



MEMO

Date: April 13, 2020
To: Georgia veterinarians and animal owners
Subject: COVID-19 testing of animals
From: Robert M Cobb, Jr., DVM
State Veterinarian

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert M Cobb, Jr.", is placed to the right of the "From:" field.

The recommendation from the CDC for testing animals for COVID-19 has not changed. It is not recommended to test animals at this time. Currently, there is no significant evidence to suggest that any animals, including pets, livestock, or wildlife, are a source of COVID-19 infection. However, because all animals can carry germs that can make people sick, it is always recommended to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals. It is recommended to follow the CDC, AVMA and Georgia DPH guidelines for handling of animals from COVID-19 positive households.

Any decision to test an animal will be made on a case by case basis based on clinical disease, epidemiological links and testing capability. The decision will be made jointly by the State Veterinarian's office and the Public Health State Veterinarian's office.

See links below for useful information:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.gvma.net/2020/03/23/covid-19-resources/>

<http://agr.georgia.gov/>