

Making Sense of Information – Can I Catch COVID From my Pet?

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Buffalo Zoo Docent

Pamela Rose

- ▶ **Health Sciences Librarian at UB**
 - Teach Consumer Health
 - Began therapy dog visits at UB back in 2011
 - Docent at the Buffalo Zoo for 18 years

ALSO:

- ▶ **Pets Alive WNY rescue – over 40 years rescuing cats and dogs**
- ▶ **Run an organization: Therapy Animals of WNY (TAWNY) – teach about animal assisted therapy**
- ▶ **Volunteer with my Bernese Mountain Dog, Sophie, for the SPCA Paws for Love Program**

Pamela Rose

▶ Buffalo Zoo links:

- ▶ <https://buffalozoo.org/our-experiences/> Links to all kinds of programs, including Preschool, Wild workshops, Winter Camps, Cub Club, Little Lions (stroller program for very young kids), and more.
- ▶ <https://buffalozoo.org/single-experience/zoo-snooze-overnights/> The Snooze program I mentioned – you can choose your theme. The Live animal presentations are done by docents, who also teach the program materials and take the kids on a nighttime tour of the Zoo. Our animals behave very differently at night, so it's an opportunity to see a different side of the Zoo. In the Ecostation, there are windows at each end overlooking the Tiger and Lion exhibits. The animals jump onto platforms right outside each window so you can see them very upclose.



Sometimes
the best
treatment
is very
simple...



Pamela Rose

► Resources to bookmark

- [Consumer Health Resources LibGuide](#)
 - COVID-19 for the Public, as well as many other topics
 - Animal Health tab
- [MedlinePlus Children's Page](#)
- [CDC Websites for Kids and Teens](#)

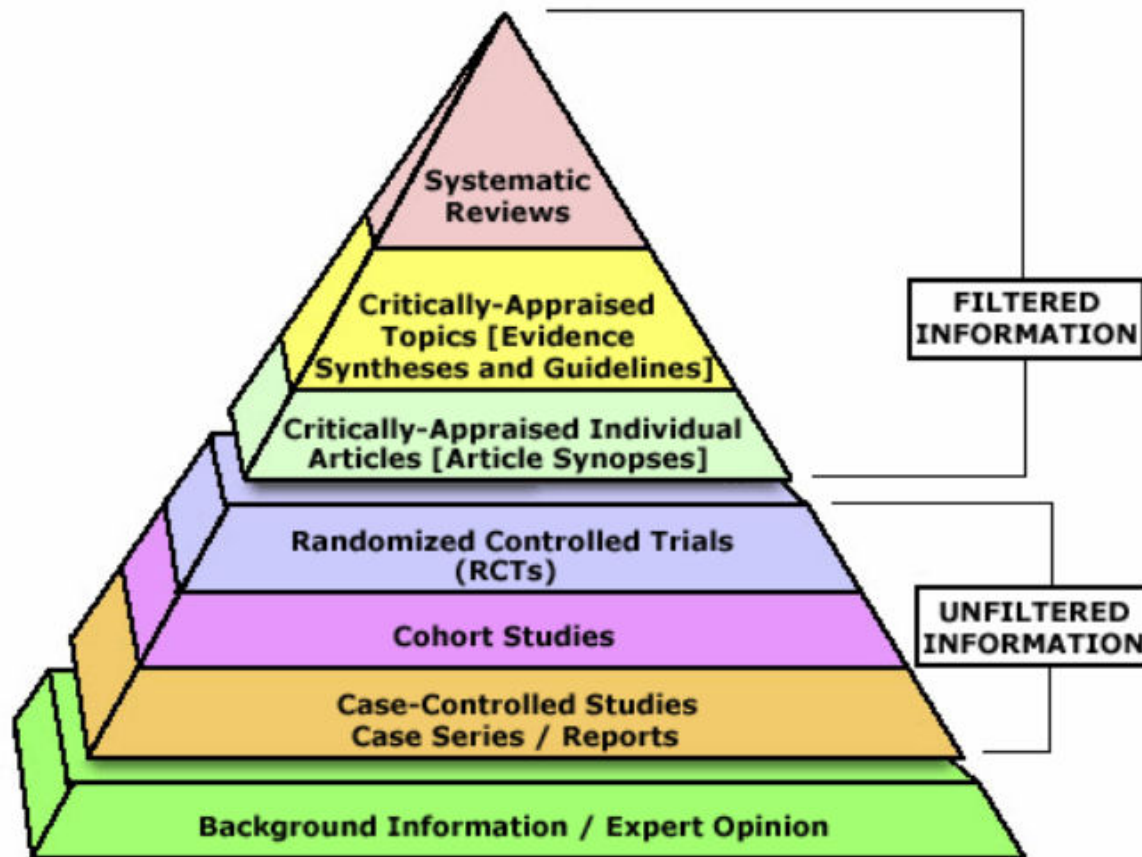
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Making Sense of Information

- ▶ **How to recognize real news from fake news**
 - [What is Fake News – explained!](#) (CBC Kids News)
 - [How to Evaluate Sources for Reliability](#) (Teaching Without Frills)
- ▶ **Some Good Sites to Help:**
 - [Factcheck.org](#)
 - [Snopes.com](#)
 - [Washington Post Fact Checker](#)
 - [Politifact.org](#)
- ▶ **Also Visit [TeachingKidsNews.com](#) for more fun links**

Making Sense of Information

The Evidence-Based Pyramid





9 Tricks To Avoid Fake News

[and make good choices]

By Carl Sagan



Find Independent Confirmation of Facts



If There's A Chain of Argument, Every Link in the Chain Must Work



Use Quantified Data More Than Qualitative Data



Don't Get Attached To Your Own Hypothesis



Be Skeptical of Arguments Made By Authority



Always Ask Whether the Hypothesis Can Be Falsified



Consider Other Hypotheses



Debate All Evidence and POV's



Occam's Razor:
Always Choose the Simpler Hypothesis If There Are Two That Explain the Data Equally Well

Info: [Curiosity.com](https://www.curiosity.com)



9 Tricks to Avoid Fake News

by Karl Sagan

**Find
independent
confirmation
of facts**

**Don't get
attached to
your own
ideas**

**Block
Aunt Carol
on Facebook**

**Ask a
wise bird if
the story
is true**

**Avoid
talking to
Aunt Carol
at Christmas**

**Throw the
news story into
a lake. If it floats,
it is true.
If it sinks,
it is witch!**

**Tell
Aunt Carol
to go to
hell**

**Just don't
read the
news**

**Was the
article written
by a jellyfish?
Jellyfish
cannot be
trusted.**



**obvious
plant**

Making Sense of Information

► Know you're A-B-Cs and Ps and Qs

- **A** = Authority (credentials, knowledge, qualifications, permission)
- **A** = Accuracy (valid, verifiable)
- **B** = Bias (one-sided, missing info, or selling a product)
- **C** = Currency (up-to-date, timely information)
- **C** = Coverage (reading level appropriate to audience)
- **P** = Purpose (why does this information exist?)
- **Q** = Question everything and find another source

Can I Catch COVID-19 From My Pet?

► What is Zoonotic Disease?

- Infections that can be passed from humans to animals and animals to humans (reverse zoonosis)
 - Rabies (virus through saliva or scratches)
 - Ringworm (fungal infection of the skin)
 - Toxoplasmosis (parasitic via cat feces)
 - Lyme Disease (ticks)
 - COVID-19 (virus through bats and intermediate host (possibly pangolins))

► SARS-CoV-2 virus can't move by itself – needs moisture droplets

► How far can droplets be spread from a sneeze?

- [MIT 2014 study](#) shows they travel 5 to 200 times further than previously thought
- Masks really help protect everyone around, just in case!

How long the new coronavirus can live on surfaces

SURFACE	LIFESPAN OF COVID-19 VIRUS
 Paper and tissue paper**	3 hours 
 Copper*	4 hours 
 Cardboard*	24 hours 
 Wood**	2 days 
 Cloth**	2 days 
 Stainless steel*	2–3 days 
 Polypropylene plastic*	3 days 
 Glass**	4 days 
 Paper money**	4 days 
 Outside of surgical mask**	7 days 

*At 69.8 to 73.4°F (21 to 23 °C) and 40% relative humidity

**At 71°F and 65% relative humidity

Source: New England Journal of Medicine*; The Lancet Microbe**

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Can I Catch COVID-19 From My Pet?

- ▶ [How to Pet Dogs During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) (Washington Post article)
- ▶ How can the virus infect more than one species?
 - Mammals all have very similar structure and function
 - Remember, bats are mammals (not birds!)
- ▶ The virus has a key that fits into what is called the ACE2 receptor – this is called an enzyme and is made of proteins
- ▶ Many mammals have ACE2 but each have different proteins
- ▶ The virus likes human ACE2 best
- ▶ More virus particles makes it harder for your immune system to kill them (anthropological study of infant mortality)

Can I Catch COVID-19 From My Pet?

- ▶ So, while humans might infect cats or dogs with COVID-19, there is no evidence that they can in turn infect humans ([Can companion animals become infected with Covid-19?](#)) This article referenced another news item: [Leading Veterinary Diagnostic Company Sees No COVID-19 Cases in Pets: thousands of canine and feline specimens tested](#)
- ▶ Many different species of coronavirus, specific to each animal ([NIAID Coronaviruses page](#))
- ▶ Ferrets and humans can both be infected by the same flu virus ([CDC Ferrets page](#))
- ▶ How can you protect your pet?
 - Wear a mask
 - Don't kiss your pet
 - Don't let your pet lick you
 - Wash your hands after stroking or cuddling with your pet AND especially before touching your face