

Ebola Fact Sheet

The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is keeping a close eye on the Ebola crisis. UC Davis veterinarians (both researchers and clinicians, including infectious disease specialists), as well as its veterinary hospital, are ready to work with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) should any animal outbreaks of Ebola occur. The School is urging pet owners to remain calm and continue their regular relationships and routines with their pets.

At this point, there is little to be known about Ebola in dogs and cats. There are no reports worldwide of any dogs or cats having Ebola and/or showing symptoms. Also, there has only been one published study on Ebola and dogs. The study notes that there are some dogs in Africa that have developed antibodies to Ebola, which suggests that they were exposed to the virus, but do not have the disease. That report can be read at:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3298261/>

Dr. Jane Sykes, the director of the Small Animal Clinic at the UC Davis veterinary hospital and an infectious disease specialist, recently sat down with Sacramento's ABC News10 affiliate to discuss Ebola and pets. That interview can be seen at:

<http://www.news10.net/story/news/nation/2014/10/14/ebola-low-risk-to-pets/17276085/>

The CDC recently released a Q&A about Ebola and pets. Some highlights of the report include:

- At this time there are no reports of the virus being spread from humans to pets, or vice versa.
- There is no current evidence that pets can become infected with the disease.
- The chances of pets in the United States becoming infected with Ebola are extremely low.
- Ebola is not an airborne communicable disease. It can only be spread through direct contact of open skin or mucous membranes.
- There is no routine testing available for Ebola in pets, as there would be no reason to get a pet tested if it was not in direct contact with a known Ebola carrier.

The full CDC report can be read at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/transmission/qas-pets.html>