



# EBOLA VIRUS CHECKLIST

## FOR PRACTICING VETERINARIANS

The American Veterinary Medical Association has developed and issued this document as a member resource and not as prescriptive standards. These recommendations are based on available information as of the publication date (November 4, 2014) and are subject to change. As information becomes available, these recommendations will be re-evaluated and updated as needed. Advances in research and veterinary medical science may supersede or modify these recommendations.

As a veterinarian, you may be asked questions about exposure to Ebola virus. For the most current information, visit [www.avma.org/ebola](http://www.avma.org/ebola). Know the facts about Ebola virus in people and animals so that if you are contacted by a client who has questions about Ebola virus or has concerns about human or animal exposure to a person with Ebola virus, you can be informed.

**ANIMALS THAT WERE EXPOSED** to symptomatic Ebola patients may need to be confined for 21 days following the last exposure. Animals that are in the household of an asymptomatic person who had contact with a symptomatic person are not considered to have any Ebola exposure.

### POTENTIAL RISK

- Pet exposed to blood or body fluids from a person with Ebola.

**CONTACT PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY.**

### NEGLIGIBLE RISK

- Pet in home of a person who had exposure to a symptomatic Ebola patient, but is not currently sick.

### NO IDENTIFIABLE RISK

- Pet had no identified exposure to symptomatic Ebola patient or symptomatic contact of Ebola patient.

No further actions needed.

### IF YOUR CLINIC RECEIVES A CALL from a concerned client about their pet and potential exposure to Ebola virus:

- Collect client's name and contact information.
- Collect pet's identifying information (species, breed, color, microchip, etc.).
- Note information about the possible exposure to a person with symptomatic Ebola, including:
  - Date/time of exposure.
  - Type of contact between the pet and person, especially contact with body fluids of the person who might be sick with Ebola.
  - Type of contact between the pet and other animals.
  - Any other information that would help evaluate the risk to the pet.

If the reported exposure appears to be a legitimate concern (symptomatic person who had risk factors for Ebola) and the pet is not in need of immediate veterinary care, instruct your client to remain at home or wherever they are with the pet and contact state authorities for further instructions.

**CONTACT YOUR STATE OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT THE 24/7 EMERGENCY NUMBER PROVIDED HERE:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/state-local-health-department-contacts.html>



**IF A CLIENT ARRIVES AT YOUR CLINIC with a pet that may have had contact with a symptomatic Ebola patient, follow these steps:**

### IS THE ANIMAL IN NEED OF URGENT VETERINARY CARE?

- If not, ask the client to take the animal back to their vehicle to eliminate any potential risk to other animals in your clinic. Tell them that you will contact state authorities for further instructions and will be back quickly with an update.
- If so, refer to the following section.

## ANIMALS IN NEED OF URGENT VETERINARY CARE

*Although the risks are low, it's best to take extra precautions to protect yourself, your staff and your clients.*

Immediately place patient into isolation. If there is a history of known exposure, the animal should be transferred to isolation through a route that will minimize contact with people and other animals.

- Restrict traffic and contact to essential personnel only.
- Consult the [Veterinary Standard Precautions Compendium for Personal Protective Actions and Equipment](#) to implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions.
- Assign dedicated caretaker who is appropriately trained in the use of [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#).

Minimum PPE recommended: protective outerwear (such as surgical gown), gloves (consider using double gloves), eye protection (face shield or goggles), respiratory protection (consider N95 mask).

- Monitor isolated patient until a risk assessment is made by public health officials.
- Minimize handling of the animal.
- Identify isolation area with clearly understood, readily visible signage.
- Maintain log of all persons or animals in contact with the isolated animal.
- Seal off areas where the isolated animal was examined/handled until areas can be properly [cleaned and disinfected](#).

- For waste disposal, treat all blood, bodily fluids, feces, urine, and bedding as potentially regulated medical waste (a.k.a. biohazardous waste). See [Ebola-Associated Waste Management \(CDC\)](#) for more detail.

**Assess the situation. If the level of contact or exposure to Ebola is of concern:**

- Immediately notify [public health officials](#) and cooperate with all instructions provided.
- Obtain the following information from the client:
  - Pet's identifying information (species, breed, color, microchip, etc.).
  - Travel history.
  - Clinical history (e.g., symptoms since exposure, including any GI illness or bleeding disorders).

Collect other information regarding contact with other humans or animals since initial contact/exposure to Ebola.

Inform client of risks and the need to defer to public health authorities regarding pet's management.

In the case of persons under Ebola monitoring, inform the client of the potential for the need to allow the pet to be cared for outside of the home, to be assessed by public health officials.



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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## AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

- AVMA Ebola virus resources: <https://www.avma.org/Ebola>
- State Animal Health Officials (PDF): <http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>
- State Public Health Veterinarians (PDF): <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/StatePublicHealthVeterinariansByState.pdf>

## CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/environmental-infection-control-in-hospitals.html>
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Ebola resources: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ebola/>
- Phone Numbers for State and Local Health Departments: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/state-local-health-department-contacts.html>
- Questions and Answers About Ebola and Pets: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/transmission/qas-pets.html>

- Epidemiologic Risk Factors to Consider when Evaluating a Person for Exposure to Ebola Virus: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/risk-factors-when-evaluating-person-for-exposure.html>
- Interim U.S. Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Persons with Potential Ebola Virus Exposure: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIANS

- How to Be Safe Around Animals flyer (PDF): <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/AnimalExhibitsSafety.pdf>
- Wash Hands When Leaving Animal Exhibits poster (PDF): <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/HandwashingPoster.pdf>
- Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel (PDF): <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/VeterinaryPrecautions.pdf>

## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

- OSHA Ebola resources: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ebola/>



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EBOLA AND PETS, VISIT  
**WWW.AVMA.ORG/EBOLA**