

Guidelines for Questions about COVID-19 testing in cats

April 20, 2020

IDEXX Reference lab has a test for COVID: it is the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) REALPCR Test for pets.

3 specific criteria must be met:

1. Pet is living in a household with a human who has COVID-19 or has tested positive for the virus
2. Pet has already been tested for more **common infections**, that a **veterinarian has ruled out**
3. Pet (especially cats and ferrets) is showing clinical signs consistent with COVID-19

Testing can be done after consultation with a public health authority (i.e. state public health veterinarian) in the United States

IDEXX advises against testing asymptomatic pets. Since Feb. 2020 IDEXX Reference Laboratory has tested over 5000 specimens in 17 countries for COVID-19 virus, from cats, dogs, and horses with respiratory symptoms. To date, **no** positive results have been found. This suggests dogs and cats living with infected people generally remain uninfected, except in rare and isolated cases.