

VETFLASH!

Dear SAVA Member,

For your information.

A message from World Veterinary Association (WVA):

Dear All

Please find hereafter the OIE latest update (30th March 2020) on COVID19 with relation to companion animals following the report by the Belgian authorities on a cat that was tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

To date, there is no evidence that companion animals spread the disease.

In addition, please find attached the latest update from WHO.

Best regards,
Zeev Noga
World Veterinary Association (WVA)
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<http://www.worldvet.org>

The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human to human transmission. To date, there is no evidence that companion animals spread the disease. Therefore, there is no justification in taking measures against companion animals which may compromise their welfare.

To date, some examples of animal infections have been reported to the OIE, as follows:

The Veterinary Services of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China reported to OIE evidence that two dogs have been infected with the COVID-19 virus following close exposure to owners who were sick with COVID-19 – more details can be found under the 'More Information' section below. The test, conducted by real-time RT-PCR, showed the presence of genetic material from the COVID-19 virus in nasal and oral specimens. The dogs were not showing clinical signs of the disease.

The Veterinary Services of Belgium reported to the OIE that a cat belonging to an owner positive for COVID-19 virus had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The cat was showing signs of respiratory and gastro-intestinal disease. The test, conducted by real time RT-PCR, showed the presence of genetic material from the COVID-19 virus in vomit and faeces specimens. Infection is suspected but has not yet been confirmed.

There is no evidence that dogs or cats play a role in the spread of this human disease. Further studies are underway to understand if and how different animals could be affected by COVID-19 virus. The OIE will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Best regards,
Gert Steyn
Managing Director

