

## WEST NILE VIRUS AND PETS FAQs



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**Q. Can dogs and cats get West Nile virus (WNV)?**

**A.** A small number of dogs and cats with WNV have been reported in the United States. It is unlikely that owners would notice any unusual symptoms or behavior in cats or dogs if they become infected with WNV.

**Q. How do cats and dogs become infected with WNV?**

**A.** They become infected when bitten by an infected mosquito.

**Q. Does an infected dog or cat pose a risk to my family?**

**A.** There is no documented evidence of dog or cat transmission of WNV to humans.

**Q. Can a veterinarian treat pets infected with WNV?**

**A.** There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. Treatment would be consistent with standard veterinary practices for animals. Full recovery is likely.

**Q. Is there a vaccine for cats or dogs?**

**A.** No.

**Q. Should a dog or cat infected with West Nile virus be destroyed?**

**A.** No. There is no reason to destroy an animal just because it has been infected with WNV. Full recovery is likely.

**Q. Can I use insect repellent on my pets?**

**A.** DEET-based repellents recommended for humans are NOT approved for veterinary use, largely because animals tend to ingest by licking. Talk with your veterinarian about the appropriate product for use on your pet.