.
- I will consider each individual situation on its merits.
- Avoid any contact with the occupants of the home - maintaining at least 2 m distance at all times.
- I will not enter the home
- Wipe the dog with a disposable pet safe wipe or clean, soapy damp cloth before the pet care service.
- Keep the dog on a lead to avoid pets and other people touching them in case the virus is on their fur.

OTHER

Zoonotic disease

Covid 19 is a zoonotic disease. Zoonosis is any disease which can be transmitted from animals to humans. Several dogs and cats (domestic cats and a tiger) in contact with infected humans have tested positive for COVID-19. In experimental conditions, both cats and ferrets were able to transmit infection to other animals of the same species, but there is no evidence that these animals can transmit the disease to human and play a role in spreading COVID-19. COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.

My biosecurity policy includes steps to reduce the spread of these types of diseases.

This is achieved by:

- Cleaning routines
- Using personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing e.g. gloves, disposable aprons and face mask.

- Washing hands thoroughly with soapy water, using hand sanitisers between handling pets or wearing disposable gloves.

Keeping up to date

Covid 19 – medical and scientific understanding is ever evolving. It is important to keep up to date. I will monitor and amend these policies and procedures as required based on information provided by frequently visiting the following sites:-

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm?utm_source=hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=refferal&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_term=covid-landing&utm_content=home-page-popular
- <http://www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus/layouts/15/start.aspx#/SiteAssets/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fcoronavirus%2fSiteAssets%2fSitePages%2fHome&FolderCTID=0x0120003A1C7D63FC84AF468ABB596BD7F2BB86>
- It is especially important to protect ourselves and others.
- I will consider each individual situation on its merits.
- I will regularly review our Risk Assessment and update as required.

While trying to stay safe and protected from Covid 19 I am trying to be eco friendly as much as possible.