



There have been multiple reports from news outlets regarding a dog, a pug named Winston, in Chapel Hill that tested positive for COVID-19. According to the reports, the dog was tested as part of a study being performed by Duke University. Several human members of the household also tested positive. According to the family members, there was significant interaction between the affected family members and Winston, including Winston licking used plates, being held by the family members as well as sleeping in the bed with the owners. Fortunately, Winston only experienced mild symptoms (slight cough and a brief period of inappetence) and recovered without the need for veterinary treatment. The other dog and cat that lived in the same household were also tested and were negative for the coronavirus.

There have been previous reports of animals testing positive for COVID 19. However, according to the CDC and AVMA, at this point in time there is still no evidence to suggest that domestic animals play any role in the spread of COVID-19 in humans. It is advised to wash your hands before and after handling your pets and to not allow your pets to roam outside freely. If you are experiencing COVID -19 symptoms, the CDC recommends limiting exposure to your pets and wearing a mask during interactions if you must care for your pets yourself. We encourage you to visit the credible websites, [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and [avma.org](https://www.avma.org), for additional guidance regarding COVID -19 and animals.

Regards,

NAH Staff.