



**EU DOG & CAT
ALLIANCE®**



Dear Alliance members,

A very warm welcome to what is a rather different edition to the usual EU Dog & Cat Alliance newsletter.

Firstly, I hope you and your families are safe and well at this incredibly challenging time.

We had intended to use this edition to update you on various Alliance activities, including the European Parliament reception which we had planned to host in March affording us the opportunity to introduce the Alliance and its members in person to many of the new MEPs following the elections last year.

Unfortunately, as you know, we had to postpone the reception and instead we find ourselves in unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances.

With the spread of COVID-19, we are all facing immensely difficult and challenging times, and therefore we would like to use this edition to share some information which may be of use to you and remind you that we are here to offer advice and support wherever we can.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your passion, dedication and the amazing work you are doing in each of your countries for the welfare of dogs and cats at this extraordinary time. We will get through this and when we do, we look forward to resuming the usual work of the Alliance to build a better Europe for dogs and cats.

Please keep yourselves and your human and furry friends safe and well.

With thanks and warmest wishes,
Suzie



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MEMBERS SUPPORTING PET OWNERS

We recently shared with you the advice for pet owners that many of our UK members have collaborated on: <http://www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus>. The Government advice/rules will vary in each Member State, and many of you will rightly be prioritising your operational work in these challenging times, but please do use these examples to replicate similar advice in line with your country's rules should you wish to. We now have a blank PDF version of this infographic which can be edited to include language and information which is appropriate for your country, please get in touch if you'd like this.



In a time of emergency and isolation, our member ASTA are providing reassurance to elderly people who are concerned about their health and, consequently, **their pet's future**. Find out more about the DOPO di ME campaign [here](#).

Our Danish member, Dyreværnet, is also supporting those affected by COVID-19. Their emergency care scheme offers free emergency boarding for pets belonging to owners affected. These include people who are hospitalised or in home quarantine, as well as healthcare professionals or others who, due to their work, are unable to care for their pets normally. For more information visit their [website](#).

There are many more ways in which members are supporting dog & cat owners, including by sharing their top tips for keeping pets happy and active in times of isolation. We don't have room to share them all here but keep an eye on our Twitter & Facebook page where we will continue to do so!

International Cat Care @iCatCare · Mar 31
It's Cat Tip Tuesday!
Owing to COVID-19, we are spending a lot more time at home. Providing a great opportunity to play and have fun with your cat!
We have a number of ideas that we want to share with you on keeping your cat (and yourself) entertained: icatcare.org/at-home-with-y...



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WHAT DO THE EXPERTS SAY?

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is regularly updating its [answers to frequently asked questions](#), and stresses that **the predominant route of transmission of COVID-19 is from human to human.**

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) has published a similar [advisory document](#) which is available in [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Greek](#).



“The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human to human transmission. To date, there is no evidence that companion animals spread the disease. Therefore, there is no justification in taking measures against companion animals which may compromise their welfare.”

[World Organisation for Animal Health]



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The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and the Federation of Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) have prepared a leaflet for [companion animal practitioners](#) and for [companion animal owners visiting veterinarians](#) (available in several languages [here](#)).



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Mental wellbeing

In these challenging times, it is also incredibly important to take care of your mental wellbeing.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published [recommendations](#) for individuals, including:

- 🐾 Seek information updates at specific times during the day once or twice from the WHO website and local authorities' platforms to avoid being overwhelmed by a constant stream of news.
- 🐾 Protect yourself and be supportive to others. Assisting others in their time of need can benefit the person receiving support as well as the helper.
- 🐾 Stay connected and maintain your social networks. Even in situations of isolation, try as much as possible to keep your personal daily routines.
- 🐾 During times of stress, pay attention to your own needs and feelings. Engage in healthy activities that you enjoy and find relaxing. Exercise regularly, keep regular sleep routines and eat healthy food. Keep things in perspective.

Other resources that may be useful for you and your organisation include:

- [Tips on looking after your mental health and wellbeing if you are staying home](#) (Mental Health Foundation).
- [Dealing with stress](#) (WHO infographic).



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