



Zoo and Aquarium Serology Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is partnering with zoos and aquariums across the country to understand the risks of SARS-CoV-2 exposure and how to prevent infection in guests, workers, and animals.

Although experts are still learning about SARS-CoV-2 in animals, there is currently no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus to people. The risk of animals spreading SARS-CoV-2 to people is low based on the limited information available to date.

An Integrated Approach

The Zoo and Aquarium Serology Study is a joint effort between APHIS and participating zoos and aquariums. It has three parts:

- Serology testing: Acquiring serum, plasma, or blood samples from animals in zoos and aquariums that were collected before and throughout the pandemic.
- Biosecurity assessment: A complete evaluation of the facilities' practices to protect guests, workers, and animals from SARS-CoV-2.
- Peridomestic sampling: Testing of free-ranging wildlife that live at and around the zoos, such as mice, rats, and raccoons, to better understand their potential role in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2.



APHIS veterinarians on site at a zoo on the West Coast



One Health Partnerships

For decades, APHIS has taken a One Health approach in our efforts to eradicate and control diseases in livestock and wildlife.

This project will help build the infrastructure to sample and test a broad range of species. We will also establish One Health partnerships across the spectrum of disciplines, recognizing the interconnectedness of people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

American Rescue Plan

This project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which includes a \$300 million Congressional provision to monitor and survey for SARS-CoV-2 in susceptible animals.

APHIS is currently conducting multiple projects under the American Rescue Plan Act to understand how the SARS-CoV-2 virus behaves in different animals, how it moves between animals and people, and how to interrupt the chain of transmission.

As we expand and enhance our capacities to address the immediate threat of SARS-CoV-2, specialists at APHIS are building critical capacity to address future emerging threats and prevent or limit future pandemics.

Learn More

Scan the QR code for more information on how APHIS is leading the charge in the One Health arena.



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