

Pets are Part of the Family!

Pets can pass illnesses and infections to people with HIV. Pets include dogs, cats, rodents, birds, and reptiles.



Pets can carry bacteria and parasites that can harm people with vulnerable immune systems — such as those with HIV. Animals can pick up these infections and diseases in many ways, including through flea bites or contaminated food.

If you have HIV, take these steps to avoid getting sick:



Wash hands often, especially after pets and before eating



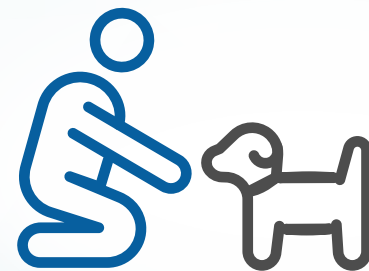
Make sure all pets are fully vaccinated



Avoid contact with animal waste by using gloves when cleaning litter boxes and other areas.



Get your pets tested for infections and diseases



Avoid stray and wild animals



Avoid being cut or scratched and letting your pet come in contact with it

For more information, visit [HIVinfo.NIH.gov](https://www.hivinfo.nih.gov).