

# CATS, DOGS, HOUSEFLIES & SARS-CoV-2

## Can SARS-CoV-2 be transmitted to us through cat or dog bites?

SARS-CoV-2 most likely jumped from wild bats or pangolins to humans. However, currently there is no evidence to suggest that domesticated animals can transmit this virus to humans.

A recent study showed that SARS-CoV-2 can successfully infect cats and ferrets, and both species produce an immune response against the virus. However, the virus is not able to successfully multiply in dogs. SARS-CoV-2 is also unable to infect pigs, chickens, and ducks. Further experiments are necessary to know whether pets can transmit SARS-CoV-2 to humans, and vice versa.

As a precaution, if you have COVID-19 symptoms, avoid close contact with animals, including pets. Wash your hands after handling any animals, their food, waste, or supplies. Practice good pet hygiene, and clean up after your pets properly.

## Do houseflies spread SARS-CoV-2 infection?

A Bollywood actor claimed that the SARS-CoV-2 virus is found in the stools of some COVID-19 patients, even a few days after they have recovered. If this were true, a fly that has sat on the stool of an infected person (in cases of open defecation) could transport the SARS-CoV-2

virus to uncovered food. Or a fly carrying the virus could transmit it to a person, when it sits on their skin.

However, no cases of transmission via the fecal-oral route have been reported for SARS-CoV-2 as of now. Therefore, infection via this route is unlikely in quarantine facilities, hospitals, or while an infected person is under self-isolation. Even if a fly carrying the SARS-CoV-2 virus sat on our skin, it cannot infect us through clear, unbroken skin.



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### Notes:

1. These responses were first published on the Indian Scientists' Response to CoViD-19 (ISRC) website.
2. Source of the image used in the background of the article title: <https://www.needpix.com/photo/1911735/dog-cat-cats-animals-cute-feline>.

**Indian Scientists' Response to CoViD-19 (ISRC)** is a group of more than 500 Indian scientists, engineers, technologists, doctors, public health researchers, science communicators, journalists and students who voluntarily came together in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This group can be contacted at [indscicov@gmail.com](mailto:indscicov@gmail.com).