ANIMAL HEALTH CORRIDOR

COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE
Maintaining the Health of Animals During COVID-19

ANIMAL HEALTH COMPANIES ARE FOCUSED ON ENSURING ACCESS TO MEDICINES, VACCINES AND NUTRITION

- Animal health companies are keeping in contact with the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine and other key government partners regarding supplies of animal health products. [1]
- The situation remains fluid, but COVID-19 has not yet had significant near-term impacts on the production and supply of animal health medicines, vaccines, nutrition, diagnostics and identification products.

THE ANIMAL HEALTH INDUSTRY IS AN ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE [2]

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has defined animal care, pharmaceutical and food supply companies as critical to our US infrastructure. The animal health industry provides, develops and manufactures critical animal care, nutrition, medicines, vaccines, animal identification products, and diagnostics protecting public health and food safety.
- Whether it is the pets in our homes or the agricultural animals we depend upon for food and fiber, they must continue to receive medical care to remain healthy.
- Production facilities for animal nutrition, medicines, vaccines, animal identification devices and diagnostics remain operational with employees able to travel to and access sites. In addition, the supply chain functions critically linked with these facilities, including animal care, research, development and testing, as well as maintenance, warehouses and distribution, must also be classified as essential infrastructure.
- Animal health companies are taking steps to ensure essential employees working at their sites are educated on the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America and Center for Disease Control Guidelines on COVID-19.

MAINTAINING ANIMAL HEALTH IS AN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY

- Veterinary practices are also being classified as "essential businesses" in most areas and remain open where possible. We encourage all local governments still considering the question to ensure veterinary practices and clinics are classified as essential.
- Pets and livestock animals need to stay healthy and animal caretakers should continue to contact their veterinarians with questions about maintaining essential care in a socially responsible manner. Local health authority guidance should also be sought on movement and social distancing.
- The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recommends animal owners keep a two-week emergency supply of food and medications for their pets if possible. [3]
- If an animal is sick or injured, it should receive veterinary attention to protect the animal's wellbeing. To protect public and animal health, pet owners should check with their veterinarian and local authorities about maintaining preventive care such as rabies vaccination. [4]

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1 *https://ahi.org/ahi-statement-regarding-coronavirus/*

2 *https://ahi.org/including-animal-health-companies-and-employees-as-essential-critical-infrastructure-workers-during-covid-19-pandemic-response/*

3 *https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/STWF_English.pdf*

4 *https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19*

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