

## **COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS UPDATE- MARXCH 17, 2020**

First things first... there have been NO cases of dogs or cats "infected" with Coronavirus. But, if an infected person pets your dog/cat, your pet's fur could transfer the virus just like an inanimate object. That being said...

Like most, we have been closely monitoring the rising threat of the Covid-19 Coronavirus.

Covid -19 is different from previous epidemics...

- There is no anti-viral medication to treat this and no vaccine to prevent it.
- People are contagious & spread the virus before they have symptoms.
- The virus survives for 72-hours on surface we all touch multiple times every day.

At the time of this writing, Brevard County is dealing with its first presumed cases of Coronavirus.

At this time we have begun implementing our EPIDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN to reduce the risk of transmission of this highly contagious & potentially deadly virus.

- It defines the "High-Touch" surfaces throughout our facility that are at risk to transmit a virus/bacteria should they become contaminated.
- It defines the individuals responsible to disinfect these surfaces and the specific times of the day when this shall occur.
- It defines how often each staff member is required to wash/sanitize their hands.
- It provides for chemical vapor disinfection of all public surface of our facility during the night time, surface that otherwise would not be able to be disinfected.
- We have removed reading material from our waiting room and ask that any pamphlet that your touch, you keep or discard.
- We will no long greet our clients with forms of physical contact but instead greet you with eye contact & a wave.
- Effective immediately we are adhering to a limited & strict appointment schedule to reduce client-to-client exposure as well as provide additional time to disinfect our facility every hour. Those arriving too late for their appointment may be turned away & asked to reschedule at a later time.
- We will maintain a flow pattern as clients arrive to limit client-to-client exposure as well.

We also have developed an "Epidemic At-Home Cleaning Checklist" that we have provided to our staff members, which is available to download from our website as well as pick up a copy in our reception area. It details recommended disinfecting procedures rarely thought of in normal times as well as a list of common "High-Touch" surface in all of our homes that is often

overlooked during routine cleaning. We encourage you to download/print a copy & post it in every room in your home as a reminder to stay safe.

We also sympathize with your frustration in trying to purchase retail cleaning supplies. Lately, the products we need are not available.

That is why we are making available 16-oz spray bottles of **Hospital Grade Disinfectant** at antiviral concentration available for \$2.50 each(Limit 2) as well as dispensing 32-oz “refill” quantities into your 1-qt spray bottles you bring from home, for only \$1.00. These will be available starting March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Our only hope to keep ourselves safe & health it to take these extra steps to slow the spread of this disease and try to limit its transmission until a time when either antiviral medication or a vaccine becomes available.

Lastly, don't become complacent like we often do with the yearly hurricanes. Remember, maybe the infection skips you, maybe you may get sick & quickly recover... **but your loved one may not.**

Be safe, stay health & may GOD be with us,

Sunshine Animal Hospital