



Dear Blaine Family Veterinary Hospital Clients:

Here at Blaine Family Veterinary Hospital, it is our privilege and passion to be the guardian of your pet's health. As your trusted medical provider, it is our responsibility to keep your pets healthy and to keep you informed of any threats to you and your pet.

We are committed to the health and safety of our patients, their owners, our staff, and our community. To honor this commitment we have instituted the following protocols for infectious disease prevention.

1. We are diligently cleaning and disinfecting our hospital and are confident we can safely treat your pets. Please know you are our top priority and are in good hands with us.
2. We are utilizing our curbside valet service for all appointments and medication refills to comply with social distancing. This allows us to limit the amount of people in our facility and will protect us all.
3. We are only accepting credit card and Care Credit payments over the phone. We will not be taking cash or checks during this time.

In response to the declaration of a Peacetime State of Emergency, the Governor's Office and the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine has issued the following advisories:

1. Health professionals are required to delay elective surgeries and procedures during the COVID 19 pandemic to prevent consumption of personal protective equipment (PPE). What does this mean for you? We will not be performing any elective spay or neuter surgeries at this time; we will still be able to complete most other surgeries and dental procedures. Vaccinations and preventive care are all an essential part of your pets and your family's well-being; therefore, we will still be providing these services as they are needed to keep you and your pets healthy and disease free. Please call to discuss the needs of your pet and to schedule an appointment.
2. A valid veterinarian client/patient relationship (VCPR) is required for us to care for your pet. The Minnesota Statute 156.16, Subd. 12 has temporarily been changed to allow veterinarians to have a VCPR if they have seen the pet within 18 months instead of the traditional 6-12 months. This change to our VCPR is valid through January 1, 2021. What does this mean to you? If you are not in a situation to bring your pet in for their required exam or labs due to no fault of your own, you will still be allowed to get access to your pets continued medications for up to 18 months from their last visit.

At this time there is no evidence that pets can become sick with COVID 19. Infectious disease experts, as well as the CDC, OIE, and WHO indicate there is also no evidence to suggest that pet dogs or cats can be a source of infection, including spreading COVID-19 to people. But this is a fluid situation, and more investigation is underway. As we learn more, we will update you.

All of us at Blaine Family Hospital are grateful for your loyalty and appreciate the privilege to be part of your family's healthcare. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Dr. Krista Steffenhagen \*\* Dr. Molly Galler \*\* Dr. Katie Hanson

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