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UK's best-loved national pet charities and experts join forces to offer advice to help owners care for their animals and each other

The coalition is concerned about conflicting and poor information which is leaving owners confused and anxious and animals potentially at risk.

The group has produced a series of colourful graphics giving tips and advice on how to look after your pets while you protect yourself, how to care for pets while social distancing or in self-isolation and how to help others look after their animals. The group are urging pet-owners to share the easy to understand graphics across their networks. These will be also posted on the organisations' websites - so owners get good, clear advice.

Chris Laurence, chair of the Canine and Feline Sector Group, said: "We are concerned that rapidly changing and conflicting information was leaving pet owners confused and worried. Those of us who work with animals are concerned that this information could leave animals at risk as pets could end up abandoned by anxious families unsure if they pose a risk or how they can care for them in isolation.



"We have come together to reassure people that there is no evidence that pets can get sick from coronavirus so not to panic or worry. We have also written some clear and simple tips about how to continue to care for them through this crisis.























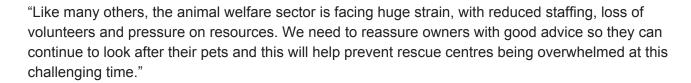












"Pets are a big part of our families and it is important to make sure they stay happy and healthy during these difficult times. Isolation for us can mean some big changes for our pets and they won't understand why. We hope this advice will help owners help their pets, while looking after themselves too."

### **Ends**

### Notes to editors

# The full list of organisations is as follows:

ABTC (Animal Behaviour and Training Council), ADCH (Association of Dogs and Cats Homes, Battersea, Blue Cross, BSAVA (British Small Animals Vet Association), BVA (British Vet Association) Cats Protection, Dogs Trust, PDSA (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, PFMA, (Pet Food Manufacturing Organisation) PIF, (Pet Industry Federation) RSPCA, Scottish SPCA, Canine and Feline Sector Group and The Kennel Club.

Images and audio clip from Chris Laurence can be downloaded here

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