



COVID-19 Guidance on Bathing Pets & Livestock

Since the start of the pandemic there has been little evidence to suggest that the virus can spread to humans from touching the skin/fur/hair of animals. However, in theory it is still possible, therefore if you would like to minimise the risk of spread from animals to humans then bathing animals and cleaning, disinfecting, and drying all things associated with them is likely to be enough to ensure that the virus is not present.

Follow the below steps if you have imported an animal from outside the Bailiwick or if you are caring for an animal belonging to a self-isolating individual who has tested positive for the virus:

1. Wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face during this process.
2. Contact with the animal should be kept to a minimum until it has been thoroughly bathed.
3. Separate your animal from any other animals until it has been bathed.
4. Gather everything needed to bath your animal – shampoo, towels, wipes etc.
5. Bath your animal as soon as possible.
 - a. This can be done by using animal friendly cleaning wipes or animal friendly shampoo.
 - b. Cats are particularly sensitive to disinfectants and also fastidiously clean their coats and are therefore at risk of poisoning. If in doubt, shampoo cats using a human baby shampoo and then thoroughly rinse it out.
 - c. **Do not** use products which are not approved for use on animals e.g. bleach, domestic disinfectants.
6. Clean, disinfect and fully dry all objects that have been in contact with your animal, including towels, collars, leads, owner's clothing, vehicle etc.
7. Wash your hands once you have completed the bathing process.

As always, it is standard veterinary advice to wash your hands after stroking, touching, feeding, or cleaning up after an animal.

Follow the [Pets and livestock guidance](#) for further information.