

Guidance for Pet Owners Impacted by the East Palestine Train Derailment

If your pet becomes sick (new or worsening skin irritation, respiratory problems, vomiting, diarrhea) or if you have additional concerns about your pet, contact your veterinarian and tell them about any potential exposures. If you do not have a veterinarian, [a list of accredited veterinarians](#) in the area is available.

Keep pets away from contaminated surface water:

- Treated municipal (city) drinking water shows no detection of contaminants and there is no indication of risk to people or pets.
- Ensure your private well water is tested before letting people or pets drink from it. To request free private well testing, call 330-849-3919.
- Do not let pets swim, drink, bathe in, or come in contact with natural bodies of water (e.g., streams, rivers, etc.) that are known to be contaminated.
- Find out what bodies of water are impacted by checking the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA's) [website](#) or contacting your local health department.
(<https://epa.ohio.gov/monitor-pollution/pollution-issues/east-palestine>).
 - Watch for vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite if pets come in contact with contaminated water.
 - Mouth irritation or digestive problems, while unlikely, could occur.
 - If your pet becomes sick (new or worsening skin irritation, respiratory problems, vomiting, diarrhea), contact your veterinarian and tell them about any potential exposures.

Protect your pet from further exposure while outdoors:

To date, the U.S. EPA has not detected contaminants associated with the derailment while testing air quality within area homes. Take these steps to help keep your pet healthy when going outdoors:

- Wipe off your pet's paws and body using a damp cloth when returning from outside.
- Keep pets on a leash when outside to keep them from entering any known contaminated areas and to reduce opportunities for contact with wild animals.
- If pets do get into a known contaminated area, wash them off with clean, warm water and mild liquid dishwashing detergent, or pet shampoo.
 - Rinse your pet well with warm water working from the head, down the back, along the tail, and ending with the chest, stomach, legs, and feet, to avoid splashing any potential contaminants towards your pet's head.
 - Work mild detergent/pet shampoo into fur in the same pattern (away from your pet's head). Ensure it reaches the skin. Clean out ears with water or ear cleaning solution if needed. If contaminated water or soil gets into your pets' eyes, flush with water or sterile saline.
 - Rinse your pet with plain warm water in the same pattern (away from your pet's head).
 - Allow your pet to shake off excess water and repeat steps 1-3 as needed.
 - Dry your pet with clean towels and be mindful of outside temperatures and do not let your pets outside until they are fully dry.
 - If your pet becomes sick (new or worsening skin irritation, respiratory problems, vomiting, diarrhea), contact your veterinarian and tell them about any potential exposures.

Watch for respiratory symptoms:

- While most respiratory signs would have started immediately after the incident, continue to monitor your pet for respiratory signs like wheezing, difficulty breathing, coughing, or sneezing.
- Animals with underlying respiratory conditions may have worse symptoms. If your pet becomes sick, contact your veterinarian, and tell them about any potential exposures.